

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dynamic professional with experience in government affairs, grassroots organizing, crisis communications, health and human services, and municipal & state government.

Change agent tasked with creating programming and new project execution in high-need areas.

Demonstrated success in working with stakeholders on multi-faceted public policy.

An inherent and strong ability to develop relationships, as an exceptional and possess a fearless compassion for people.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

City of Columbus, Columbus, Ohio | 2015 - Present

Assistant Director, Department of Development

January 2022-Present

- Providing strategic guidance to the Department of Development and the City Columbus regarding community investment and impact
- Partnering with other city departments in innovative ways to achieve additional investments and higher impacts on behalf of community programs.
- Utilizing GIS software and Tableau for statistical reporting to increase targeted investments across the city.
- Working in partnership with multiple departments to develop new policies/programming to assist all of Columbus residents obtain equitable access to housing and other basic needs.
- Supervising the city's Homeless Advocacy Liaison and creating equitable homeless policies and procedures and redefining the city's outreach and engagement program.
- Program Manager for homeless services contracts and operational expenses for non-profit partners across the city.

Assistant Director, Department of Neighborhoods

April 2018-January 2022

- Manages the City of Columbus Safety Strategies programs and initiatives, both internally and externally, to increase neighborhood safety through strategic infrastructure investments. These projects include investments in street lighting, sidewalks, and urban gardens; and the creation of the 2020 Youth and Family Empowerment Grants, which was an \$800,000 programmatic investment in grassroots organizations.
- Partnered with Department of Technology to create integrated GIS system mapping violent crimes, nuisance reports, and other city services to assess community needs and community violence experience.
- Serving as the City's Homeless Advocacy Liaison with a focus on coordinating outreach to encampments and remediation events across the city.
- Coordinates cross-functional, multi-Stakeholder remediation and outreach events/efforts across the city and on behalf of the City of Columbus, and Ohio Department of Transportation.
- Works with both internal and external Stakeholders to redefine the outreach and remediation processes with a focus on increasing the positive outcomes of remediation. Stakeholders include Columbus Police Department, Columbus Public Health, Community Shelter Board, Homeless Outreach Specialists, and other interested parties.
- Created first Everbridge automated response and after-action reporting process for Homeless Outreach Notification System to increase communication and impact of City and Stakeholder outreach.

Director of External Affairs, Office of Mayor Andrew J. Ginther

January 2016-April 2018

- Served as registered lobbyist for the City of Columbus.
- Represented the Office of the Mayor on the United States Department of Transportation Smart Cities application team which resulted in the successful award of \$140 million to the City of Columbus.
- Developed and managed relationships with representatives at the federal, state and municipal level and worked with those entities to enhance the legislative agenda for the City of Columbus.
- Served as Policy Liaison to the Columbus Department of Health and Celebrate One.

Emerald Hernández-Parra

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- Represented the Mayor on the Columbus Regional Coalition, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and the Rebuilding Lives Funding Collaborative.

Senior Legislative Liaison, Columbus City Council

February 2015-January 2016

- Managed community relationships on behalf of Columbus City Council through intentional engagement with area commissions and community groups.
- Provided policy support to the Small and Minority Business, Environment, and Veteran’s Affairs legislative committee chairs.

OCSEA/AFSCME Local 11, Columbus, Ohio | 2011-2015

Director of Government Affairs

- Monitored state policies and legislative activity and developed policy that would impact OCSEA membership in a positive way.
- Represented OCSEA with stakeholders on political and organizational priorities.
- Oversaw campaign expenditures based on candidate interviews and polling data.
- Reorganized the nine district grassroots councils to create a strategic plan for civic engagement that resulted in record member participation statewide.
- Directed and managed the political mobilization of OCSEA and its members, and served as Treasurer for \$300,000 Political Action Committee.

State of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio | 2007 – 2011

Legislative Liaison, Ohio Department of Veteran Services

- Successfully lobbied for the passage of the Ohio’s Veterans Bonus, a constitutional amendment designating \$200 million, as well as enacting state laws and administrative rules that better support the veterans in this state.
- Developed and managed a program to identify Ohio’s veterans through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.
- Monitored federal and state legislation for the Department and made strategic policy recommendations as a founding member of the Administrative team.

Legislative Liaison, Office of Governor Ted Strickland

- Represented the Governor’s Office and acted on behalf of the administration with more than fifty state agencies.
- Coordinated bi-weekly briefings with the executive agencies and provided guidance and recommendations on legislation.

Legislative Liaison, Ohio Department of Public Safety

- Represented the Department of Public Safety, its divisions and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network with the Ohio General Assembly.
- Worked with the offices of state and federal officials to address and resolve constituent cases.
- Worked with the FEMA congressional team to provide relief and assist with the recovery of those impacted by the Northwest Ohio flooding in 2007.

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University, Bachelor of Arts, Communications with a Latino Studies Minor, 2003

Leadership Columbus, 2017

Ohio University, Masters of Arts, Justice, Law, & Culture, 2026

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT/AWARDS

Ohio State University's Alumni in Government How Firm Thy Friendship Award - 2018

Board Member, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Ohio Council – Current

Ohio Women in Government

Board Member, Planned Parenthood of Ohio

Commissioner, Ohio Latino Affairs – Past

Who's Who Latino Columbus 2009-2012

References Available Upon Request

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