



**THE HONORABLE SHENG THAO • MAYOR OF OAKLAND**

CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612 • (510) 238-3141 • [SThao@OaklandCA.Gov](mailto:SThao@OaklandCA.Gov)

**Letter of Appointment**

May 16, 2023

Dear President Bas and members of the City Council:

Pursuant to City Charter Section 601, the Mayor has appointed the following persons as members of the following board or commission, subject to City Council confirmation:

**Housing, Residential Rent and Relocation Board**

**Marcos Escobar**, Undesignated Representative, Term: February 12, 2022 - February 11, 2025. Filling the seat that was formerly held by Evelyn Torres.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheng Thao". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheng" and last name "Thao" clearly distinguishable.

Mayor Sheng Thao

---

## Profile

Marcos

First Name

E

Middle Initial

Gullett Escobar

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

City

Suite or Apt

State

Postal Code

Mobile: (510)

Primary Phone

Home: (510)

Alternate Phone

Unite Here

Employer

Organizing Director

Job Title

## Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Housing, Residential Rent and Relocation Board: Submitted

---

## Interests & Experiences

**Please tell us how your qualifications and participation will relate to the requested board and/or commission's mission.**

The chance to tackle the issues of housing in Northern California is incredibly meaningful to me. I was born in Palo Alto, I started my career in Oakland, over the past eighteen years of living here, I have always rented. During this time my job was always been working for Unite Here, the hospitality workers' union. Housing was always an issue for all the workers I organized and for myself personally. I am looking forward to contributing to this issue as a member of the Housing, Residential Rent, and Relocation Board.

---

***Please submit your resume or curriculum vitae. You may upload a document. (A Word format is preferred.) Alternatively, you may paste the text of your resume in the field provided below.***

[Marcos Escobar Resume 2023 .docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Please paste the text of your resume or curriculum vitae below.

Marcos Edward Escobar [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@gmail.com Work Experience: Unite Here, Food Service External Organizing Director (2021-present), Union Wide Build multiple national teams of directors, leads, and organizers to win non-union campaigns for over 4,000 workers across the country. Create the structures for accountability, creativity, and collaboration in meetings, gatherings, and one on one conversations. Work with specialists in data, communications, and research teams to help shape and drive national campaigns. Unite Here, National Card Check Project Director (2018-present), Union Wide Directly and through my staff develop and implement training programs for staff to win union organizing drives. Included strategically thinking through the approach to the campaigns, setting timelines and goals, managing the data, having a communications program, and training the team to identify, recruit, and develop non-union leaders to win the union organizing campaigns. Collaborated with lead organizers on how to best win their campaigns on the ground through weekly calls, one on conversations, and on the ground fieldwork. As a national team, we have completed over 25 different organizing drives from 2018-2021. Unite Here, 100% Union Project Director (2018-2022), Union Wide Mission was to train member leaders to be able to sign up their co-workers to pay dues in right to work states. My staff and I developed the trainings, managed the teams through weekly calls, field work, and creating large multi-local trainings. Through this work, as a union, we signed up over 9,000 long-term workers to join the union and pay dues. Unite Here, Covid Response (March 2020-June 2021), Union Wide Coordinated and trained locals to use available resources for laid off members. Unite Here, Organizing Beyond Barriers (OBB) Director (2011- March 2020), Union Wide 8-Week Summer Internship: Directly led a staff team that coordinated and ran an 8-week union wide summer internship for student, community, and member leaders. Typically had between 100-150 summer interns from 30-35 different locals. The participants and trainers within this program were always majority people of color and women. Emerging Leader Leave of Absences (LOA's): Helped locals plan a 3-day to 3 weeks LOA's for members who were just beginning to step into their leadership to get on the ground training. Over the course of the program, trained over 500 of our members through these LOA's that would focus on external organizing, 100% right to work organizing, research, and campaign boycotting. Movement Trainings: Through the summer and the emerging leader LOA's, created larger movement trainings to provide context and inspiration to the organizing that was being done. Topics included the racist history of right to work, collective liberation discussion, how to beat a billionaire, and sustainability. Staff Recruitment and Training: The Organizing Beyond Barriers program was the initial entry and development for over 200 people becoming staff with Unite Here, the overwhelming majority were women and people of color. Equally important, was the development of the staff in charge of the program training. For many this was their first assignment as a lead and was an integral step in their development. Unite Here, Additional positions, (2003-2011): Oakland, Los Angeles, Miami, and Union Wide Education Grinnell College, B.A. (1999-2003)- Anthropology Major, Spanish Minor

Please click the acknowledgement below.

Service on City of Oakland boards, commissions, and committees may require filings of the FPPC's Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700). Upon appointment and determination of filing status, I will comply with all filing obligations.

☒ I Agree \*

**Marcos Edward Escobar**

[REDACTED], CA 94605

510 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]980@gmail.com

**Work Experience:**

**Unite Here, Food Service External Organizing Director (2021-present), Union Wide**

Build multiple national teams of directors, leads, and organizers to win non-union campaigns for over 4,000 workers across the country. Create the structures for accountability, creativity, and collaboration in meetings, gatherings, and one on one conversations. Work with specialists in data, communications, and research teams to help shape and drive national campaigns.

**Unite Here, National Card Check Project Director (2018-present), Union Wide**

Directly and through my staff develop and implement training programs for staff to win union organizing drives. Included strategically thinking through the approach to the campaigns, setting timelines and goals, managing the data, having a communications program, and training the team to identify, recruit, and develop non-union leaders to win the union organizing campaigns. Collaborated with lead organizers on how to best win their campaigns on the ground through weekly calls, one on conversations, and on the ground fieldwork. As a national team, we have completed over 25 different organizing drives from 2018-2021.

**Unite Here, 100% Union Project Director (2018-2022), Union Wide**

Mission was to train member leaders to be able to sign up their co-workers to pay dues in right to work states. My staff and I developed the trainings, managed the teams through weekly calls, field work, and creating large multi-local trainings. Through this work, as a union, we signed up over 9,000 long-term workers to join the union and pay dues.

**Unite Here, Covid Response (March 2020-June 2021), Union Wide**

Coordinated and trained locals to use available resources for laid off members.

**Unite Here, Organizing Beyond Barriers (OBB) Director (2011- March 2020), Union Wide**

8-Week Summer Internship: Directly led a staff team that coordinated and ran an 8-week union wide summer internship for student, community, and member leaders. Typically had between 100-150 summer interns from 30-35 different locals. The participants and trainers within this program were always majority people of color and women.

Emerging Leader Leave of Absences (LOA's): Helped locals plan a 3-day to 3 weeks LOA's for members who were just beginning to step into their leadership to get on the ground training. Over the course of the program, trained over 500 of our members through these LOA's that would focus on external organizing, 100% right to work organizing, research, and campaign boycotting.

Movement Trainings: Through the summer and the emerging leader LOA's, created larger movement trainings to provide context and inspiration to the organizing that was being done. Topics included the racist history of right to work, collective liberation discussion, how to beat a billionaire, and sustainability.

Staff Recruitment and Training: The Organizing Beyond Barriers program was the initial entry and development for over 200 people becoming staff with Unite Here, the overwhelming majority were women and people of color. Equally important, was the development of the staff

in charge of the program training. For many this was their first assignment as a lead and was an integral step in their development.

**Unite Here, Additional positions, (2003-2011): Oakland, Los Angeles, Miami, and Union Wide**

**Education**

Grinnell College, B.A. (1999-2003)- Anthropology Major, Spanish Minor



CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.**

**INTRODUCED BY  
MAYOR SHENG THAO**

---

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT  
OF MARCOS ESCOBAR AS AN UNDESIGNATED  
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HOUSING, RESIDENTIAL RENT  
AND RELOCATION BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, Section 601 of the City Charter provides that members of City boards and commissions shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the affirmative vote of five members of the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 11954 C.M.S., adopted December 17, 1996, and amended by Ordinance No. 12030 C.M.S., adopted December 16, 1997, and further amended by Ordinance 12273 C.M.S., adopted July 25, 2000, Ordinance No. 12399 C.M.S., adopted January 23, 2003, and Ordinance No. 13373 C.M.S., adopted June 7, 2016, creates the Housing, Residential Rent and Relocation Board ("Board") to assume all duties and functions heretofore exercised by the Housing Advisory and Appeals Board, Relocation Appeals Board, and the Housing Advisory and Appeals Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board consists of seven (7) members, two tenants, two landlords, and three undesignated members, serving not more than two consecutive three-year staggered terms and two alternates for each of the three classes of members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Mayor Sheng Thao has appointed Marcos Escobar to serve a three-year term subject to confirmation by the City Council; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That pursuant to City Charter Section 601, the City Council hereby confirms the Mayor's appointments to the Housing, Residential Rent and Relocation Board:

**Marcos Escobar** to serve a three-year term as an Undesignated Representative that began February 12, 2022 and will end February 11, 2025, filling the seat previously held by Evelyn Torres.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, JENKINS, KALB, KAPLAN, RAMACHANDRAN, REID, AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California