

From your perspective, what happened to Russell City, why do you think it happened, and how did it affect your family?

Russell City was county and had no services like water and sewer. City of Hayward wanted the area and implemented eminent domain process to remove residents and make the area an Industrial Park because it would create more revenue in taxes per dollar invested than the homes in RC with probably lots of them being not to code, and put a burden on the citizens to pay for the improvements having a process like when you have a new development of homes.

What is your connection to the Russell City Community?

My husband was born in Russell City (Oakland's Highland Hospital like a lot of residents). We met at Hayward High and were married at the Apostolic Church on Adams St. in RC. I started congregating in church since August 1956. Ours was the last wedding there, and Hayward Historic Museum has my wedding dress. I have two children who would be descendants of RC residents. My husband's parents were Faustino and Rachel Figueroa, and my husband's maternal grandparents were Maurilio and Maria Chavez. Both families lived also on Adam Street.

What is your background? What meaningful value or expertise can you bring to the committee?

I have been involved in community work as a volunteer. Charlie Santana named me Citizen at Large for Alameda County and worked with County Planning and Public Works in 1973 when HUD started, and suggested we get a park from blight piece of land at the end of El Dorado St. and it became La Placita Park. My neighborhood was the first one to receive monies from HUD and we had sidewalks and instrumental in getting grants and low interest loans for neighbors to fix their homes. Instrumental in incorporating our neighborhood to City of Hayward from Alameda County. Santa Clara Street was like a bridge for City of Hayward to connect tract of homes /Winton Ave. to A Street, and residents were Alameda County.

Do you have any additional or unique qualifications you would like to share? If so, please list them below.

Worked for Xerox for 25 years, and left at a Senior Quality Assurance Engineer responsible for qualifying and negotiating with vendors in Western US states and Mexico, and tele-communed with management in Rochester, NY working from home and traveling a lot.



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

PRISCILLA FIGUEROA

Tell us about your experience working in a team or community-based process.

It was a requirement to teach our supplier base Total Quality entailing working as a team, brainstorming, thinking out of the box, etc. in order to get things done, setting up goals, and time targets to get process going, etc. Retired from Xerox in 2000, and became a Notary Public working with loans visiting homes to close and notarize the paperwork, etc. I have been involved with City of Hayward on the project for an Art Piece for over a year, and also with the Picnic team for the Russell City Picnic last month.

What is your purpose for being here? As a member of the committee, what do you want to achieve? At the end of the day, what would you want to see happen and what are you willing to do to get us there?

Representing my husband's family and my children as descendants. I would like to see something positive come out of this group. We entertained some activity on the Art Piece committee regarding this, and I suggested set up a trust fund to help descendants of Russell City residents help to get grants so they can achieve the education their parents, grandparents couldn't get because of their lack of money when they lived in RC and perhaps some racism was involved with latinos and black community. Also maybe grant for descendants to get low interest loans for purchasing homes because most of the ex-residents have gone before us or are old and retired or in a care home. Also recognition and dedicating a day in Hayward Schools so children learn about success that came from humble beginnings and encourage them to succeed in life, that there are lots of opportunities there, and Russell City was no exception to that. I would like to see the core group representation being the same as it was in RC latinos, blacks, whites, etc. Thank you, Pris