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Statement from City of Oxnard on the Passing of Supervisor Carmen Ramirez

OXNARD, Calif. – With great sadness Oxnard Mayor John C. Zaragoza and the City Council join the community in mourning the loss of Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, who passed away Friday evening following injuries she sustained as a pedestrian involved in a vehicle collision.

Supervisor Ramirez, who served on the Oxnard City Council for ten years prior to being elected Ventura County's District 5 Supervisor in 2020, was a fierce advocate for Oxnard and worked steadfastly to represent the diverse voices in her beloved City. Prior to being elected to the Council in 2010, she worked as a longtime legal aid attorney serving low-income communities in Ventura County.

Said Mayor Zaragoza, "I offer my sincere condolences to her husband, Roy Prince, and her family. We will miss Carmen tremendously. We worked together often, while I was serving as Supervisor and she was Oxnard's Mayor Pro Tem, and this camaraderie continued when she was elected Supervisor and I served as Mayor. She was passionate about environmental justice and creating a better future for our City. Her kindness, love and deep compassion for the community was felt by everyone. She will be dearly missed."

Stated Mayor Pro Tem Bryan MacDonald, "I have had the pleasure and honor of working alongside Carmen Ramirez both as an Oxnard City Councilmember and later a Board of Supervisors member. She was always a very good resource, always had an open ear and was a staunch advocate for the community of Oxnard. Her death is a terrible and tragic loss to the community of Oxnard and she will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Roy Prince, and the rest of her family during this difficult time."

District 1 Councilmember Bert Perello said, "Carmen's heart was always in the right place. She loved what she did, and she always put Oxnard first."

District 2 Councilmember Gabe Teran said, "Supervisor Carmen Ramirez was a true champion of the people and a voice for those who didn't always feel heard. Her approach as an elected official was one of genuine openness to dialogue. When I contemplated running for City Council, Carmen dissuaded any doubts I had and told me that she believed that I was the type of leader that our community needed. Carmen saw something in me that I could not yet see in myself. And true to her nature, she helped to bring out that future leader in me. Her tragic, untimely passing has inflicted such a deep pain to Ventura County and the Oxnard Community. I send my deepest condolences to Roy and all of Carmen's family and wish them strength in this time of mourning. She has left a positive mark on the lives of so many, myself included. I consider myself so incredibly fortunate to have had Carmen as an incredible leader, a great mentor, and ultimately a true friend."

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District 3 Councilmember Oscar Madrigal said, “Carmen was always quick to give a helping hand, and was one of the first to reach out and offer assistance when I was a newly elected Councilmember. Each of us should strive to be like Carmen—always lend a helping hand and keep paying it forward.”

Stated District 5 Councilwoman Gabriela Basua, “I will miss Carmen deeply, not only was she a role model for me but for many others. I will always be grateful for the mentorship and friendship. This is a huge loss for Oxnard and its surrounding community.”

District 6 Councilmember Vianey Lopez said, “Learning of the devastating loss of Supervisor Ramirez has brought a wave of emotions and memories of the many conversations and moments I shared with her since we first met over 12 years ago. Carmen was someone different to each of us in Oxnard and Ventura County, to me she was a friend, colleague, and mentor. To say she will be missed is an understatement. I extend my condolences to her husband Roy, the Ramirez family, and all those who also had the privilege of working with her personally and professionally.”

City Manager Alexander Nguyen stated, “We’ve lost the loveliest human being.”

The City of Oxnard is forever indebted to Carmen Ramirez for her many years of inspired public service and leadership. The City Council and staff extend their deepest condolences to Supervisor Ramirez’s family, loved ones and the many community members of Oxnard and Ventura County who are grieving this tremendous loss.

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