

Blind Attorney and Former White House Official Certified as Candidate for West Covina City Council

WEST COVINA — Ollie Cantos, attorney and former Associate Director for Domestic Policy at the White House, has been certified to appear on the November 8, 2022, ballot. Cantos is the first blind Filipino-American in the history of the City ever to run for municipal office.

“This is a historic day,” said former West Covina Mayor Steve Herfert. “West Covina needs someone with significant leadership experience to serve as an effective voice on the City Council and to advance priorities that are best for the City as a whole.”

“Cantos, 51, grew up in West Covina since he was 4. He worked in Washington, DC, for almost 20 years before coming home two years ago.

“This election is about decisively changing direction by returning our City to greater financial solvency through being better stewards of taxpayer dollars,” Cantos said.

A survivor of crime from a mugging attempt three years ago, Cantos is a strong proponent of increasing the number of officers on West Covina streets to promote safety. “I know firsthand what it is like to be the victim of a crime of opportunity, and it is wrong for criminals seemingly to operate with impunity while law-abiding residents worry about their welfare as they go about their daily lives.”

Cantos has worked effectively under both Republican and Democratic Administrations and has served in Federal Government positions ranging from Associate Director of the Domestic Policy Council at the White House under President George W. Bush to civil rights leadership posts at the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Education, career civil service posts held during the administrations of President Bush, President Barack Obama, President Donald Trump, and President Joe Biden.

“I am grateful for the ongoing chance to serve the American People, doing so through fostering collaboration between and among stakeholders and in a spirit of partnership based on shared interest,” Cantos said.



“Ollie will be an independent voice on the Council and a positive voice for West Covina, said Don Carman a longtime resident. “Innovative, intelligent, and resourceful, Ollie pledges to protect our neighborhoods and to be active on issues of concern to residents, businesses, and visitors to West Covina. He promises to bring transparency to the Council. His nature is to be accessible and visible around town. Communication is his strength, and residents will witness that skill with an open campaign discussing the matters of concern

to residents.”

A public servant for more than 18 years, Cantos lives by the commitment to be of help wherever he can.

Involved in concurrent non-profit work for more than 32 years, including

ABOUT OLLIE CANTOS

Born to Filipino-American immigrants, who came to the United States in the 1960s, Ollie has been blind since birth. Growing up was tough, especially because he was bullied in school and lacked self-confidence as a result. But, his Mom and Dad really pushed him to be independent even though he suffered from shyness and low self-esteem.

As Ollie grew older, he was mentored by a number of people along the way, each of whom had a different political perspective. These differences in outlook and opinion empowered him to blend the best of each point of view and to recognize the amazing power of collaboration.

As the direct result, Ollie has been able successfully to work in partnership with a variety of leaders, each with divergent ways of thinking on one issue or another. By finding areas of common ground, he was able to advance different initiatives including business support, civil rights, criminal justice, education, emergency preparedness, employment, government benefits, healthcare, mentoring, transportation, veterans issues, and more.

As an alumnus of Hollencrest Middle School, Bishop Amat Memorial High School, Loyola Marymount University, and Loyola Law School Los Angeles, Ollie is an attorney and nonprofit leader. His journey has taken him from nonprofit staffer to the halls of power at the Federal Government level in roles at the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Education, and the White House. Working both in civil service and presidential appointee capacities, Ollie’s national efforts have involved effectively getting things done under both Republican and Democratic administrations for more than 18 years.

Ollie is adoptive Dad to three blind Colombia-born triplet boys, each of whom earned the coveted rank of Eagle Scout. His parents and he first moved to West Covina from Los Angeles in 1974 when he was a preschooler.

For more information, please go to olliecantos.com.

ROMUALDEZ... FROM PAGE 1

He noted that the Singaporean business leaders who signed Letters of Intent to invest in the Philippines during the Singapore Business Round Table Meeting last Sept. 7 expressed interest in the following areas: renewable energy (floating solar) amounting to USD1.2 billion; blue economy (marine renewable energy, water production, desalination, electric boats, aquaculture) at around USD10 million to 100 million; innovation platform for startups at USD20 million; women in tech at USD20 million; data center at USD200 million; transportation (electric tricycles) at USD5 billion.

Romualdez said the investments from Singapore are expected to generate jobs for an estimated 15,000 Filipino workers.

“These investments mean thousands of new jobs for Filipinos here. Singapore officials also assured the Filipino delegation that their country is ready to roll out close to 10,000 new job orders for Filipino workers

in Singapore,” Romualdez said.

Meanwhile, he said the memorandums of understanding and letters of intent signed at the Jakarta Business Roundtable Meeting on Sept. 5, 2022, include the following: around USD822 million in investments in textiles, garments, renewable energy, satellite gateway, wire global technology, and agri-food; USD7 billion in infrastructure for unsolicited private-public partnerships such as a C-5 4-level elevated expressway; and USD662 million in trade value for a supply of coal and fertilizer.

The investments from Indonesia are expected to generate at least 7,000 new jobs in the Philippines, he noted.

“Overall, it’s been a highly successful, very fruitful trip. Aside from the investment pledges, there have been several mutually beneficial agreements on bilateral economic, defense, cultural, and labor and employment cooperation with the host countries,” Romualdez said.

“Thanks to the President, the Philippines is back on the map for investments and may soon fulfill its goal as Asia’s fastest rising star.”

Upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 in Pasay City on Wednesday night, Marcos thanked the governments of both Indonesia and Singapore for the opportunity to reaffirm their friendship and explore avenues of cooperation that will benefit their respective countries.

“Indeed, my back-to-back visits to Indonesia and Singapore I think have been thoroughly worthwhile,” he said.

Although these investment deals were just the “beginning” of foreign investors’ interest to invest in the Philippines, he said his administration would work hard to bring the agreements to fruition.

He also said the government would “not stop” until the ordinary Filipino can feel these economic gains. (MNS)

as Chairman of the Board for RespectAbility, a multi-million-dollar nonpartisan cross-disability national organization that seeks to fight stigmas and advance opportunities for and alongside this nation’s more than 61 million Americans with disabilities.

Cantos is the adoptive father to three sons, who made international headlines by becoming the first blind triplet boys ever to earn the coveted rank of Eagle Scout.

Today, the campaign to elect a leader of the people begins!

As record heat wave intensifies, Newsom extends emergency response to increase energy supplies and reduce demand

Heat wave on track to be California’s hottest and longest for September

SACRAMENTO — With triple-digit temperatures forecasted through Friday, Governor Gavin Newsom extended emergency actions taken last week to bring more energy online and reduce demand on the grid during the record-setting heat wave across the western U.S. The prolonged heat wave is on track to be California’s hottest and longest for September and is projected to set a new record high for demand on the state’s energy grid with a load forecast of 51,276 megawatts today.

The state’s emergency response and efforts by large energy users, energy producers and California residents has helped to prevent

outages during this extreme heat event, and even greater action will be needed in the days ahead as the state faces peak temperatures. Californians’ action to conserve energy during the Flex Alert yesterday saved 1,000 megawatts of power. We need an additional 2,000 megawatts of savings today given higher forecasts, and everyone needs to play a part. Many state buildings will power down lights and air conditioning beginning at 4:00 p.m. to save energy. The state has also taken other urgent actions to bring more power onto the grid, including importing energy from out-of-state, installing emergency generators **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**