



Ronald William Ortega deHarte, Jr. was elected to a four-year term in November of 2022, representing District 3. With fifteen years of active involvement in the Palm Springs community. Councilmember deHarte's leadership is rooted in a lifelong commitment to public service, social justice, and cultural pride.

Born into a working-class family with a rich heritage tracing back to La Paz, Mexico, in 1860, Councilmember deHarte's family history is one of resilience and community building. His ancestors were professional vaqueros in the Arizona Territory, and his maternal patriarch, Ramón Cevero Valencia, was a co-founder of Wickenburg, Arizona. This deep family history, documenting the presence of Hispanic people in Arizona since 1863, is preserved in the Arizona Chicano/a Research Collection at Arizona State University.

Growing up in a blue-collar home in Glendale, Arizona, deHarte learned early the values of volunteerism and a strong work ethic. As a first-generation college student, he pursued his education while developing impactful public relations and marketing programs, ultimately graduating from California State University Northridge. This background instilled in him a spirit dedicated to social justice, equality, and cultural pride that continues to guide his work today.

Councilmember deHarte's journey is marked by extensive community service and leadership. He has been an active participant in critical committees, demonstrating his commitment to the city's well-being:

- Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Homelessness Committee (2023, 2025)
- CVAG Energy & Environmental Resources Committee (2023-2025)
- CVAG Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (2023-2025)
- Finance Committee City of Palm Springs (2024-2025)
- Oversee Board & Commission Interviews City of Palm Springs (2024-2025)

His path to the City Council was built upon six years of dedicated service on the Human Rights Commission, the City of Palm Springs Police Chief's LGBTQ Advisory Committee, and the City of Palm Springs Business Transition & Re-entry Task Force. He also contributed significantly as a Main Street Palm Springs business association member and served on various civic committees, including the City of Palm Springs Census Outreach Committee and the Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Committee.

Councilmember deHarte's unwavering service and commitment to the Palm Springs community have earned him numerous local, national, and international accolades. These honors reflect his profound impact, particularly within the LGBTQ+ community and broader civic engagement:

- 2024 San Diego Harvey Milk Community Leadership Award
- Recognized as an Honorary San Diegan by San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria (2023)
- International Empress Jose Medal of Honor (2022)
- California Legislature Assembly Certificate of Recognition, Peace Day Award (2022)
- 28th California Senate District Certificate of Recognition for service to veterans (2022)
- County of Riverside, Fourth District recognition award for the Peace Day Award (2022)
- Desert Stonewall Democrats George Zander Community Leadership Award
- Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau 2018 Santa Rosa Award
- Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce Community Spirit Award
- Safe Schools Desert Cities Champion of Youth Award
- AIDS Assistance Program Herb Lazenby Community Service Award
- Human Rights Campaign's Advocate for Equality Award
- Desert Business Association's Outstanding Community Service Leader Award
- LA Blade's Desert Visibility Award

Beyond these, Councilmember deHarte has been named to the Desert Charities News Men in Philanthropy, recognized as Person of the Year by the Consolidated Association of Pride, and honored by the Comunidad Orgullo GLBT Tijuana as International Friend of the Year.

His dedication to the LGBTQ+ community is further highlighted by his roles as founding chair of the Coachella Valley Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast, Community Leadership Council co-chair, and founding chair of OUTstanding Voices Palm Springs and Pride Honors Awards. His directorship on several community-based initiatives, including Safe Schools Desert Cities, LGBTQ+ Archives of the Desert, Greater Palm Springs Pride, the United States Association of Prides, and as an Emeritus Board Member of InterPride, showcases his deep-seated commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive community.

Councilmember deHarte's journey is a testament to the power of dedicated public service and strong leadership in shaping a vibrant and equitable community.