



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Israel Valdez, Sr., has been appointed Chief of Special Programs for the Office of Civil Rights in the Urban Mass Transportation Administration of the U. S. Department of Transportation.

In his newly-established position, Mr. Valdez will assure effective agency-wide implementation of the government's equal opportunity program relating to special programs of civil rights in the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. One special program will encourage minority contractors to bid for UMTA-related contracts and provide training and assistance grants to minority contractors so they can compete with larger firms.

Born in Kingsville, Texas, Mr. Valdez attended local schools and was graduated from the Arts and Industry University in Kingsville in 1948. He obtained a Masters degree from the University of New Mexico in 1964.

During World War II, Mr. Valdez joined the Air Force, serving as an accounting and finance officer, Department of Defense procurement officer and contract manager. During the war and the Korean conflict, he received numerous combat zone awards for special achievements. He retired with 20 years of service in 1966.

In 1967, Mr. Valdez joined the Small Business Administration, serving for two years as Director of the Equal Opportunity Program for the Southwestern Area Office in Dallas, Texas. In Dallas, he served as a member of the board of directors of the Federal Credit Union for two years.

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In February 1969, Mr. Valdez was transferred to the SBA headquarters in Washington as Deputy Director of the National Equal Opportunity Program. From May to December 1969 he served as a Special Assistant to the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The following year, he served on the President's Advisory Council for Minority Enterprises, where he was Director of Finance. Over 60 prominent Americans of various racial, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds appointed by President Nixon made up the Advisory Council, which recently developed a national blueprint to secure public and private sector support to develop minority enterprise.

Mr. Valdez has been a member of Lions International, past President of the Dallas League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a former member of the National Vocational Association, and is a life member of the Air Force Aid Society.

Mr. Valdez has two sons in the military service; Israel Jr., serving with the Army in Vietnam and David, serving with the U. S. Air Force at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Valdez live at 9506 Caltor Lane, Oxon Hill, Maryland.

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