



Media Contact:
Brandalyn Fulton Williams
Manager of Communications
bfwilliams@norwalkacts.org
917-651-6232

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Norwalk ACTS CEO Jennifer Barahona Announces Departure After Nearly 6 Years of Leadership to take on state role

Norwalk, CT – December 4, 2024 – Jennifer Barahona, the CEO of Norwalk ACTS, has announced that she will be stepping down from her role in the new year after nearly six years of dedicated leadership. Ms. Barahona, a passionate advocate for civic engagement and voting rights, has been appointed as Connecticut's new Deputy Secretary of the State. Ms. Barahona's unwavering commitment to promoting democracy and increasing voter participation in Connecticut makes her an ideal candidate for this role.

During her tenure with Norwalk ACTS, Barahona led the organization through a period of remarkable growth and impact, steering it towards its mission of ensuring every child in Norwalk is prepared for success in life. Her visionary leadership has fostered deep collaborations between educators, community organizations, and local businesses, advancing equity and opportunity for families throughout the region.

"It has been an immense honor to serve as CEO of Norwalk ACTS and work alongside the extraordinary people and partners in this community," said Barahona. "We have achieved so much together, but the unexpected opportunity to further my work advocating for civic engagement and strengthening our democracy is ultimately one I could not pass up. The mission of the Connecticut Secretary of the State's office aligns deeply with my personal values, and I am excited to continue championing voting rights and accessible civic participation for all."

Barahona's leadership has been instrumental in elevating Norwalk ACTS' impact in the community, helping to create a more inclusive and empowered environment for students and families. Her work has left an indelible mark on the organization, which will continue its important work as she transitions to her new role.

In her new role as Connecticut's Deputy Secretary of the State, Barahona will help run the agency, including initiatives related to voting rights and civic education, further expanding her lifelong commitment to empowering individuals and communities through active participation in democracy.

The Norwalk ACTS Board of Directors will begin the search for a new CEO in the coming weeks. While Ms. Barahona will be sworn into her new role on January 8, 2025, she will support the Norwalk ACTS board and staff through the transition to new leadership to ensure a seamless transition and the continued success of the organization.

Norwalk ACTS Board Chair, Nancy von Euler shared, "We are grateful for Jennifer's important contributions to our mission. Her work has transformed our approach to collective impact, and her leadership has helped build stronger systems that support every child. While we are sad to see her go, we know she will continue to be

an incredible asset to the State of Connecticut and will bring her passion and advocacy for civic engagement to an even broader audience. We look forward to continuing to build on the work she has helped to inspire here at Norwalk ACTS.”

About Norwalk ACTS

Norwalk ACTS is a collaborative collective impact organization dedicated to improving the lives of Norwalk children and families. By working together with schools, businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies, Norwalk ACTS strives to ensure that every child is ready for success in life. For more information, visit www.norwalkacts.org.

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