



Hon. María Eloísa “Mayita” Meléndez Altieri

Mayor

Ponce, Puerto Rico

Dr. María Eloísa (“Mayita”) Meléndez Altieri, was sworn in as Mayor of Ponce, Puerto Rico on January 12, 2009. She wrote a new page in the history of Puerto Rico when she became the first mayor of Ponce elected by the people. During her first term as, Dr. Meléndez became the first woman to preside over the organization for the Integral Development of the South (DISUR). Both in 2012 and in 2016 Meléndez was reelected as mayor in her second and third terms, respectively.

Before becoming Mayor, Dr. Meléndez began her professional career as a dental surgeon in Ponce for 31 years (1977-2008), standing out both in the clinical area and in education. The commitment to public service and especially to the city of Ponce, impelled Dr. Meléndez to get involved in various boards and committees in which, on a voluntary basis, she offered her advice, practice and knowledge.

During her administration as Mayor, she has overseen five signature infrastructure projects under the "Ponce Avanza" initiative worth \$177 million:

1.) The Northern Municipal Zone Aqueduct with new water purification plants at a cost of \$5 million
2.) *Sistema Integrado de Transportación del Sur (SITRAS)* mass transit, at \$1.66 million the initial phase
3.) *Parque Ecológico Urbano*, at an investment of \$4.5 million
4.) *Ciudad Deportiva* at an initial cost of \$4.5 million
5.) The restoration of the *Juan Bigas Building* (old *Plaza del Mercado*) to convert it into "*Ponce Servicios*" at an undisclosed amount of money

Dr. Meléndez graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus with a Bachelor of Science in 1973. In 1977, she received the degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine of the School of Dentistry of the Medical Sciences Campus of the University Puerto Rico.