

Albert Zapanta, Place 6

Albert (Al) Zapanta was elected to Place 6 of the Irving City Council in June 2018 and is serving his first term in office.

Councilman Zapanta is President and CEO of the United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, which operates eight regional offices in the United States and eight in Mexico. He was the founding member and Chief Executive Officer of PAZ Resources, LLC, and was Chief Executive Officer of PAZ Energy. Councilman Zapanta worked in upstream operations of Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO Oil & Gas) and retired as Director of Governmental Affairs. He was responsible for negotiations with U.S. and Mexican governments on oil and gas matters and coordinated ARCO'S effort to deregulate the natural gas market which later became the Natural Gas Policy Act.

Councilman Zapanta is a retired Major General, U.S. Army. His military record includes the award of the Silver Star, 5 Bronze Stars for Valor, the Purple Heart, and 30 other awards during the Vietnam War era. He was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Restore Hope in Somalia and Restore Democracy in Haiti.

He held numerous Presidential appointments throughout his career, including White House Fellow with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Management and Administration, U.S. State Department Advisory Committee on International Trade Technology and Development, and private sector delegate to the U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity and Chairman for the Reserve Forces Policy Board, U.S. Department of Defense.

Zapanta has a BA in Industrial Psychology, MA in Public Administration and has completed work for his PhD in International Political Economics from the University of Southern California. He graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Business, the Inter-American Defense College at the National War College, Washington, D.C.

Councilman Zapanta has been married to his wife, Rochelle, since 1970. They have two daughters and one son. Zapanta has an extensive history of serving on various city and community boards.

Gen. Zapanta currently serves on the Community Services Committee, Public Safety Committee and Planning and Development Committee, and is the Council liaison to Irving Flood Control District, Section III and Irving Sister Cities.