



State of Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

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Chairperson

Ivette Servera

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Ramón L. Arroyo

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Pablo Rivera

Treasurer

Sonia P. Ayala

Commissioners:

Carlos E. Candal, Esq.

Isaias T. Diaz, Esq.

Enrique Marciano, Sr.

Juan M. Pérez

Ed Rodríguez

Norma Rodríguez Reyes

Maritza Tirú

Acting Executive Director,

Werner Oyanadel

Special Projects

Coordinator and

Grants Writer

Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández

Legislative Analyst II

Lina Lorenzi, Esq.

Public Info Officer

Karlo X. Ruiz

Senior Leg. Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES
LPRAC Commission Meeting
June 17, 2009
Legislative Office Building
Room 2600
5:45 pm

Commissioners Present: Sonia P. Ayala, Manuel García, Enrique Marciano, Sr., Juan M. Pérez, Pablo Rivera, Ed Rodríguez, Ivette Servera and Maritza Tirú

Commissioners Absent: Ramón L. Arroyo, Carlos E. Candal, Esq. and Norma Rodríguez Reyes

Staff: Lucía Goicoechea Hernández, Special Projects Coordinator and Grants Writer, Werner Oyanadel, Principal Legislative Analyst, Clarisa Cardone, Senior Legislative Secretary

Tape 1A

Chair Servera asked **Secretary Pablo Rivera** to do the roll call. Quorum was established. She welcomed a guest from the 2010 Census, Rafael Pichardo who is working with the Latino Community.

Public Participation:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of May 20, 2009 by Commissioner Rivera and seconded by Commissioner Ayala. Motion approved unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Servera spoke about LPRAC's Commission meeting in Bridgeport and that it went very well. She wanted to see if there are any ways to make it better for the next meeting in a different location. Then she proceeded to give her Chairperson's Report.

- 1) Chair Servera said that the agreement for Mr. Betancourt ended on June 30th, 2009 and has been finalized.
- 2) She mentioned that she has been meeting with all Commissioners in their town to discuss her performance, what they want to see changed, what they want to see and how we can work better together.
- 3) She also said that she's been meeting with Jim Tracy of the Office of Legislative Management every day in reference to the LPRAC.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's Report by Commissioner Rivera and seconded by Commissioners Rodríguez and Marciano, Sr.

Discussion:

Commissioner Ayala said that Bridgeport was very positive and the public were very interested in working with us. We can improve it by having the Commissioners discuss the Commission's business first and then opening it up to the public.

Chair Servera said that Commissioner García suggested that we should make it a town meeting and discuss what we do.

Commissioner Pérez said that when the meeting was open to the public, we should have recorded them.

Commissioner Rodríguez said that we should have the public talk early in the meeting but not as public participants.

Chair Servera asked when and where should we have our next commission meeting as we voted on going to different town at least twice a year.

Commissioner Marcano said that New Haven sounds good.

Commissioner Tirú also agreed.

Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Servera approves of holding the next Commission meeting in New Haven. Mr. Oyanadel to call Mayor DeStefano, we need a location with plenty of parking. Since Comm. Marcano, Sr. works in New Haven, he's to contact Mrs. Cardone to set up the food.

Commissioner Rivera asked that it will be better for Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes to contact Mayor DeStefano as it's her town.

Chair Servera said Commissioners Rodríguez Reyes and Mr. Oyanadel work together on this.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

There was no report given by the Acting Executive Director, Lina Lorenzi, Esq.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ayala said that there is no report since the Budget Committee minutes were not done.

Motion made to table the Budget Committee Report by Commissioner Ayala and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Approved Unanimously.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ayala said that Commissioner García voted that the Chair of the Special Projects Committee go through the Acting Executive Director to ask the Public Information Officer to do a PSA to promote.

Chair Servera said that Mr. Oyanadel did the PSA and followed through on it.

Commissioner Ayala said that they looked around for local talent, they saved a lot of money. They were able to contact Paquito Guzman for \$6,000 and 2B Records, former Doble Bombazo for \$2,300 and Lorena Garay for dinner with a DJ for dinner was turned down in exchange for the DJ performer during the dinner. They are looking for someone for MC duties. Then proceeded to talk about how much will be given for scholarships and then about the student tickets.

Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández mentioned that Commissioner García spoke of having a cap on purchase of the student tickets. She shows from 10 to 25 years of age and wanted clarification on adding a range for the age.

Commissioner García said that the bottom end would be open as if we start at 10 yrs. old, if there's a sibling that's 9 yrs. old, chances are the parents are not going to come so he said to use "up to 25 years of age".

Commissioner Tirú mentioned that we should add that students cannot be related to any staff member or any involvement of someone working for a politician or someone within the government.

Commissioner Ayala said that it is in the criteria about no relation to staff or commissioners. It does not say anything about politicians. It can be amended in the future.

Commissioner García apologized about not having this information. That in the meeting that they had in Bridgeport, he was taking his notes and Acting Executive Director Lina Lorenzi, Esq. asked for them because she was going to type them up. Since she had to leave in a hurry from the meeting, she said that she had left them behind. He checked with Mr. Oyanadel and Mrs. Cardone and both replied that they did not see them. He then proceeded to say that since the minutes were missing, they tried to go over everything but had forgotten and apologized to Commissioner Tirú and that this was one of the recommendations.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee Report by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioners Marcano, Sr. and García. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to accept two contracts for music #5 and DJ by Commissioner Rivera and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. Motion approved unanimously.

Tape 1B

Motion made to accept GALA policies and attachment (friendly amendment) by Commissioner Rivera and seconded by Commissioner García. Motion approved unanimously.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rodríguez spoke of the following items.

- 1) Legislative wrap up and the things that passed and did not pass. Then of Sust-Net and is being considered by Senator Dodd.
- 2) We created a drafted support letter for Judge Sotomayor to the Supreme Court.
- 3) Results Based Accountability (RBA) and
- 4) The appropriations of the monument to the Familia Puertorriqueña.

Mr. Oyanadel spoke of the Sust-Net plan. About 40% of Latinos are uninsured. Juan Figueroa did come to our Commission and testified to us about this several years ago and the commission agreed to support this in terms of the general terms of support.

Commissioner Rodríguez said that he is part of the Advisory Board for the Universal Health Foundation and deeply involved with Sust-Net and will abstain on voting on this.

Mr. Oyanadel reported the following:

- 1) Budget: The CT General Assembly adjourned on June 3rd without a budget agreement. This is extremely important for our commission as there is one proposal to eliminate the board and then the Appropriations Committee recommend a 20% cut. There are two people to negotiate this, President Pro Tempore Senator Williams and Speaker of the House, Christopher Donovan with the Governor. This could go on for months. This is not only for monies to our commission but for all Latino Agencies. There will be a Special Session on Friday, June 19th and it may not deal with the budget but with employment for the summer for the youth.
- 2) As far as the RBA, the staff at the direction of the Acting Exec. Director, Lina Lorenzi, Esq., met with the Directors of several organizations at the request of the consultant.
- 3) They also spoke of the RFQ from the CT Health Foundation for the \$200,000. This is a grant to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.
- 4) We spoke of the updates on the book on Latinos. Legislative Management just paid the \$1,500 that the Board agreed for this book. The first draft has already been finalized and he will submit a copy of the draft to the Chairperson of the committee to give some advice on how the book is doing.

Chair Servera mentioned that a couple of months ago, Commissioner Rodríguez brought to the attention of the commission when the motion began for Judge Sotomayor that we should send a letter of support and she thought it was an excellent idea and brought it to the attention of the Acting Executive Director that we can do a letter. She has never seen a letter and when Mr. Oyanadel mentioned that he was getting ready to do a letter, Chair Servera mentioned that we already have one and when he went to the Acting Exec. Dir., she said the following to Mr. Oyanadel:

Mr. Oyanadel said that her understanding was that this was going to go to the Priorities & Legislation Committee.

Chair Servera said that the direction was for her to get somebody to write the letter so that the Commission would be recognized.

Mr. Oyanadel said that one of the Commissioners sent an email that all Commissioners should sign the letter. He then proceeded to read the letter.

Chair Servera suggested that in the first sentence, it should read "we" instead of "I".

Motion made to approve the Priorities & Legislation Committee Report by Commissioner Ayala and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made that we authorize Chairperson Servera to send a letter to support Judge Sotomayor on behalf of the Commission by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Motion approved unanimously.

PERSONNEL AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner García restated the following:

1. They have a rough draft of the evaluation of the Acting Executive Director, Lina Lorenzi, Esq. He said that she has been asked to send them her self-evaluation several times and nothing has been received so they are going to go with what they have and it will be finalized. He will send everyone a copy once done.
2. He restated the procedure if there is a complaint from one Commissioner on another Commissioner.
3. He then spoke of an increase for the LPRAC Staff since next year there will be no raises given. Acting Exec. Dir. Lina Lorenzi, Esq., Chair Servera and he have decided to give a 3½% increase for everyone and he sent an email to Jim Tracy, Personnel Administrator with this information.

Chair Servera mentioned that she had asked Lina Lorenzi, Esq., Acting Executive Director to do the evaluation for the staff with Commissioner García and herself since she is new to the Commission. Mrs. Lorenzi went on to do the evaluations by herself without informing the Chair that she performed those duties.

Commissioner García then proceeded to read a letter from the Acting Exec. Dir.'s lawyer stating to postpone the evaluation because she wasn't at the meeting but since she didn't send her self-appraisal, they did the evaluation. He said that the person that they are evaluating is not involved in that process ordinarily. Once they do their part the person being evaluated can comment on it. He then mentioned that in January 2009, he informed his Appointing Authority that he cannot stay any longer that he's been with the LPRAC Commission for 11 years. This is his official last night as part of LPRAC. He thanked the Staff and the Commissioners old and new.

Chair Servera and Commissioner Ayala thanked Commissioner García for everything.

Motion made to approve the Personnel & Procedures Committee Report by Commissioner Ayala and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion approved unanimously.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Marcano, Sr. said that they (2 commissioners and 2 members of the staff) met at the Royal Indian Restaurant in New Haven, CT to talk about the Money Management Conference. Next Public Information Committee meeting will be Thursday, June 18th. Mrs. Cardone sent an email to all members.

Commissioner Pérez spoke of an Immigration Forum that LPRAC will be holding in Willimantic, CT. We have a tentative meeting to organize this with key people in the community. The Church Sagrado Corazón in Windham has agreed to tentatively give us the space on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Servera said that Commissioner Candal will be involved too. She also said that both forums are under Mr. Karlo Ruiz. Please work with him and keep her informed too.

Commissioner Ayala offered to attend these meetings if you need quorum. Mrs. Cardone is really good in getting the word out and she always emails and makes the calls.

Motion made to approve the Public Information Committee report by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioner García. Motion approved unanimously.

Tape 2A

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Chair Servera said that she had planned to discuss the Acting Executive Director's status and was advised by letter that the Acting Exec. Dir. wanted to have a public meeting and then she called in today. They received a fax from her attorney to postpone this decision on that issue and having a conversation with our attorney and Jim Tracy of Legislative Mgmt., she agreed to give her a chance and have a special meeting. She asked for a date that everyone can meet as soon as possible. Monday would be good, if everyone could let Mrs. Cardone know. She then mentioned that the Commission has lost Commissioners Ortiz and Menéndez and have a

new Commissioner, Isaias T. Diaz, Esq. of Waterbury and also that Commissioner Ed Rodriguez has been reappointed to our Commission.

Commissioner Rodriguez apologized saying he did not know anything about this appointment and it was made by another appointing authority.

Mr. Oyanadel read the names of people nominated for the Amistad of America. They are as follows:

- Alma Maya, past LPRAC board member and past director of ASPIRA of CT
- Abner Burgos-Rodriguez, past LPRAC board member and current Chairperson of the Latino Scholarship Fund of Danbury
- Olga Leiva, twenty years of experience in the education field
- Vincent Siberon, Executive Director of ASPIRA of CT
- Carlos Alvarez, Past LPRAC board member and Latino entrepreneur &
- Dr. Elsa Nuñez, President of Eastern CT State University.

Commissioner Rodriguez mentioned the name of Pedro Wazmar.

Chair Servera also seconds this nomination.

Commissioner Tirú nominated Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D., President of Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC).

Commissioner Rivera suggested that they select 2 people and then 2 alternates.

Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández recommended Marcos Arenas.

Commissioners Marciano, Sr. and Tirú said that we shouldn't choose any LPRAC members.

Commissioner Rodriguez also nominated Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D. with alternates Vincent Siberon and Dr. Elsa Nuñez.

Commissioner Rivera nominated Pedro Wazmar & Olga Leiva with alternates Daisy Cocco DeFillipis and Vincent Siberon.

Chair Servera asked Mr. Oyanadel to send letters to the people chosen.

Commissioner Rivera reminded everyone of Commissioner Rodriguez Reyes' email on the location of the Puerto Rican Family Monument. He said that Mr. Oyanadel found out where it is located.

Mr. Oyanadel said that he spoke to the sculptor and the artist told him that there are a couple of people involved with the whole issue. One group is the Hartford Arts Council and the other group is President Luis Caban of SINA. Mr. Caban is on vacation but he did speak to the Director of the Arts Council. He said that there is an agreement as to where it will be placed. He also spoke to Calixto Torres, per the direction of Chair Servera and he said that the monies were approved from the City Council in the amount of \$100,000. The sculptor said that he has been talking with the City Manager and Calixto Torres said that they already know where they are going to place the monument.

Chair Servera said that Mr. Oyanadel should contact Commissioner Rodriguez Reyes to develop a plan of action and to call the Legislators and also put it on the media.

Mr. Oyanadel said that the person who created this said that when we do have an inauguration, it will be national and he was considering September 23, 2009.

Chair Servera said that he got paid so the public has the decision of where it should go.

Motion made that any serving Commissioner cannot be considered or serve on any LPRAC paid position for at least 2 years after serving on the Board of the Commission by Commissioner Rodriguez and seconded by Commissioner Marciano, Sr. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Marciano, Sr. mentioned that the Commission should send a letter expressing our concerns to the Governor asking why she doesn't attend any of our event. Also, in looking at LPRAC's website, the biographies look bad and we should all update them.

Chair Servera announced that in the Bridgeport meeting the public said that they sent a lot of information to participate in events but we are not getting them. We have to make sure that Mr. Ruiz is sending all of these out to all Commissioners.

Commissioner Rivera said that with the permission of Chair Servera, he went to the Latino Scholarship Fund's event where they had 26 scholarships. One special scholarship went to Mrs. Evelyn Acosta who wanted to continue her education, she has two children and is married

and is attending CVCC. He will talk to the Special Projects Committee on this. He also mentioned that he wanted to remove Section VII – New & Old Business Line a).

Commissioner García said it was never an issue, it was a difference of opinion.

Motion made to remove Section VII – New & Old Business Line a) Commissioner Garcia's attendance issue on the Agenda by Commissioner Rivera and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Servera thanked Mrs. Cardone for saving the Commission \$35.00 by getting the food and beverages for this meeting from the LOB Cafeteria.

Commissioner Pérez announced that he would like to be added to the By-Laws Committee. Also, can someone convey to Mr. Ruiz to elaborate on his report, i.e., that he met with an Agency, he should put which Agency and what was discussed.

Chair Servera said that Mrs. Lorenzi called her and said that she has some concerns with Mr. Ruiz and she was going to sit with him. She would also like to sit with Mr. Ruiz because there have been many concerns from the community and she will talk to him too.

Mr. Rodríguez mentioned that he has previously asked for a list what boards and organizations the staff are on and that we are the ones that should be there.

Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández mentioned that Commissioner Rivera was going to mention that there has been a change to the Gala location because there is still no third party vendor to sign contract for Foxwoods services we did not put a deposit for the Grand Pequot. It will be at the Celebrity Ball Room at the MGM.

Chair Servera asked Mr. Oyanadel to send an email to all staff since Mrs. Lorenzi is out ill, to provide him a listing of all boards and organizations that they belong to and then to email all Commissioners this information.

Motion made to adjourn by Commissioner García and seconded by Commissioner Tirú. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Commissioner Pablo Rivera
Secretary to the Board

PR:cjc