



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs
Commission

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DRAFT

MINUTES

LPRAC Commission Meeting
March 18, 2009
Legislative Office Building
Room 2600
5:35 pm

Chairperson
Carlos Alvarez
Vice Chair
Ivette Servera
Secretary
Pablo Rivera
Treasurer
Sonia P. Ayala

Past Chair
Manuel García

Commissioners:
Ramón L. Arroyo
Enrique Marcano, Sr.
Luis A. Menéndez
Alcides Ortíz
Juan M. Perez
Ed Rodríguez
Norma Rodríguez Reyes
Maritza Tirú

Acting Executive Director,
Lina Lorenzi, Esq.

**Special Projects
Coordinator and
Grants Writer**
Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández

Principal Leg. Analyst
Werner Oyanadel

Public Info Officer
Karlo X. Ruiz

Senior Leg. Secretary
Clarisa Cardone

Commissioners Present: Carlos Alvarez, Ramón L. Arroyo, Sonia P. Ayala, Luis Menéndez, Alcides Ortíz, Juan M. Pérez, Ed Rodríguez, Norma Rodríguez Reyes, Pablo Rivera, Ivette Servera and Maritza Tirú

Commissioners Absent: Manuel García and Enrique Marcano, Sr.

Staff: Lina Lorenzi, Acting Executive Director
Lucía Goicoechea Hernández, Special Projects Coordinator
and Grants Writer,
Werner Oyanadel, Principal Legislative Analyst
Karlo Ruiz, Public Information Officer
Clarisa Cardone, Senior Legislative Secretary

Tape 1A

Chairman Alvarez asked **Secretary Pablo Rivera** to do the roll call. Quorum was established.

Commissioner Rodríguez asked whether or not the Agenda had been approved by Chairman Alvarez because. He asked if there was a 72-hour requirement and whether he has approved it. He questioned the legality of the meeting.

Commissioner Arroyo asked whether the agenda had been approved at the Executive Committee meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.

Commissioner Tirú asked if it was legal to have the meeting if the Chairman had not approved the Agenda.

Commissioner Perez said that everyone should have a copy of the Roberts Rules and check with FOI on these rules.

Commissioner Ortíz said that in the current LPRAC By-Laws (pg. 4 of the new By-Laws) it said that the whole Executive Body approves the Agenda.

Meeting was then convened. Commissioner Ayala came in at 5:45 p.m.

Public Participation:

State Representative Minnie Gonzalez. She spoke of her desire to keep supporting LPRAC and to keep working together.

Chairman Alvarez thanked Rep. Gonzalez and then went on to give his resignation letter as LPRAC Chairman to Commissioner Rodríguez, and asked him to read it aloud. He then passed the meeting to Vice Chair Servera and left. He left at 6:03 p.m.

Commissioner Menéndez came in at 6:05 p.m.

Commissioner Rodríguez thanked Rep. Gonzalez for coming and for all of the help she gives us. He asked her how we can get this Commission into all the communities.

Rep. Gonzalez said that you have to do Public Forums. She said that she knows that there was one in Bridgeport. She said that she heard a comment from a staff member that your

hands are tied because of state statutes and she spoke to someone to amend the statute so that you have the opportunity to go out there.

Commissioner Arroyo mentioned that he was currently reappointed for two more years by Majority Leader Denise Merrill.

Commissioner Ayala expressed concern about the negative press the commission has received.

Commissioner Perez asked that all board members communicate with their legislator.

Commissioner Servera spoke of the Marketing Plan.

Rep. Gonzalez offered suggestions for collaboration with African American State Reps.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of February 23, 2009 as submitted with minor corrections by Commissioner Rivera and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo.

Discussion:

Commissioner Tirú said that in reading the draft minutes, several motions are not in compliance as there was no quorum and asked that moving forward, we put down the exact time when Commissioners left and came on the phone, and when quorum was lost. She requested the minutes be corrected.

Commissioner Servera said that both she and Chairman Alvarez went to the FOI Commission and said that we lost quorum but then after a while, two commissioners called on the phone and we re-established quorum. According to the attorney who gave the information, once quorum is reestablished, it is legal.

Commissioner Tirú said that participation from Commissioners should be in the meeting or out. Commissioner García has always said this. At 6:55 p.m. you lost quorum and it does not say it in the minutes. This should be reflected in the minutes.

Tape 1B

Commissioner Tirú questioned why commissioners would come in for one vote and then leave.

Commissioner Ortiz replied that any commissioner can come at any given time and establish quorum and a vote is taken.

Motion approved as follows:

7 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Ortíz, Perez, Rivera, Rodríguez-Reyes and Tirú

2 Abstentions: Commissioners Menéndez and Rodríguez

2 Absent: Commissioner García and Marcano, Sr.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Commissioner Ivette Servera, Vice Chair proceeded to give the Chairperson's Report and announced that she has attended Appropriations meetings with Chairman Alvarez and understand the changes we should make, she has testified with Acting Executive Director, Lina Lorenzi, Esq. She said that she will continue going to these meetings with Mrs. Lorenzi and Mr. Oyanadel. As Vice Chair, she was supervising Mrs. Lorenzi, spending time in the office and working with everyone in the office to save the Commission.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's Report as given by Commissioner Servera, Vice Chair by Commissioner Ayala and seconded by Commissioner Rivera.

Discussion:

Commissioner Arroyo asked if he can bring his issues to the next Executive Committee meeting when Chairman Alvarez is present.

Commissioner Tirú asked if Commissioner Arroyo's statement is under the Chairperson's Report.

Commissioner Perez said that at the last meeting, this should be noted under Old & New Business.

Commissioner Ortiz said that in last month's Chairperson's Report, in the last page was a request from Mr. Dana Crompton for the final Gala 2008 figures. The information requested is due February 20th, 2009. Was this answered? Our names are on this packet.

Commissioner Servera said that she will meet with Chairman Alvarez and discuss anything that is pending. She will then send an email to everyone with all this information.

Commissioner Ayala said that she has never seen this. She has asked Kyle Rhude of the Office of Legislative Management that anything that has to do with Special Projects and Budget should be sent to her attention.

Motion carries as follows:

7 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Ortiz, Rivera, Rodriguez, Rodriguez-Reyes and Tirú

2 Abstentions: Commissioners Menéndez and Perez

2 Absent: Commissioner García and Marcano, Sr.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Acting Executive Director Lina Lorenzi spoke of the following:

- 1) There was a disagreement between her and Commissioner Alvarez regarding the contents of a letter to OLM regarding her appointment.
- 2) She spoke of the success of the Legislative Reception.
- 3) A key part of the Appropriations Committee is that LPRAC and other commissions were assigned to meet with Senator Harp and Representative Candelaria. During the first meeting they were very supportive. She was new, only 6 days on the job. They expressed some concern about our working more in conjunction with Legislators, community outreach, things of that nature, and at that time we spoke of the Marketing Plans and that we will be working with the community in the four corners of the State. We left on very good terms with everyone. The second meeting was on the RBA (Results Based Accountability) which is a device by which the Appropriations Committee will decide if we're heading in the right direction. We've been working with the other Exec. Dirs. and they are willing to help us in this.
- 4) Today, Latino Advocacy Day which was thought by Rep. Andres Ayala together with the other Latino Reps. and our staff brought over hundredths of people to the LOB. We got a commitment from the leadership that they are committed to working for and with the Latino community. We had a very good success today.
- 5) She has started the process of having individual staff meetings. She is reviewing the job descriptions and job performance with each one.
- 6) Recently, we worked on the By-Laws.
- 7) Also, Rep. Candelaria mentioned briefly that the Latinos are suffering lots of abuses from the East Haven police. Even a priest was arrested for carrying a shiny object which turned out to be a camera. We are already working on a plan of action and reporting back to Rep. Candelaria.

Motion made to approve the Executive Director's Report by Commissioner Ortiz and seconded by Commissioner Rivera.

Discussion:

Commissioner Ortiz spoke of a copy of a letter sent by Chairman Alvarez for the appointment of the Acting Executive Director, Lina Lorenzi, Esq. in the packet. This is the wrong letter, it should be without the Legislative Approval.

Commissioner Arroyo mentioned that Appropriations is looking for 20 to 30% from all Commissions. Is this something that we have to analyze?

Acting Executive Director said that we have to present a 20% cut to Appropriations by a certain date. Chairman Alvarez said that the staff, Vern, Karlo, herself and Lucy were to get together and come up with a plan and she thought she was going to bring it to Kyle Rhude of OLM who is working with Appropriations. After they did the preliminary analysis for approval by the Chair, she was told she could not attend the meeting. Commissioner Alvarez went with Commissioner Rivera and that's when they changed some of the recommendations.

Tape 2A

Commissioner Rivera and Chairman Alvarez went to speak with Kyle Rhude at OLM. Mr. Rhude was going to email Chairman Alvarez by Friday and then on Monday morning, Chairman Alvarez was going to email Commissioner Ayala because she is in Budget. I asked if this

happened and there was no response. 20% = \$131,000 for this year and 20% = \$138,000 for 2010.

Commissioner Servera mentioned that when staff made the report, she took it to Chairman Alvarez's office and they conference called the E-Board members to see what ideas should go to Mr. Rhude. She said that we need to discuss this more at the Budget Committee meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Servera asked Mr. Ruiz to speak.

Mr. Ruiz spoke of the following:

- 1) that they did not meet this month but that they are continuing moving ahead with the Marketing Plan and they're working on revising it. It will go to the Public Information Committee for approval and then to the Commission meeting.
- 2) This month is a good month. We have had lots of interviews, El Show de Analeh, El Registro, La Identidad Latina, Vida En and our latest show with Lorena Gassner on 1320. A Lot of this revolves around the Latino Advocacy Day.
- 3) Our Stamp Exhibition is at the Housatonic College.
- 4) While he was there, he attended an event of the Latina Army. Hopefully they can bring this to our Latina students in the Hartford area.
- 5) The monthly Newsletter went out last month and working on the new one, have to revise the letter from the Chair.
- 6) January's minutes are on LPRAC's website.
- 7) March 29 & 30th, 2009 at the Excel Center colon cancer screening awareness.

Motion made to approve the Public Information Committee Report by Commissioner Ortíz and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion approved unanimously.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rodríguez said that the committee has not met due to the various activities it has been engaged in. Mr. Oyanadel will talk about this.

Mr. Oyanadel spoke of the following:

- 1) The Legislative Reception was fully covered by people in the community and the Latino media was attended by the Attorney General.
- 2) He's been working with Mr. Mark Overmeyer-Velazquez who is the Associate Professor of History and Director of the University of CT Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies on a project that aims to publish the 2009 CT Latino Survey in May of 2009. There are several organizations working with us, including Brown University. It's not going to cost us any monies to produce this book. He will show the draft before it is published.
- 3) He said that he attended the Health Equity Commission meeting which was created by Senator Harp and our last one was with the Hispanic Health Council.
- 4) He also attended a meeting of the Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System.

Motion made to approve the Priorities & Legislation Committee Report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Ayala/Perez.

Discussion:

Commissioner Perez mentioned that he is willing to work with Mr. Oyanadel on the Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System.

Mr. Oyanadel thanked Commissioner Perez and said that as soon as the recommendations are in writing, he will present it to the Board.

Motion approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ortíz asked if there's an answer to the copy of the letter from Mr. Dana Crompton which was attached to the Chairman's report in February 2009.

Commissioner Tirú said that going back to the letter that Commissioner Ortíz read we were directed not to even continue because we have not complied with something in writing to this directive. We should table this to next month.

Acting Executive Director Lorenzi said that she was copied on an email to Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández today when she submitted some of the documentation to Mr. Dana Crompton's Office and that nothing is moving forward until the 2008 Gala information is settled.

Motion made to table the Special Projects Committee Report by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion approved unanimously.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Motion made to table the Budget Committee Report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Motion approved unanimously.

PERSONNEL AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE REPORT

As there has been no meeting, there is no report.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ortíz, Chairman of By-Laws, thanked all Commissioners that were able to attend the meeting on Monday, March 9th, 2009. Unfortunately we did not have quorum because we could not get everyone on the phone but we did discuss them.

Motion made to approve Line 85 by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Approved as follows:

7 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Menéndez, Ortíz, Perez, Rivera and Rodríguez-Reyes

2 Abstentions: Commissioners Rodríguez and Tirú

2 Absent: Commissioner García and Marcano, Sr.

Motion made to approve Line 95 by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Approved as follows:

7 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Menéndez, Ortíz, Rivera, Rodríguez and Rodríguez-Reyes

2 Nos: Commissioners Perez and Tirú

2 Absent: Commissioner García and Marcano, Sr.

Motion made to approve Lines 109-111 by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Ayala. Approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Menéndez, Ortíz, Rivera and Rodríguez-Reyes

1 No: Commissioner Tirú

2 Abstentions: Commissioners Perez and Rodríguez

2 Absent: Commissioner García and Marcano, Sr.

Motion made to approve Line 111-114 by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Menéndez, Ortíz, Rivera and Rodríguez-Reyes

1 No: Commissioner Tirú

2 Abstentions: Commissioners Perez and Rodríguez

2 Absent: Commissioner García and Marcano, Sr.

Tape 2B

Commissioner Menéndez left at 8:05 p.m.

Motion made to approve Line 145-146 by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Approved as follows:

4 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Ayala, Ortíz and Rivera

2 Nos: Commissioners Perez and Rodríguez

1 Abstention: Commissioners Rodríguez-Reyes

2 Absent: Commissioner García and Marcano, Sr.

Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes left at 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner Arroyo asked Mrs. Cardone to call Commissioner García at 8:17 p.m. She told Commissioner Servera and was told not to call. Commissioner Arroyo left at 8:22 p.m.

Commissioner Ayala left at 8:23 p.m. Quorum was lost.

At 8:27 p.m. Commissioner García called Mrs. Cardone who in turn gave the phone to Commissioner Rivera to answer. He announced to everyone that he was on the phone and that he wanted to be placed on a conference call. Commissioner Rivera told Commissioner García that quorum was lost and that the meeting was adjourned.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Commissioner Pablo Rivera
Secretary to the Board

PR:cjc