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**Ed Rodríguez**  
**Norma Rodríguez Reyes**  
**Danny Torres**

**Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission**



(Top, L to R) Commissioner Ed Rodriguez, Eugene Salorio, Danny Torres, Ramon L. Arroyo. (Bottom, L to R) Rick Cruz, Yolanda Castillo, Isaias Diaz, & Lourdes Montalvo. Absent from photo: Carlos Candal, Hon. Migdalia Castro, Roberto Fernandez, Sonia Manjon, Enrique Marciano, & Norma Rodriguez Reyes.

## Noticiero LPRAC - Noticias desde el Capitolio

### Noticiero LPRAC - News from the Capitol

#### Message | Acting Executive Director Werner Oyanadel

Welcome back to everyone in our community reading our latest newsletter, and thank you for your continued support. I am happy to report that LPRAC remains fully committed to responding to our mandate, which calls on us to work with members of the General Assembly as they work on legislation to improve the socio-economic status of the Latino community of our state.

LPRAC, as you will read in this newsletter, prioritized its limited resources on research on a broad range of areas dealing with health, housing, and self-sufficiency following the Results Based Accountability (RBA) model and working with state officials concerning the administration of state programs that affect our population.

For instance, we are delighted to

have played a pivotal role in assuring that the Department of Health will conduct barber licensing tests in Spanish and English, and implement new test requirements that will help all barbers to be tested on issues related to their trade only. We also continue working with the State Department of Labor and the State Department of Health on the benefits of creating a new barbershop apprenticeship program to help our youth have better access to this trade in our state.



LPRAC also continues assisting legislative committees currently working on new legislation on full service community schools and working with stakeholders to

implement the requirements of Public Act 12-74 that amended Connecticut's Alvin W. Penn anti-racial profiling law.

In addition, LPRAC partnered with numerous organizations - including the Health Equity Commission and the U.S. Justice Department - conducting educational and outreach activities in areas including asthma, housing, language rights and discrimination issues, among others.

Again, thank you for your continued support and please feel free to send us your feedback and stories you would like to see included in our future LPRAC newsletters.

Saludos,

*Werner Oyanadel*

#### Elections | Latino Vote Decisive: LPRAC Chair Isaias Diaz

As we begin to put 2012 behind us and look forward to the challenges and potential achievements that 2013 has to offer, we cannot overlook the impact the Latino

vote had and will have on the political landscape from this point forward.

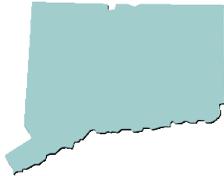
The verdict is in, the Latino vote was clearly the deciding factor in the 2012 re-election of President Barack Obama and the nation and political process has taken notice. It is clear that the Latino influence is here to stay and will consistently grow and increase said influence in this country.

President Obama received over 70% of the Latino vote and Latinos comprised approximately 10% of the overall votes. Should this trend continue (and all data indicates it will) then both parties must take into consideration the



role that Latinos will play in the future political makeup of this country. I look forward with great anticipation what the future will hold for Latinos in this country, considering that we are now major players who have gained a seat at the national political table.

**Learn more on the web... [www.cga.ct.gov/lprac](http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac)**



**Connecticut At A Glance**

Hispanic Population  
**479,087**

Hispanics as Percent of State Population  
**13.4%**

Median Age of Hispanics  
**28**

Median Income, Hispanics 16+  
**\$21,600**

Poverty Rate, Hispanics 17 and Younger  
**31%**

Hispanics Without Health Insurance  
**22%**

Hispanic Home Ownership  
**36%**

Hispanics as Percent of All K-12 Students  
**17%**

Source: Pew Hispanic Center

**LPRAC Staff**

**Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director**

**Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández, Special Projects Director and Grants Writer**

**Clarisa Cardone, Senior Legislative Secretary**

**Youth | Cynthia Calderon Focuses on Community Connections**

My name is Cynthia Calderon. I am nineteen and very proud of my Ecuadorian heritage. When I was five years old my parents and I migrated to the United States to live in Bridgeport.

My father has been my Tae Kwon Do instructor for 14 years and has taught me not to quit nor to give in to fear. My parents have been the driving force that pushes me to rise to the top and reach my goals. I am the oldest child, and have developed a great sense of maturity and responsibility.

I am a full-time student at Housatonic Community College. In fall 2013, I plan to transfer to the University of Connecticut, Stamford campus, to earn a degree in Business and Technology. I believe education is the most important asset an individual can possess because it cannot be taken away – it can be built on.

In July 2012, I successfully completed the Youth Internet Matters program offered by UConn, which provided me the knowledge I need to proficiently design an online website. I am an intern at La Voz Hispana de Connecticut (The Hispanic Voice of Connecticut) where I upload the news to their social networks – Facebook,



**“Education is the most important asset an individual can possess because it cannot be taken away – it can be built on.”**

Twitter and Instagram. I am thankful for my internship because it allows me to work hands-on with computers, learn about new technology and the fast-paced changing world around me.

I have participated in popular fashion shows such as Fashion Rocks Connecticut 2011, Señorita Belleza Latina 2011 (a pageant in the Stamford area) and competed in The World Tae Kwon Do Competition and won first place. Since the pageant I've become involved in many community service events such as serving

lunch to the less fortunate and attending events geared to build self-esteem in young women. I am very fond of beauty pageants because they provide a forum in which young woman have an opportunity to express their opinions, talents and intelligence. The scholarships they provide help recipients afford college and reach their professional goals. In the future I plan to take part in the Miss Connecticut pageant.

I also serve on Intake's board of directors. Intake is a nonprofit organization that brings an innovative approach to classical music incorporating the use of native instruments. To raise funds for its International Women's Day Concert in March 2013, Intake is hosting a Cultural Event. The event is open to individuals to perform a song, dance, or any act that represents their cultural heritage. I am in charge of training them and helping them develop their talents so they can be prepared for the event. The organization is looking forward to this great event, and I am confident that our hard work will pay off. Through Intake I am working towards becoming an active member in my community and developing better leadership skill.

**Business | Changes Sought in State Set-Aside Program**

Some Latino business owners are voicing concern that the system used by the State of Connecticut to award contract work to minority-owned business is ineffective and needs a substantial overhaul.

Business owners describe the current set-aside quotas as virtually meaningless, disappointingly small and structured in a way that doesn't help minority-owned businesses win government contracts. Members of the trade organization



Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council have been among those speaking out and seeking change.

What has attracted considerable criticism is that the official state

category “Minority Business Enterprises” also includes women-owned businesses, thus putting women and minorities in direct competition for a paltry 6.25% slice of the state contracting pie

In addition, bidding on state government contracts is an arduous process, and some Latino business owners say they view competing for such a thin sliver of overall state contracting business to be discouraging.

## Education | Restructuring Bilingual Program in Windham

A LPRAC delegation met with Dr. Steven J. Adamowski, Special Master of Windham Schools on Monday, November 19, 2012 to discuss the Bilingual Education Program in Windham.

Dr. Adamowski informed LPRAC that the Bilingual Education program has not been eliminated as discussed in the community.

He categorically stated that the Bilingual Education Program is being restructured as delineated in the Windham 3 Year Strategic Operating Plan including, among other changes, the expansion of the Dual Language program and hiring new teaching positions. Initial results of the Program's redesign have been promising based on 2012 State assessments.



(L to R) LPRAC Commissioners Roberto C. Fernandez and Lourdes Montalvo, and Dr. Steven Adamowski, Special Master of Windham Schools.



**Attention all students!**

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs (LPRAC) Commission awards monetary scholarships to students and we at LPRAC highly encourage you to download the application for scholarships from our website during the month of February 2013.

LPRAC also recognizes community leaders with official state recognition awards and we are currently seeking nominations from the community at-large.

For more information, please call LPRAC at 860-240-8330.

## Housing | Affordable Housing Dialogue Draws Many Participants

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission hosted a turn the curve session on Quality Affordable Housing on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at the Legislative Office Building.

We wish to thank Ms. Ana Maria Garcia for moderating an excellent session, with participation from a broad range of stakeholders, housing experts, and state officials and local media coverage.

We also wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to CT Attorney General George Jepsen for joining us that morning and discussing the remedies realized to the tune of \$25 billion by the 20 Attorneys General on behalf of foreclosed homeowners nationwide. Jepsen indicated that their next challenge is to go after those institutions that made junk mortgages or

mortgages that could not be sustained by the borrower and find ways for them to make restitution for the harm caused, not only to those borrowers, but to the housing industry as a result.

LPRAC also thanks the Judicial Branch for participating in the forum with Attorney Kevin M. Williams speaking briefly about the foreclosure mediation program he heads at Judicial; CHFA members who attended - Carol DeRosa, Rose Holbrook and Peg Fitzgerald- and to Attorney Judith Johanssen who represented the CT Association of REALTORS.

Four of the LPRAC Commissioners also attended and we wish to thank them as well – Vice Chairman Rick Cruz, RBA Co-Chairs Roberto Fernandez and Lourdes E. Montalvo and Treasurer Dr.

Eugene Salorio. Executive Director Howard Rifkin of the Partnership for Strong Communities input was invaluable as was that of Arvind Shaw of the CT Health Equity Commission.

Last but not least, LPRAC is grateful to First Niagara Bank for sending a representative, Oliverio Oramas, to the session. The group intends to form small subcommittees to continue the work in the outcomes highlighted in the upcoming report.

For a copy of the report, please contact LPRAC at 860-240-8330.



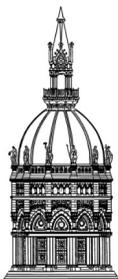
### Hispanic Homeownership Rates

■ Hispanic ownership rate in Connecticut  
 ■ Hispanic ownership rate in the United States  
 ■ White ownership rate in the United States

Year	Hispanic ownership rate in Connecticut	Hispanic ownership rate in the United States	White ownership rate in the United States
2004	48%	31%	73%
2008	50%	36%	68%
2011	47%	34%	71%



(L to R, top down): LPRAC Commissioner Lourdes Montalvo, CT Attorney General George Jepsen; Commissioner Rick Cruz; Ms. Ana Maria Garcia; LPRAC Commissioners Roberto C. Fernandez, Rick Cruz, Lourdes Montalvo, and Eugene Salorio.



**Latino Elected Officials of the Connecticut General Assembly 2013-14**

**State Senate**

**Andres Ayala Jr.\*\* 23rd**  
**Art Linares\* 33rd**

**House of Representatives**

**Angel Arce\* 4th**  
**Christina Ayala\* 128th**  
**Juan Candelaria 95th**  
**Victor Cuevas\* 75th**  
**Minnie Gonzalez 3rd**  
**Jason Rojas 9th**  
**Robert Sanchez 25th**  
**Ezequiel Santiago 130th**  
**Hilda Santiago\* 84th**  
**Edwin Vargas\* 6th**

\*First term in General Assembly  
 \*\* First term in Senate

**Milestone | Two Latinos Elected to Connecticut State Senate**

There will be twelve Latino legislators in the 2013-14 General Assembly – the highest number in state history – including two Latino members of the State Senate for the first time. Five of the ten Latino House members will be serving in their first term.

Art Linares, at age 24, is one of the youngest state senators in state history. The Westbrook native won a three-way race to represent the 12-town 33rd district, the first Republican since 1992.

Much of Art's values stem from his family's history. In 1961, after a failed U.S. invasion, Art's grand-mother and grandfather decided to move from their home in Cuba to seek freedom in the U.S. These family ideals and morals have left a great impact on Art, who describes his parents as his "heroes."

Art Linares started a business when he was 19 years old. The company, now in Middletown,

utilizes solar energy to power businesses across New England and the Mid-Atlantic states. In 2010, Linares became inspired by Florida U.S. Senator Marco Rubio and volunteered in Rubio's Wash-

ington, D.C. office. Linares has said his main priority will be to help small businesses grow and encourage more entrepreneurs to start businesses.



Sen. Art Linares

Sen. Andres Ayala Jr.

in Education and is a Social Studies instructor at Bassick High School. As Aspira Club Advisor, he has inspired young Latino students to fulfill their career aspirations.

In addition to being elected State Representative for the 128th District in 2006, Ayala represented the 137th Common Council District in Bridgeport for five terms. In 2003, he became the first Latino to lead the City Council. He also serves on various boards and community groups, and is Founder and Co-Chairman of The Hispanic Heritage Committee.

He is a former board member of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) and Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) serving on the executive committee as Secretary. He also served on the Board of Directors of The National Puerto Rican Coalition (NPRC).

**Mission | Latino Leaders Experience Israel's Challenges**

Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, along with 18 other influential Latino community leaders from across the United States, traveled to Israel Nov. 26-Dec. 2.

Participating in the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Latino Leaders Mission to Israel, they visited places of religious, politi-

cal and historical importance and met with representatives from nonprofit organizations and the Israeli government, security analysts, Holocaust survivors, Israeli-Arabs, Israeli entrepreneurs and journalists.

They learned firsthand about the rich texture and resilient nature of Israeli society, its culture and politics, the complexity of Israel's conflict with the Palestinians and the challenges Israel faces from instability in the region.

The mission, which included prominent Latino leaders from Connecticut, Denver, Miami, New York, Los Angeles, Houston and Chicago, went ahead as planned despite the escalation of hostilities in southern Israel at that time.

"I'm humbled for the unique opportunity given to me and other Latino leaders from the United States," said Oyanadel.

The mission was the latest in a series of trips to Israel over the past three years as part of ADL's continuing efforts to enhance relationships with leaders of the Latino communities in the United States through engagement and programming stressing common bonds and concerns.

The Latino leaders visited key Christian and Jewish holy sites and traveled to various parts of the country, including the cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights.



## Commissioner Profile | Manufacturing Leader Ed Rodriguez

LPRAC Board member Ed Rodriguez is the President of Penmar Industries, Inc., a Norwalk, CT based company with facilities in Erlanger, KY.

Penmar is a leading manufacturer of pressure sensitive tapes and flexographic labels serving customers around the globe.

Ed has over 30 years of international sales/marketing and general management experience in both profit and nonprofit sectors.

Rodriguez has a Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto

Rico. He also holds an MBA from Dolan School of Business, at Fairfield University.



**Ed Rodriguez is President of Norwalk's Penmar Industries, Inc.**

Ed has been an active community member, having served — and continuing to serve — on several local boards, including: SpecTape, Inc., Connecticut Business and Industry Association, Fairfield County Community Foundation, and the Housatonic Community College, among others.

Ed is an involved leader in the Stratford community, where he and his wife Vivian reside close to their two grown children, Eddy and Patricia, and grandsons Thomas and William.



**The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission is in the process of promoting its upcoming first golf tournament, scheduled for June 2013.**

**If you are interested in playing or otherwise sponsoring this great first event, please contact LPRAC at 860-240-8330.**

**The event brochure will be posted to the LPRAC website; visit [www.cga.ct.gov/lprac](http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac) if you wish to download it.**



## Honor | Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated at State Capitol

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC) held its annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Friday, September 28, 2012 in the Atrium of the Legislative Office Building.

Superior Court Judge Carmen Espinosa and her daughter attended the event as did the publisher of *Identidad Latina*, Ruth Espinoza (no relation).

A number of LPRAC Commissioners were present including its Vice Chairman, Rick Cruz, Board Secretary Yolanda Castillo, Lourdes E. Montalvo and Roberto Fernandez, co-chairs of the RBA Committee for the LPRAC.

It was a great event and LPRAC was honored to hang the newly acquired USPS

Stamp in tribute to José Ferrer along with the additional 30 stamps that make up the collection, which remained on display through October 31, 2012.

The Legislative Office Building display “showcases the outstanding contributions of Hispanic Americans to the foundation of our nation.”



**(L to R, top down): Werner Oyanadel, LPRAC Acting Executive Director, Superior Court Judge Carmen Espinosa, Alissa Belcourt-Romero of Verizon Wireless, Commissioners Rick Cruz, Roberto C. Fernandez, Yolanda Castillo, Lourdes Montalvo; Val Ramos Flamenco Ensemble; Maricarmen Salazar of the Red Cross with guest; Judge Carmen Espinoza, LPRAC Commissioner Yolanda Castillo and Judge Espinoza's daughter; display of Hispanic Heritage U.S. postal stamp series in the LOB-Capitol concourse.**



**Verizon's commitment to a diverse workplace — and to hiring America's veterans — are widely recognized as top corporate priorities.**

**Individuals in the Latino community interested in a career path with a global technology leader should look at Verizon.**

*Special thanks to Norma Rodriguez-Reyes, LPRAC Commissioner and Public Information Committee Chairperson of LPRAC for the production of this newsletter and Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández for providing information. Project Coordination by Acting Executive Director Werner Oyanadel; design, editing and production by Express Strategies.*

## Workforce | Verizon Reaches Out to Latinos, Veterans

Evan Guzman is passionate about helping returning veterans gain a foothold in the job market.

As the go-to guy on the subject at Verizon Communications, he is an acknowledged expert at making the business case for hiring veterans. The fundamental reason, he says, is because veterans are “good for business.”

As Sr. Consultant for Global Military Strategic Talent Acquisitions at Verizon, Guzman is on the frontlines. Verizon has a solid reputation as a global leader committed to diversity, the Latino community, and to hiring vets. As a stand-out in communication technology, Guzman says the “opportunity to support our veterans find careers” at Verizon is irresistible.

He has been on the job at Verizon since April 2011, with responsibilities for strategic planning, program implementation, branding and recruitment. And recruitment of veterans holds a high priority at Verizon. Nationwide, the company employs approximately 12,000 veterans.

Guzman, considered a “subject matter expert” on the topic of hiring veterans, is just one reason why Verizon has been named to the G.I. Jobs Top 100 Military-Friendly Employers List for 2013,

in recognition of the company's military recruiting and hiring practices. The company was ranked No. 15 on the list - up from No. 41 last year. Verizon also earned men-



**“Verizon provides an opportunity to support our veterans find careers,” with a variety of programs to support veterans and their families.**

tion as a Military Friendly Spouse Employer for 2013.

Criteria included the strength of company military-recruiting efforts, the percentage of new hires with prior military service, retention programs, and company policies toward National Guard and Reserve service. The G.I. Jobs magazine's Top 100 list was drawn from a sample of 5,000 companies whose annual revenues exceeded \$500 million.

To help job-seeking veterans, Verizon has a military career website featuring a U.S. Military Skill Matcher that lets applicants enter their branch of service and specialty code to find job openings that match their background, education and experience. Verizon also has a variety of programs

to support veterans and their families.

In addition to actively recruiting and hiring employees with military experience, Verizon offers a variety of benefits to employees serving in the National Guard or Reserves, including some of the best corporate-leave policies in the country. Verizon also has external partnerships to further advocate the hiring of veterans.

Guzman, a graduate of Baruch College, especially appreciates “working with engaged teams and employing and supporting veterans,” and so thoroughly enjoys his work with colleagues at Verizon that he is not even considering a change in job responsibilities. “I’m very happy where I am,” he explains.

Beyond his work at Verizon, Guzman is involved in community activities, volunteering time with the American Cancer Society, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He assists in fundraising and helping prepare for meetings for the organizations.

In May, CivilianJobs.com named Verizon to the organization's Most Valuable Employers for Military for the second consecutive year, and the company was named to the Military Times EDGE Best for Vets list for the first time.

## Remembrance | A Champion Community Advocate

The Bridgeport community and entire Hispanic community in state of Connecticut were saddened to learn that former Bridgeport Alderman and Council President Danny Martinez passed away on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 due to medical complications.

He will be sorely missed by the community that saw him grow, become a scholarship award recipient of the Latino and Puerto Ri-

can Affairs Commission and then rise to become Alderman and



**Danny Martinez had an enduring impact on the Bridgeport community and the State.**

President of the City Council for the City of Bridgeport.

To send condolences to the family or contributions in his memory please contact Iglesia Renacer Cristiana of Bridgeport at 203-384-2222 to reach a family member.

The thoughts and prayers of LPRAC and the entire Latino community are with his family.

## Focus | Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury

The Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury has been in existence since 1988 providing needed services as identified by the community. They provide services through advocacy, collaboration and creating self-sustaining entities to enhance the well-being of our Hispanic family.

The agency currently operates five programs: Cultural Arts Academy, Direct Care Program with State of CT Department of Developmental Services, Case Management, Guitar Classes, Tennis class for children and their new inherited Senior program La Casa Bienvenida.

These programs encompass a wide variety of activities from after school programming, case management services, intensive respite care, and referral services.

**Cultural Arts Academy Program** provides elementary, middle school aged children with after-school programming to help children advance their knowledge of the Latino culture through art, music, and dance. This program is funded by Connecticut Community Foundation, /USTA and Hispanic Coalition.

**Direct Care Worker** is a contract with the Department of Developmental Services to provide recreational counseling, assistance, and guidance for a mentally challenged Hispanic individual. Services provided at home, Hispanic Coalition or any other areas conducive to client special needs as approved by a supervisor. The client receives job counseling, recreational services, and assistance to help him to be successful in school.

**Case Management Program** provides services for all individuals and families in the Hispanic community. It assists with securing essential records and benefits, ie; birth certificate, citizenship, DDS,

DSS, SSI it provides advocacy, intervention, and translation when needed. We assess need and provide resources, information and referral to families in the Greater Waterbury.

**La Casa Program** provides a myriad of essential services in an effort to improve the quality of life to low-income Hispanic senior citizens. Services provided to our seniors ie; Transportation to and from home, medical and social appointments, Ethnic meals on

**The Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury has provided much-needed community services through advocacy and collaboration to enhance the well-being of the Hispanic community since 1988, including more than 3,000 clients last year.**

site and delivery to homebound clients, recreational educational and cultural activities, money management and senior escort services.

The Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury, during the past year has served well over 3,000 clients. Coalition leaders cognizant of the trust of their clients, have taken prompt action to fulfill their needed services. Collectively, the community has helped the organization grow through shared time, partner-

ships, support, encouragement, enthusiasm and resources.

Because of their funders, Connecticut Community Foundation, United Way of Greater Waterbury, Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, City of Waterbury/Community Block Grants, Hispanics in Philanthropy, CAHS, and CAUSA the Hispanic Coalition has been able to serve clients health needs, helped put food on the table of many families, assisted in fulfilling dreams of becoming citizens, helped families relocate to new apartments, helped children with their homework, learn a new skill and helped others with a myriad of different needs.

On a daily basis, they can look around and be reminded of the pressing need within the community. Currently there are approximately 25,000 Hispanics who reside in Waterbury.

**Youth and elderly guests of the Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury enjoy a range of activities.**





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## Awareness | Civil Rights Summit

LPRAC co-sponsored a very successful summit focusing on Latino Civil Rights at the Legislative Office Building on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 during Hispanic Heritage month. The purpose of the well-attended event (see photos below) was to create awareness about illegal discrimination and what can be done about it.



## Legislative Priorities | Education and Self-Sufficiency

LPRAC has identified two key issues to focus its limited resources during the 2013 Legislative Session – Education and Self-Sufficiency.

LPRAC is mandated by state law to focus its advocacy on health equity, public safety, discrimination, self-sufficiency, and education. During the 2012 session LPRAC actively participated in the passage of Public Act 12-116 which made major changes in education laws addressing the state's academic achievement gap. In 2013 LPRAC will continue its commitment to the improvement of education by recommending that the state create full service community schools that aim at improving student achievement by connecting community resources with the academic and social service needs of students. LPRAC will also speak in support of opening up financial aid resources to Latino students (Connecticut Dreamers) that through their own academic merits were admitted to Connecticut colleges but due to their immigration status are prohibited from accessing funds.



LPRAC will also propose the creation of a new barber apprenticeship program within the State Department of Labor to help our youth increase access to this very popular trade in the Puerto Rican and Dominican community of our state. Furthermore, LPRAC will recommend changes to the state set-aside program to help Latino owned-businesses cut the bureaucratic red-tape that currently prevents them from accessing a wealth of state contracts currently available in here.

Finally, LPRAC will seek legislation that would allow Latino immigrants access to driver's licenses regardless of immigration status. This issue is very important to LPRAC as we have compiled data that indicates Connecticut immigrants are currently driving without licenses due in large part to their immigration status and inability to apply for licenses.

The collateral effect of the restrictions forces immigrants to drive unlicensed and uninsured so they can work and support their families. This forces immigrants to risk major financial loss to themselves and the community at large and if continued, could result in higher insurance premiums for everyone. LPRAC strongly believes that it would benefit all state residents if immigrants were able to obtain driver's licenses. This would ensure that immigrants are tested on the laws of the road, have their vision checked, pay for licenses and car registration and most importantly purchase car insurance.

## Justice | Guilty Pleas and Town Settlement in East Haven

Two of the four police officers arrested for on-going harassment of Hispanic bodega owners in East Haven have pled guilty and the federal government has reached a settlement with the town which has agreed to reforms aimed at protecting its residents' civil rights. Two of the officers are expected to go to trial soon, facing a 10-count indictment which was handed up by a federal grand jury in Bridgeport.

The initial indictment states: "that the 4 officers conspired to create and perpetuate an environment in which the use of unreasonable force and illegal searches and seizures was tolerated and encouraged. They used their status and authority as police officers to advance that conspiracy, to file false and misleading reports to cover up their illegal conduct, and sought to create an environment in the police department that not only tolerated but encouraged such illegal conduct," the indictment stated.



Learn more on the web... [www.cga.ct.gov/lprac](http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac)