



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Chairperson
Isaías T. Díaz, Esq.
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Secretary
Yolanda Castillo
Treasurer
Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

Commissioners:
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Francisco R. Borres
Hon. Migdalia Castro
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Dr. Sonia B. Mañjon
Lourdes E. Montalvo
Norma Rodríguez-Reyes
Danny Torres
Elena Trueworthy, M.S.

Acting Executive Director
Werner Oyanadel

**Special Projects Director/
Grants Writer**
Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández

Senior Legislative Secretary
Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES
LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting
May 15, 2013
Kingdom Life Christian Outreach Church
120 Union Street, Willimantic, Connecticut ~ 5:30 p.m.

REVISED

Commissioners Present:	Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Ramón L. Arroyo, Francisco R. Borres, Yolanda Castillo, Richard Cruz, Roberto Fernández, Lourdes Montalvo, Dr. Eugene Salorio, Danny Torres and Elena Trueworthy, M.S.
Commissioners on the phone:	Honorable Migdalia Castro and Norma Rodríguez Reyes
Commissioner absent:	Dr. Sonia Mañjon
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director and Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary

Tape 1 A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. called the meeting to order and asked **Secretary Commissioner Castillo** to do roll call. Quorum was established. He then thanked Pastor Ortiz for hosting LPRAC at the Kingdom Life Christian Outreach Church located in Willimantic, CT. He followed by introducing LPRAC's two new commissioners, Francisco R. Borres and Elena Trueworthy, M.S and asked them to introduce themselves. He then had all commissioners and staff introduce themselves too.

Commissioners Rodríguez Reyes and Castro called in at 6:08 p.m. but due to technical problems with the phone line at our location, they were disconnected after several minutes.

Public Participation: The following people testified on the record for LPRAC:

1. Arvind Shaw, Commissioner from the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission & the Health Equity Commission commended LPRAC for its effective advocacy and highly praised our Latino Socio-Economic Status Report. He asked LPRAC to focus our legislative work on three main areas including: (A) Immigration Reform, (2) Health Disparities, & (3) Education;
2. Dr. Eliana D. Rojas, PhD at UCONN spoke about the need for LPRAC to support programs that help English Language Learners (ELLs);
3. Mayor Ernest Aldridge welcomed everyone to town & expressed interest to work with LPRAC on our issues;
4. Rose Reyes of Windham presented a strong case for LPRAC to advocate in support of bilingual education;
5. Marcus E. Rivera, Education Consultant for State Department of Education offered general information about how parents can receive help to their ELL children in need of special education;
6. Bill Powers, Teacher in Windham spoke passionately about the need for LPRAC to help improve the quality of the education system in our state;
7. Ricardo Pérez, Professor of Anthropology at Eastern CT State University invited everyone at LPRAC to the Latino Immigration Exhibit in Willimantic until December 2013. He also asked for LPRAC board members and staff to participate on a panel on Latino policy and/or attend this important community event.
8. Dennis O'Brien – Chairman of Willimantic (Representative Susan Johnson's husband) Democratic Town Committee welcomed everyone from LPRAC to Willimantic and highlighted the work Rep. Johnson's legislative advocacy in the Connecticut General Assembly. He particularly emphasized the need for reforming educational funding schemes in Connecticut from towns to regions in order to improve education for Latino students in CT;
9. Mr. James Flores of Willimantic discussed the importance of Latino media outlets to provide better educational materials;

Public Participation closed at 8:00 p.m.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Cruz and Mr. Oyanadel, due to time constraints presented a written report summarizing the work of the Committee for the past month and highlighted one piece of legislation as follows:

HB 6384 "An Act Concerning English Language Learners" – a bill that would ensure that English Language Learners are not disproportionately and inappropriately identified as requiring special education due to reading deficiencies

was favorably approved by the Education Committee and filed for additional debate in the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives sent it to the Appropriations Committee where it was approved without a written amendment fixing a technical problem with the language of the bill. By law, when the State Department of Education (SDE) informs a local or regional board of education that it disproportionately and inappropriately identifies minority students as needing special education due to a reading deficiency, the board must annually report to SDE on how it reducing misidentification. This bill extends these provisions to situations where SDE informs a board that it is misidentifying students whose primary language is not English. We aim at amending the bill to eliminate the words “students whose primary language is not English” and added the words “require the SDE to study and report for misidentified student who are English Language Learners.” - It is our understanding that Rep. Sanchez is working with the Education Co-Chairs and LCO attorneys drafting the amendment which will be added to the bill when it goes for additional debate in the House floor;

Motion made to approve the Priorities and Legislative Committee report by Commissioner Fernandez and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.

Motion carries as follows:

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, Montalvo, Dr. Salorio
Torres and Trueworthy**

3 Absent: Commissioners Castro, Dr. Mañjon and Rodríguez Reyes

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Torres, Chair for this committee provided a written report and due to time constrains highlighted only the following items as follows:

Discussed the theme for this year’s Scholarship Awards and after considering immigration and the health field as possibilities, the committee agreed to advance the theme of Small Businesses and examined several names of Latino leaders to be considered for our agency’s Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients within the new theme. The members of the Committee recommended the following individuals for consideration:

- A. Clódomiro Falcón from Bridgeport area
- B. Frank Rodríguez or his son Joseph A. Rodriguez, owners of several McDonalds in New Haven area, or
- C. Ed Rodríguez, former LPRAC Commissioner and business entrepreneur

For the women we came up with:

- A. Ruth Espinoza, Publisher and Co-Owner of the Newspaper Identidad Latina, or
- B. Marilyn Alverio, Owner of EMS Business and Latina Entrepreneur

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.

Motion carries as follows:

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, Montalvo, Dr. Salorio
Torres and Trueworthy**

3 Absent: Commissioners Castro, Dr. Mañjon and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to accept Ruth Espinoza for the Lifetime Achievement Award by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.

Motion carries as follows:

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, Montalvo, Dr. Salorio
Torres and Trueworthy**

3 Absent: Commissioners Castro, Dr. Mañjon and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to accept former Commissioner Ed Rodríguez for the Lifetime Achievement Award by Commissioner Fernandez and seconded by Commissioner Castillo.

Votes casted:

Frank Rodríguez – Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo and Dr. Salorio

Ed Rodríguez – Commissioners Fernández, Montalvo and Torres

Clódomiro Falcón – Commissioners Borres and Cruz

1 Abstention – Commissioner Trueworthy

Tie was broken by Chairman Díaz, Esq. for Ed Rodríguez

Motion carries as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, Montalvo, Dr. Salorio and Torres

1 Abstention: Commissioner Trueworthy

3 Absent: Commissioners Castro, Dr. Mañjon and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to accept the theme of Small Business by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo.

Motion carries as follows:

9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, Montalvo, Dr. Salorio Torres and Trueworthy

3 Absent: Commissioners Castro, Dr. Mañjon and Rodríguez Reyes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tabled

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Tabled

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tabled

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Tabled

RBA COMMITTEE

Tabled

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Tabled

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Motion made to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Salorio.

Motion approved as follows:

Motion carries as follows:

9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, Montalvo, Dr. Salorio Torres and Trueworthy

3 Absent: Commissioners Castro, Dr. Mañjon and Rodríguez Reyes

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo, Secretary
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc