



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Juan M. Pérez

Norma Rodríguez-Reyes

Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

Danny Torres

Acting Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

**Special Projects Director/
Grants Writer**

Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández

Senior Legislative Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES

LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting

September 21, 2011

Eastern Connecticut State University

University's Library's Johnson Room

83 Windham Street

Willimantic, CT 06226

5:32 pm

Commissioners Present:	Yolanda Castillo, Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Dr. Sonia B. Mañjon, Enrique Marciano, Sr., Lourdes E. Montalvo, Juan M. Pérez, Ed Rodríguez, Dr. Eugene Salorio, Maritza Tirú and Danny Torres
Commissioners on phone:	Carlos E. Candal, Esq., Honorable Migdalia Castro and Richard A. Cruz
Commissioners Absent:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Francisco O. Cuín and Norma Rodríguez Reyes
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director Lucía Goicoechea Hernández and Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary

Tape 1A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked Mrs. Cardone to do roll call as Commissioner Maritza Tirú, Secretary of the Board was not present at the time. Quorum was not established.

Public Participation:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. presented Mayor Ernie Eldridge of Willimantic.

Commissioner Candal, Esq. present on the phone at 5:36 p.m.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. then presented the following guests:

1. Dr. Carmen Cid, Dean of the University. She gave her welcome to LPRAC and gave greetings from Dr. Elsa Nuñez who would have attended but has family coming in from Puerto Rico as her daughter is getting married on Saturday. She said that they are happy the Commission is there to provide the leadership and to get everyone in the community to understand that this is where we need to go to lessen the achievement gap and work together in a partnership to make a better place and life for the Latino students.
2. Then he spoke about his cousin, Dean Walter Díaz there but could not attend due to a previous engagement.
3. Joe Rodríguez from Senator Blumenthal's office who could not make it to our meeting/ceremony. Then, read a letter that Senator Blumenthal wrote to the Commission saying how proud he is to join us in paying tribute to several of those famous Hispanics; Celia Cruz, Tito Puente, Selena, Carlos Gardel, and Carmen Miranda.
4. Dr. Gladys M. Santiago-Tosado, Director/Adjunct Faculty at the UCONN-Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center.
5. Diana Rayhall, Chair of the Board of Education.
6. Bernard Kavalier, Assistant Vice Chancellor at the CT State University System.
7. Arvind Shaw of the Asian Pacific Affairs Commission, CEO/Executive Director of Generations Family Health Center, Inc.

Dr. Sonia Mañjon came in at 5:47 p.m. and quorum was established.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked Joe Rodriguez make an announcement that Senator Blumenthal will be holding a job fare on Wed., Sept. 28, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hartford Plaza Hotel in the Grand Ball Room located at 100 East River Drive in East Hartford, CT.

Commissioner Tirú came in at 5:53 p.m.

Commissioners Rodríguez and Torres came in at 5:58 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of July 21, 2011 by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

CHAIRPERSON'S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. updated the LPRAC as follows:

1. On July 28th, a delegation of LPRAC Commissioners, he and Commissioners Cruz and Castillo met with Joette Katz, Commissioner of the Department of Children & families to discuss a new public information campaign dealing to with ways to increase foster parents in the Latino community.
2. Met with Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr., President Pro Tempore and State Senator John McKinney regarding the LPRAC's redistricting recommendations.
3. On August 5th, the LPRAC met with Commissioner Melody A. Currey of the Department of Motor Vehicles to discuss our research on Driver's Licenses to Latino Immigrants.
4. He then stated that the LPRAC Ad Hoc Committee is dealing with the opposition of building a firing range near a school and has sent letters to the appropriate public officials and to the Mayor of Waterbury. We give thanks to Commissioner Dr. Mañjon, Chair of this Committee and also Commissioners Dr. Salorio and Rodríguez for helping on drafting this letter.
5. We also wanted congratulate Commissioner Cruz for successfully convincing the Department of Education to diversify the state oversight Board of Education for the Bridgeport School System. The LPRAC Executive Committee is trying to nominate three potential people to sit on as a 9th person, first being State Representative Andres Ayala, second is Rosa Correa and third is State Representative Minnie González.
6. LPRAC's biennial budget was approved by the General Assembly.

Mr. Oyanadel spoke on the following:

1. The unveiling the latest release of the United States Postal Stamps in tribute of the Hispanic Heritage Month.
2. Then he spoke of the demographic changes.
3. He also that the CT General Assembly passed the Dream Act this year after fighting for it almost a decade.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's/Executive Director's report by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioner Tirú. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

Motion made to suspend meeting by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

Chairman Díaz, Esq. then presented other guests:

1. Dr. Eliana Rojas who was the LPRAC 2009 Latina Citizen Award Recipient.
2. Donna L. Snell, CSU Administrative Assistant in the Office of Institutional Advancement, who helped organize the event tonight.
3. Bob Fernandez, QUCC Director.
4. Dennis O'Brien, former Proto Judge

Motion made to return to meeting by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Cruz, Chairman of this committee passed the floor to Acting Executive Director, Werner Oyanadel.

Mr. Oyanadel said that this committee continues to work in a range of topics pertinent to our mandate that includes increasing visibility via social networks such as Facebook and Twitter to provide a new and cost effective way to improve and increase communications between our Agency and the community. We have made improvements to the Talent Bank and a new system to communicate via phone. They continue to work with the Department of Children and Families staff to start the foster care public information outreach. We are planning to be present at the Northeast Utilities Social Agency Forum at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Cruz said that they met with Mr. Rodríguez of DCF, coordinating the schedule of events of having public forums throughout the State to help them in Bridgeport in late October, early November but no date or time has been set yet. The other places are New Haven, Waterbury, Hartford and New Britain, CT. He was also referred to contact the Chair of Board of Pardons of Parole that they are seeking a Latino/Latina Professional to be on their Board. He will continue to get this out to the community.

Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioners Dr. Salorio and Montalvo, and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

PRIORITIES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Candal, Esq. spoke about a meeting with Commissioner Melody Currey of the State Department of Motor Vehicles on issuing Driver's Licenses to all immigrants in the State of Connecticut. They also met with Immigration Attorney Leete and are currently working with Professor Barbara Richards and her graduate students framing a research in a scholarly accepted manner. The committee will be analyzing our findings in October and are planning to conduct a fact finding public hearing at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) in November so we can forward a result for LPRAC in November of this year. We will also be meeting this with Professor Michael Bisney, a Professor of Law and a Director of Drome and Frank Legal Services at Yale School of Law in the next few weeks to discuss the research he has done on this subject.

Motion made to approve the Priorities and Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Mañjon, and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Juan M. Pérez, Chairman of this committee spoke of the Scholarship Celebration and that Commissioner Yolanda Castillo Chaired this Ad Hoc Committee and it was Co-Chaired by Commissioner Maritza Tirú. Following, he mentioned LPRAC's Stamp Exhibit to be shown starting Friday, September 30, 2011 at the Concourse in the LOB and we'll be unveiling 5 new Hispanic Stamps. Also, Eastern CT State University would like to show our stamps their in April 2012. Next, he said that we will be having a reception for Judge Carmen Espinosa.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee Report made by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Dr. Salorio, Chair for this Committee spoke about a training session that he went to previously and that there is another session on Monday, October 17, 2011 by the Bridgeport DCF Area Office title RBA 101. It is a half-day workshop on RBA. He then passed out an 8 page LPRAC mission (RBA) related activities Jan.-Sept. 2011. They will have an RBA session on Health focusing on Diabetes and Obesity upcoming in Nov. and Comm. Montalvo has done a fabulous job in working on this program. It looks like it will be on Nov. 1, 2011. We will let you know.

Commissioner Castillo, Co-Chair for this Committee announced that they need more members for the subcommittee. Then she suggested names of members of different Turn the Curve events. This should be a Commission as a whole.

1. For Health ----- Commissioners Montalvo and Cruz
2. For Safety ----- Commissioners Torres and Marcano, Sr.
3. For Educational Success -- Commissioner Dr. Mañjon and Tirti
4. For Economic & Self Sufficiency -- Commissioners Rodríguez and Rodríguez Reyes
5. Free from Discrimination - - - Arroyo, Honorable Castro and Candal, Esq.

She apologized if she missed anybody and then mentioned that as her co-chair said, this has to be reported to the Legislature.

Motion made to approve the RBA Committee report by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioners Montalvo and Tirú.

Discussion:

Commissioner Pérez thanked everyone for this report and looks forward to working with everyone.

Mr. Oyanadel clarified on Page 8 for Commissioner Dr. Salorio according to State Statute.

Commissioner Rodríguez mentioned that there is \$18,000 allocated to do another Socio Economic Study which we have been doing for the last few years. This actually details very important data.

Commissioner Montalvo said that it has been wonderful working with Commissioners Castillo and Salorio. She also mentioned that this is a perfect opportunity for possible legislation for the Legislative Session in February 2012. We need to work with Commissioner Candal, Esq.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced that the Priorities & Legislation Committee is grossly under attended and he has been calling in as Ex-Officio. We would like to get more people for this committee.

Mr. Oyanadel announced that we have the \$18,000 to conduct the socio economic study but we also may be able to have an additional \$15,000 from monies that OLM will give to us from monies that we did not use last year. That means that we have \$33,000 of the \$40,000 that we need for this study.

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Motion made to authorize the Acting Executive Director to contact family to get more information to bring to the next meeting by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Torres.

Discussion:

Commissioner Pérez said that he wants us to make sure that there are no litigation issues before we get involved.

Commissioner Montalvo said that when she spoke to the family, there are no litigation issues.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that we need to check with the subcommittee level with Mr.Oyanadel so we can make a point of action.

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

Motion made to suspend meeting by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

Chairman Díaz, Esq. introduced John Rule, Director of the U.S. Immigration Process and Enforcement Agency. He gave an overview of the steps that they take when someone commits a crime.

Commissioner Hon. Castro called in at 6:52 p.m.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill spoke about what the duties are in her office and that she has been there since November 2011. They try to encourage voter registration among immigrants, new people who have not come out to vote and the young people. They are going to have an event that she will be having on Oct. 4, 2011 from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. She then presented a citation to Daniel Salazar.

Commissioner Pérez announced to the community that if you would like to serve LPRAC has 16 members of the 21 members of the commission. He said if anyone wants to serve on the commission to contact your State Representative or State Senator and send them a letter and resume for appointment by the Leadership of the Legislature. It's a lot of work but a lot of fun and rewarding.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked all LPRAC Commissioners and Staff to present themselves

Commissioner Montalvo thanked everyone for coming to the meeting at Eastern CT State University.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. acknowledged the presence of Americo Santiago, former State Representative and former LPRAC Commissioner. He also acknowledged Amy Gomez of the Education Department.

Motion made to return to meeting by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Tirú. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Cuin and Rodríguez-Reyes

Motion made to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maritza Tirú
Secretary
LPRAC Board

MT:cjc