



**State of Connecticut**  
**Latino and Puerto Rican**  
**Affairs Commission**

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

**Commissioners:**  
*Ramón L. Arroyo*  
*Carlos E. Candal, Esq.*  
*Hon. Migdalia Castro*  
*Roberto C. Fernandez*  
*Dr. Sonia B. Mañjon*  
*Enrique Marciano, Sr.*  
*Lourdes E. Montalvo*  
*Ed Rodríguez*  
*Norma Rodríguez-Reyes*  
*Maritza Tirú*  
*Danny Torres*

**Acting Executive Director**  
*Werner Oyanadel*

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

**Senior Legislative Secretary**  
*Clarisa Cardone*

**MINUTES**  
**LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting**  
**June 20, 2012**  
**Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut**  
**5:47 p.m.**

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Yolanda Castillo, Honorable Migdalia Castro, Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Roberto C. Fernandez, Dr. Sonia B. Mañjon and Lourdes E. Montalvo and Ed Rodríguez
Commissioners on phone:	Richard A. Cruz and Enrique Marciano, Sr.
Commissioners Absent:	Carlos E. Candal, Esq., Norma Rodríguez Reyes; Dr. Eugene Salorio and Danny Torres
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director and Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary

**Tape 1 A**

**Commissioner Cruz** called in at 5:47 p.m. and called the meeting to order and asked Mrs. Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary to do roll call. Quorum was not established.

**Public Participation:** Maricarmen Salazar of the Red Cross canceled her attendance due to an emergency.

**Commissioner Montalvo** asked to discuss a number of items:

1. In Willimantic, according to her estimates, there are 25,000 people out of which 11,000 are Latinos. The school system ethnic breakdown is about 64% Hispanic. At this time they do not have a "concejera bilingue" due to the fact – as stated by Commissioner Montalvo – that the superintendent of schools Ana Ortíz hired a person that only says "Hola" in Spanish. Moreover, Commissioner Montalvo argued (unconfirmed) that Mrs. Ortiz changed the job description after she hired this person. Now, according to Comm. Montalvo, there is only one bilingual nurse who works in different areas with the Hispanic students in the Windham County. Last week the nurse called and said that this position has been eliminated and that she will be substituted by a person that does not speak Spanish. She would like to get permission to represent herself as LPRAC Commissioner and to have the Acting Executive Director, Werner Oyanadel go with her to give a presentation to the Education Committee and let them know how important it is to give these services in Spanish to these students.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** came in at 5:53 p.m.

**Commissioner Castillo** came in at 5:57 p.m.

**Mr. Oyanadel** suggested getting more information before getting involved so that we do not interfere in a labor dispute which we would not have any legal standing to get involved. He suggested that if this case involves an allegation of discrimination that LPRAC refer the case to the Connecticut Human Rights & Opportunities Commission (CHRO).

**Commissioner Castillo** suggested that the nurse attend one of our commission meetings so that she can testify before our agency and respond to any questions from the board to help us better understand what is being asked from LPRAC on this issue.

**Commissioner Torres** called in at 5:58 p.m.

**Commissioner Rodríguez** came in at 5:59 p.m.

2. Commissioner Montalvo received a letter from Lic. Hector Ventura Reyes, Mayor CB, Y Oficial De Enclase Entre el Cuerpo de Bomberos Santo Domingo Oeaste asking for help in collecting items for the firefighters of this group.
3. She also received a letter from Geraldo Reyes, Jr., Office of the Mayor for the City of Waterbury, encouraging LPRAC to support their Puerto Rican Mayor for the Day, honoring Miriam Echevarria on Friday, July 27, 2012 in the City Hall of Waterbury at 10:00 a.m. We need to know who will go to this function with Commissioner Montalvo.
4. The East Haven Community and the Ecuadorian Community would like to get some training as to how to get involved in the community to participate in commissions and committees at different levels and have

asked her if LPRAC can organize a small group to go there and train them, some community leaders in the East Haven area.

5. Also, in Willimantic, she was approached about the Federal Safe Communities Program. Commissioner Montalvo stated that this is bringing big problems in the State of CT. The people she spoke to about this federal program would like to connect with someone that can go to Willimantic to offer them some training or direction to the immigrants of Willimantic. She spoke with Father Pablo who is the priest at Sagrado Corazón. He said that he is going to move to Middletown and that when the other priest comes he can help.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** said that he does not have a problem with this but he would like to see something put together with facts and a clear message so that we all understand what exactly our purpose is going to be in Willimantic. He suggests that we put something together to vote at the next meeting in Waterbury, CT.

**Commissioner Honorable Castro** came in at 6:15 p.m.

**Commissioner Marciano, Sr.** called in at 6:22 p.m.

**Mr. Oyanadel** suggested to LPRAC that he is available to go to Willimantic to gather more facts and/or inform local officials about the importance of bilingual staff in school/hospital settings as requested by Commissioner Montalvo and will work with Chairman Diaz drafting any type of letter regarding this matter if approved by LPRAC. He stated that this is a time sensitive issue.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** agrees.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion made to approve the minutes of May 16, 2012 by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Mañjon. Motion approved as follows:**

**7 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Dr. Mañjon, Marciano, Sr. and Rodríguez**

**2 Abstentions: Commissioners Fernandez and Montalvo**

**4 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

**Commissioner Arroyo** left at 6:29 p.m.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq., Chairman** updated LPRAC on the following items:

1. Chairman Diaz informed everyone that LPRAC's Golf Tournament has been postponed until next year;
2. Chairman Diaz commended everyone in the Commission for organizing a successful Tribute to Hispanic Veteran's event. He also commended Commissioner Fernandez for a great speech Mrs. Goicoechea Hernandez for a phenomenal job. He was very impressed by the quality of the presentation and also by the support from the community. There were several community groups there, the Borinqueneers, the Hispanic Veteran's Group, and the Governor of the State of Connecticut among other state dignitaries.

**Mr. Oyanadel** praised the President of the United States for recent immigration rule change that will benefit undocumented Latino students (CT Dreamers) to stay in the United States and find a job without fear of deportation.

**Motion made to approve the Chairperson's/Executive Director's report by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Mañjon.**

**Motion approved as follows:**

**8 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marciano, Sr. Montalvo and Rodríguez**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Mr. Oyanadel** reported on behalf of Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes, Chair for this Committee that the committee is moving forward in releasing four newsletters in the upcoming fiscal year.

**Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Mañjon. Motion approved as follows:**

**8 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. Montalvo and Rodríguez**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

#### **PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Mr. Oyanadel** spoke on behalf of Commissioner Candal, Esq., Chair for this Committee. He stated that in the packets, Commissioner Candal, Esq. submitted a memo to all Commissioners that he forwarded last month and since he is not here, Mr. Oyanadel suggested that all Commissioners review the report and be ready to comment on it at the next commission meeting.

**Motion made to approve the Priorities & Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Honorable Castro. Motion approved as follows:**

**8 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. Montalvo and Rodríguez**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Commissioner Castillo** spoke on behalf of Commissioner Torres, Chair for this Committee. She said that they met last week and there are several items to review as follows:

1. They accepted 16 candidates for the scholarship awards, list attached in the Spec. Projs. Committee report;
2. Nominations acceptance of the Latino Citizen of the Year, two have been submitted, Dr. Carmen Sid of Eastern CT State University and Luz Vazquez from New Britain High School;
3. Nominations acceptance of the Community Service Award, there were three submitted;
4. Need a live vote to reschedule the golf tournament from 6-28-12 to 6-2013;
5. Reaffirm that we awarded Life Time Achievement to Rosa Correa of Bridgeport and the San Juan Center in Hartford, CT in recognition of their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A vote was affirmed at the April 2012 meeting so that staff can send out the letters of congratulations tomorrow;
6. Tickets for the scholarship awards will be printed by the Service Center free of charge to us;
7. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May it was the Tribute to the Hispanic Veterans and it was a huge success at the State Capitol and we would like to thank those Commissioners who were able to attend and look forward to participate at the Capitol again in May of 2013.

**Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioners Rodríguez and Honorable Castro, and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Mañjon. Motion approved as follows:**

**8 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. Montalvo and Rodríguez**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

#### **RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Commissioner Montalvo** reported that they were not able to conduct the RBA that was scheduled for last month because of lack of participation. One of the feedbacks was the fact that the invitations going out two weeks prior is not enough time. They are getting the gun locks in the next couple of weeks. She spoke to Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández, Director of Special Projects who said that they do not have them yet. She recommends that at this point, we should pick at least three to four towns in the State of CT and hold an event that would give us some kind of recognition in that community and provide these safety gun locks, in conjunction with the First Selectman's office in the city or the town and the Fire Department and the Police Department. She also recommended looking into the topic of educational safety. Commissioner Fernandez is the co-chair of this committee.

**Motion made to accept the RBA Committee report by Commissioners Castillo and Fernandez and seconded by Commissioner Honorable Castro.**

#### **Discussion:**

**Mr. Oyanadel** said that he called Commissioner Montalvo in the interim and highlighted the importance of the committee to have the right data in order to conduct these types of turn the curve trainings. He is working with her in working with the State Wide Collaborative that is collecting this data for the state and see if we can work together so that when we continue conducting these trainings as mandated by state law..

**Commissioner Castillo** asked if both Commissioner Montalvo and Mr. Oyanadel go for the training on RBA.

**Mr. Oyanadel** said that when Mrs. Cardone called for registration, there was only one opening and Commissioner Montalvo went and is now certified.

**Motion approved as follows:**

**8 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. Montalvo and Rodríguez**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

**OLD & NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion made to accept 16 candidates for scholarships as subcommittee approved. A friendly amendment was made to accept all but the 3 that were below the GPA required by Commissioner Dr. Mañjon and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez.**

**Tape 2 A**

**Discussion:**

**Commissioner Honorable Castro** said that here we have an opportunity to help these children and their recommendations are very strong. We can say we made an exception. She is opposed to the friendly amendment and in support of the committee's recommendation and it should go back to committee so they can explain the difference between the 2.8 and whatever it should go lower, 2.7 or whatever it is what their findings is. She's in support of the recommendations.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** said that in order to change the criteria to the point where everybody can get in, we need to drop the GPA to a 2.0.

**Commissioner Dr. Mañjon**, stated that if our process is to have at least a 2.80 GPA and now we are being asked to approve recommendations that are below that, then we are not following our own process.

**Commissioner Rodríguez** said that he cannot vote on this without having any data because he was not on that subcommittee. You have to follow the rules.

**Mr. Oyandel** said that he thinks the amendment is a good solution to the issue, what he wouldn't recommend is that the commission vote to change the criteria for the current year now. What you would do is change it in the future. The commission used to have GPA criteria of 3.0 and the commission decided that they wanted to bring it down to a 2.8.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** agrees that if there are any changes to be made, it should be made at the subcommittee level.

**Commissioner Dr. Mañjon** said that she appreciates the work that the subcommittee does and volunteers for next year.

**Motion approved as follows:**

**5 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Cruz, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. and Rodríguez**

**3 Nays: Commissioners Honorable Castro, Fernandez and Montalvo**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

**Motion made to vote on the students that meet criteria by Commissioner Mañjon and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Motion approved as follows:**

**8 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. Montalvo and Rodríguez**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

**Motion made to send back to Special Project Committee to look at the criteria that's going to be used for selection future candidates and if GPA is not going to be the overall factor, then write it such that you allow for latitude within it as opposed to putting cut and dry criteria by Commissioner Honorable Castro and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez. Motion approved as follows:**

**8 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. Montalvo and Rodríguez**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

**Motion made to accept both Latina Citizens by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Honorable Castro. Motion approved as follows:**

**8 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. Montalvo and Rodriguez**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

**Motion made to move golf tournament from June 28, 2012 to June 2013 by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Honorable Castro. Motion approved as follows:**

**7 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. and Rodriguez**

**1 Nay: Commissioner Montalvo**

**5 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres**

**Motion made to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. by Commissioner Honorable Castro and seconded by Commissioner Castillo. Motion approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo, Secretary  
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc