



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Chairperson
Isaías T. Díaz, Esq.
Vice Chair
Richard A. Cruz
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
November 21, 2012
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:46 p.m.

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

Tape 1 A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. called the meeting to order and asked Yolanda Castillo to do roll call. Quorum was established.

Public Participation:

1. Camila Bortolletto leader and co-founder of Connecticut Students for a Dream asked for LPRAC's support to expand access to institutional aid for all students without regard to immigration status.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. explained that the LPRAC Board listens to the request and then defers it to one of our sub-committee which is in this case the Priorities and Legislation sub-committee so they can research it and then afterwards they can make a presentation to the board at our following meeting and then we would vote on it.

2. Norma Sein did not attend the LPRAC meeting due to an illness.

3. Doriel Nurso spoke to LPRAC about an agency called Youth in Crisis located at 108 Babcock Street, Hartford, CT. She is looking for recommendations from our agency as to ways she can outreach to the Latino community about her organization and what they offer.

Commissioner Arroyo gave Ms. Nurso several suggestions and offered to give her information on qualified people to help her in case they are in need to hire additional staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of October 17, 2012 made by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion carries as follows:

7 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio

2 Abstentions: Commissioners Cruz and Marciano, Sr.

4 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Mañjon, Rodríguez and Torres

CHAIRPERSON'S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A LPRAC delegation met with Dr. Steven J. Adamowski, Special Master of Windham Schools on Monday, Nov. 19 to discuss the Bilingual Education Program in Windham. Dr. Adamowski informed LPRAC that the Bilingual Education program has not been eliminated as believed in the community. He categorically stated that the Bilingual Education Program is being strengthened 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.
- LPRAC's Results Based Accountability (RBA) Committee Co-Chaired by Commissioners Lourdes Montalvo and Roberto Fernandez hosted a successful dialogue about affordable housing in Connecticut earlier this week with a broad range of stakeholders, housing experts, and state officials. The findings of our roundtable discussion will be summarized and forwarded to the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly in Results Based Accountability (RBA) format shortly after LPRAC approves our recommendations in the month of December.

- The legislative committee of the HEC will now coordinate a specific RBA Turn the Curve Session on Asthma on December 14.
- The Priorities and Legislation Committee cancelled its working lunch scheduled at Costa del Sol Restaurant in Harford due to a conflict of schedule affecting the Chairman of this Committee.
- The Nominations Committee will be conducting our executive board elections today as delineated by our agency bylaws. The Co-chairs of this committee are Commissioners Rodriguez-Reyes and Roberto Fernandez.
- The Public Information Committee is currently working on our newsletter both in English and Spanish and it will be making an announcement about a new project that involves translating our State Constitution into Spanish.
- The LPRAC Acting Executive Director highly recommended that the Executive Committee discuss the progress of our agency's Golf Tournament in the month of December to evaluate our fundraising efforts thus far.
- The LPRAC staff highly recommends that our agency hold a formal reception to recognize our new senators in the Connecticut General Assembly and all re-elected legislators in the month of January.
- The LPRAC Acting Executive Director will be traveling to Israel at the invitation of the Jewish Anti-Defamation League (ADL) after Thanksgiving and returning to work Dec. 5. Mrs. Goicoechea-Hernandez will be in charge of the LPRAC staff in his absence. Note: Mr. Oyanadel took vacation time for this event.

Commissioner Torres came in at 6:02 p.m.

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

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Mañjon and Rodríguez

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes, Chair for this committee reported that they received two candidates and they are the current officers. They will also accept any nominations from the floor. In case there are more candidates, Mr. Oyanadel will provide a questionnaire form to anyone interested in being nominated today that will be distributed accordingly.

Motion made to close voting for secretary - Commissioner Yolanda Castillo by Commissioners Arroyo and Marcano, Sr. and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.

Secretary: Commissioner Yolanda Castillo, Voted unanimously

Motion made to close voting for treasurer - Commissioner Dr. Eugene Salorio by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Treasurer: Commissioner Dr. Eugene Salorio, Voted unanimously

Tape 1B

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes, Chair for this Committee reported the following:

1. Last meeting we discussed "Get Out The Vote" and ways the Commission could assist in letting out the message. We did have several messages come out on Public TV and also on the radio and we are the only newspaper that at that time was available to publish our public information because the other newspapers were not printing at that time and you have in your package, the ad that came out.
2. Right now, we are in the process of preparing our new Newsletter. Most of the subjects that we will be putting in are in place but if any of the Commissioners have any points that they feel the next Newsletter should have, please send the recommendations via email or call them in. We are going to mention Danny Martinez who is very active and passed away; we are going to have a small piece on him. Also, we are going to mention one of the Social Service Agency from a different city in which we serve and it will be the City of Waterbury we are going to highlight and I also thought it will be great to present a youth and that youth is also from a different part of the city and also the Latino make-up that we are made of so that we are not always featuring the Latinos from the same ethnicity so we thought we would put into consideration a youth named Cynthia. She is from Stamford and was the Queen of the Ecuadorian parade, she's volunteered a lot of hours, and she's at the university and has very good grades and a very good role model for our young kids. Also, if you have any youth you want to feature, please let us know. We are

also going to be putting it on the website. We are also planning to highlight Commissioner Ed Rodríguez in the next newsletter.

Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.

Discussion:

Mr. Oyanadel said that the most important feedback that we received at our last meeting in Waterbury was to have the Newsletter translated into Spanish so in the future all our newsletter will be translated both in English and Spanish. Also, Chairman Díaz, Esq. volunteered to write an article that will analyze the results of the elections from the Latino perspective.

Motion approved as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Mañjon and Rodríguez

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. stated that as Commissioner Candal, Esq., Chairman for this Committee is not here, the report is tabled.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. wanted to remind everyone that we take on the side projects but we are a policy agency so he is going to sacrifice his time and take the reins on this and will try to do something within the next two weeks.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Castillo spoke on behalf of Commissioner Torres as follows:

1. Should we as commission award monetary scholarships to undocumented students?
2. The Special Projects Committee recommends hosting a legislative reception for the incoming 2 Senators-Elect Ayala and Linares.
3. Shall LPRAC invite artist Imna Arroyo of Eastern and her colleague who is visiting from Cuba to display her work at the LOB, at the Capitol Concourse in 2013. Are we also looking to do a reception for this launching?
4. The Golf Committee will be meeting in conjunction with the Special Projects as some of the past members are also members of the Special Project Committee.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Arroyo, and seconded by Commissioners Castro and Cruz. Motion approved as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Mañjon and Rodríguez

RBA COMMITTEE

Commissioner Montalvo said that the latest "Turn the Curve" session came out very good as measured by the level of attendance and quality of the recommendations forwarded by all our stakeholders present. Commissioner Montalvo thanked all the staff for the work that they did to help out organizing this event and she particularly thanked Ana Maria García for being the moderator for the event. Commissioners Salorio and Co-Chair Fernández were also thanked for attending and helping organize the RBA and Commissioner Cruz was thanked for his attendance. The Housing RBA helped us understand the lack of quality, affordable housing for Latinos in the State of CT. Our Special Projects Director and Grants Writer, Lucia Goicoechea Hernández sent a summary of the proceedings in draft mode to everyone for validation of the data and Ana Maria Garcia will be sending her final report of this session within the next two weeks. Commissioners Dr. Salorio, Cruz, Fernandez and I met after this and there were some recommendations that came out of that meeting which will be vetted in the coming few weeks. Finally, Commissioner Montalvo reported that LPRAC was invited to collaborate with the Health Equity Commission in their upcoming Asthma Turn the Curve Session which is scheduled to take place on Friday, December 14, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Motion made to approve the RBA Committee report by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Salorio. Motion approved as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Mañjon and Rodríguez

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Motion made to open up our scholarship applications for undocumented students by Commissioner Fernandez and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion approved as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres
3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Mañjon and Rodríguez

Motion made for Special Projects Committee to plan and organize a reception for newly elected officials by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioners Montalvo and Marcano, Sr. Motion approved as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres
3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Mañjon and Rodríguez

Commissioner Candal, Esq. came in at 6:50 p.m.

Motion made to suspend the meeting by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Fernandez. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres
2 Absent: Commissioners Mañjon and Rodríguez

Motion made to return to meeting by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Salorio. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres
2 Absent: Commissioners Mañjon and Rodríguez

Motion made to invite Artist Imna Arroyo of Eastern and her colleague from Cuba to attend our Christmas Party and honor her work in the art program by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres
2 Absent: Commissioners Mañjon and Rodríguez

Motion made to put Artist Imna Arroyo's art display in 2013 at the LOB Concourse by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioners Fernandez and Castro. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres
2 Absent: Commissioners Mañjon and Rodríguez

Motion made to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Castillo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres
2 Absent: Commissioners Mañjon and Rodríguez

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo, Secretary
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc