



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Chairperson
Isaiás 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
October 17, 2012
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Honorable Migdalia Castro, Roberto C. Fernandez, Yolanda Castillo, Isaiás T. Díaz, Esq., Ed Rodríguez, Norma Rodríguez Reyes and Dr. Eugene Salorio
Commissioners Absent:	Carlos E. Candal, Esq., Richard A. Cruz., Enrique Marciano, Sr. and Danny Torres
Phone Call:	Dr. Sonia Mañjon and Lourdes Montalvo
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: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of September 19, 2012 with changes in the motion to adjourn. It says by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Castillo, should be by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Candal, Esq. made by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carries as follows:

5 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Castro, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez and Rodríguez-Reyes

3 Abstentions: Commissioners Arroyo, Fernández and Dr. Salorio

5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marciano, Sr., Montalvo and Torres

CHAIRPERSON'S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Combined Chairperson/Acting Executive Director's report given by Chairman Diaz and Mr. Oyanadel.

1. Mr. Oyanadel attended a conversation on education and training with Secretary Hilda L. Solis, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor on Friday, September 21 at Capitol Community College in Hartford;
2. Lucia Goicoechea-Hernandez and the Acting Executive Director attended a working luncheon with representatives from Verizon Wireless about our common work ahead. Our friends from Verizon Wireless are particularly looking to increase new hires from recommendations from our agency and we aim at keeping their monetary support for our scholarship program (Thursday, September 27);
3. LPRAC Chairman Isaias Diaz spoke at the 2012 Hispanic CREO Legislative Summit in Chicago, Illinois about the crisis that exists in our educational system and the imperative of civic action to improve the future of our nation's Latino children (Oct. 3 through Oct. 5);
4. LPRAC co-sponsored a very successful summit about Latino Civil Rights at the Legislative Office Building on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 during Hispanic Heritage month. The purpose of this major event was to create awareness about discrimination and what can be done about it. On behalf of the LPRAC staff, we thank all Commissioners that helped put this educational/outreach event together (Chairman Isaias Diaz and Lourdes Montalvo) and everyone from the board who attended the event last week – I.e., Hon. Migdalia Castro, Ramón L. Arroyo, Roberto Fernandez, Yolanda Castillo, Richard Cruz, Lourdes Montalvo, and Chairman Diaz;
5. State Senator Crisco reached out to LPRAC to ask for our agency nominations of for the 2013 Connecticut General Assembly's Hall of Fame – Deadline August 31, 2013;
6. LPRAC Commissioner Lourdes Montalvo and Mr. Oyanadel met on Tuesday, October 15, 2012 with state officials from the State Department of Labor and Public Health to discuss our research on barber apprenticeship programs;
7. LPRAC Chairman began approaching our legislative leadership regarding several openings in our agency board membership;

8. Commissioner Roberto Fernandez and Commissioner Lourdes Montalvo requested that LPRAC have a conversation about an alleged decision taken by the Special Master Dr. Adamowski to eliminate bilingual education in the Windham Public School System; &
9. First-ever poll of registered Latino voters in CT revealed Latinos are untapped, potential swing vote in tight senatorial race. The majority, according to this poll, have low name recognition of either senatorial candidate partly due to lack of attention to Latino voters by the candidates. The poll was conducted by Pulso, a national full-service polling and market research consultancy specializing in Latino markets. The issues most important to Connecticut Latino voters include jobs, the economy, healthcare and education. For more information, please contact Wilson Camelo at 203-494-4567.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's/Executive Director's report by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion approved unanimously:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio

5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo and Torres

Commissioner Montalvo called in at 5:47 p.m.

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes, Chair for this Committee provided a verbal report of their activities for the past month:

1. Informational Legislative Summit on Civil Rights was a total success. Several Commissioners were in attendance. She suggested replicating these events in different cities and also preferably in the different schools, especially those with a lot of Latino students.
2. The Public Information Committee is the process of processing our agency's next newsletter which will be released in the month of December. One of the recommendations provided to the Public Information Committee is to translate the newsletter into Spanish and to publish it online. We are also taking into consideration the amount of money that it would cost to have the bilingual newsletter to be sent out to our general public.
3. The Committee also discussed the importance of working on a public information campaign about the importance of the Latino vote.

Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioners Arroyo and Castro. Motion approved as follows:

9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio

4 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr. & Torres

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel reported on behalf of Commissioner Candal, Esq., Chairman for this Committee. He informed the board members that the Priorities and Legislation Committee will be meeting at Costa Del Sol Restaurant in Hartford in the month of November to discuss our legislative priorities for the upcoming year.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes stated that at the last Commissioner's meeting in Waterbury, we spoke about the barbers exams to be provided in Spanish. She had the opportunity last Friday to go to Bridgeport, they held a Latino Expo. At that time, she met a woman who had just started up a bilingual beauty school for barbers and beauticians and she said that she took the exams in Spanish. These things are going on and we don't even know about it. It's already a done deal.

Mr. Oyanadel stated that a LPRAC delegations met with officials from the State Department of Public Health and State Department of Labor to discuss our agency's recommendation to have the state create a barber apprenticeship program. Part of the dialogue involved a discussion about the barber's test to be provided in Spanish among other issues. The state, Mr. Oyanadel informed Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes, is not currently providing this test in Spanish yet.

Motion made to approve the Priorities & Legislation Committee report by Commissioners Rodríguez-Reyes and Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Commissioner Montalvo left at 6:30 p.m.

Motion approved as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio

5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Special Projects' report given by Commissioner Castillo:

1. The Committee reviewed the 6 locations for the 16 Annual Scholarship Awards and are recommending the Bond Ballroom on Asylum Avenue in Hartford, CT for Saturday, August 31, 2013. The rate was the lowest at \$37.76 per person incl. gratuity.
2. Tickets will remain at \$80.00 per person.
3. Discussed Golf Tournament and the fee will remain at \$175.00 per person. We will seek to get 120 player and 6 to 8 volunteers from the area, high school seniors and some of the LPRAC scholarship recipients to be involved.
4. We are working to attract one major sponsor for the tournament, Goya Food, Verizon Wireless, Ford Corp. or The Hartford.
5. RBA on Housing is scheduled for November 15, 2012 at the LOB.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioners Fernandez and Rodríguez-Reyes, and seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Discussion:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked if we are going to have 60 to 80 players.

Commissioner Castillo responded that there will be 120 players.

Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández said that it will be held on Mon., June 10, 2013 with a rain date of Mon., June 17, 2013 at the Hawks Landing Country Club in Southington, CT because they already have the deposit from the initial one that we were trying to do this past spring.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked if we have flyers prepared so that we can start soliciting people now.

Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández responded that she has a draft and that Commissioner Cruz accepted to be the Chair and he's trying to recruit other members of the commission to work with him and we're trying to get a couple of outside participant to work with us as well, people that are knowledgeable in the golf field.

Motion approved as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio

5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

RBA COMMITTEE

Commissioner Castillo spoke on behalf of Commissioner Montalvo, Chair of this committee mentioned the Housing RBA on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at the LOB.

Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández said that they've sent out 29 letters inviting experts in the area and so far the Attorney General has agreed to participate and he's going to speak to the 20 Attorney's General Law Suit that bought \$1.5 Billion in remedies to the people who lost their properties through foreclosure, also someone from the CT Housing Finance Authority. There's a Housing Conference on October 30, 2012 that she shared with Commissioner Fernandez from which we can call additional participants for the event. Also, Mr. Oyanadel had an excellent idea that we partner with the Commission on Health Equity to do our second RBA for the fiscal year.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. tabled the report.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Motion made to hold next scholarship ceremony at Bond Room in Hartford, CT on Saturday, August 31, 2013 by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Castillo. Motion carries as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio

5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

Motion made to charge \$80.00 per person for the next scholarship ceremony on August 31, 2013 by Commissioner Norma Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Castillo. Motion carries as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio

5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

Motion made to charge \$175.00 per person for the golf tournament June 10, 2013 by Commissioner Fernandez and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carries as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio
5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

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

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio
5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

Tape 1 B

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

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio
5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

Motion made to LPRAC to authorize conduct an exploratory investigation by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion approved as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio
5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

Motion made to Chair Nomination Committee volunteered by Commissioner Norma Rodríguez Reyes and co-chaired by Commissioner Fernandez by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Castillo.

Motion carries as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio
5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

Motion made to authorize Chair of Public Information Committee to put together a marketing plan by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Salorio. Motion approved as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio
5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

Motion made to authorize the expenditure up to \$999.00 to go towards to “Get Up & Vote” video by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Castro and Fernandez. Motion carries as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio
5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

Motion made to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. by Commissioners Dr. Salorio and Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioners Castro and Castillo. Motion approved as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio
5 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo & Torres

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo, Secretary
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc