



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Chairperson

Isaías T. Díaz, Esq.

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Secretary

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Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

Commissioners:

Ramón L. Arroyo

Hon. Migdalia Castro

Roberto C. Fernandez

Dr. Sonia B. Mañjon

Lourdes E. Montalvo

Norma Rodríguez-Reyes

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
February 20, 2013
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:34 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Yolanda Castillo, Richard A. Cruz, Roberto Fernandez, Dr. Sonia Mañjon, Lourdes Montalvo, Dr. Eugene Salorio and Danny Torres
Commissioners on the phone:	Honorable Migdalia Castro and Norma Rodríguez Reyes
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director, Lucia Goicoechea Hernández 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.

Public Participation: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of January 16, 2013 by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Salorio. Motion carries as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres

1 Abstention: Commissioner Arroyo

3 Absent: Commissioners Hon. Castro, Dr. Mañjon and Montalvo

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. reported on the following:

1. He testified at the Judiciary Committee on behalf of LPRAC on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2013 regarding the Judicial Nomination of Judge Carmen Espinosa along with several community leaders and Commissioner Rick Cruz. He is confident that she will be our first Latina Supreme Court Justice;

Commissioner Mañjon came in at 5:38 p.m.

2. On Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013 he provided an extensive testimony before the Appropriations Committee in opposition to the Governor's proposal to merge LPRAC with all 5 Legislative Commissions. We were joined by Commissioner Rick Cruz, several community leaders, students and members of the press and both Representatives Candelaria and Vargas stated for the record that they were supportive of our commission and congratulated him for the stellar job that he performed however it was brought to his attention later that evening as he had to come back to the capitol around 9:00 p.m., that we did not bring people to support our agency for the evening hearing and he had told them that he had written testimony from several agencies. We should have had at a minimum all of our commissioner's there and had a stronger presence at the hearing. He had a discussion with Representatives González and Candelaria and their points were well taken. We are planning to have people make phone calls to, based on the recommendations, to Senator Harp and Senator Walker so we can have support for our commission. We are urging people to call them.

Commissioner Castillo replied that she did not see anything in the email about the Hearing that was held at night.

Commissioner Mañjon said that she did see it in her email.

Commissioner Torres said he also saw the evening meeting in his email.

Mr. Oyanadel apologized for not having more people present. We had word that the CT Dreamers were going to attend but because their bill was killed, they did not attend. The report was given in the morning by Chairman Díaz,

Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández had a brilliant idea, she has a list of about 80 community leaders and she produced two quick letters that if we can divide them ourselves, the individuals can submit the letters, they are prewritten.

Commissioner Hon. Castro called in at 5:45 p.m.

Commissioner Montalvo came in at 5:52 p.m. along with **State Representative Minnie González**.

Motion made to suspend order of meeting by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.

Motion carries as follows:

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

State Representative Minnie Gonzalez informed LPRAC on the record that she was very upset that LPRAC did not bring anyone to the Public Hearing to testify in support of the Commission. She indicated that all other legislative agencies brought the general public and LPRAC was missing entirely from this important part of the legislative process;

State Representative Juan Candelaria came in at 6:20 p.m.

State Representative Juan Candelaria also stated for the record how disappointed he was for not seeing anyone from the community speak in support of LPRAC. He stated that he would have appreciated seeing LPRAC Commissioners attend and testify in support of LPRAC during the evening portion of the public hearing.

Tape 1 B

Motion made to return to regular order of meeting by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion carries as follows:

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

1 Abstention: Commissioner Montalvo

Motion made to accept Chairperson's report by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carries as follows:

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

1 Abstention: Commissioner Montalvo

Commissioner Dr. Salorio asked for a list of the following information as soon as possible:

Names of who the communications should be addressed to, the phone numbers, their addresses and appropriate titles, a word version attachment to an email of the three sample letters that are included in our packets and right now, everyone in this room to make a list of accomplishments and activities that LPRAC has done over the past 5 years and even more, issues that are on-going today that we can be useful in addressing and justify our continued existence as a commission.

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel provided a written report of his activities on behalf of the Commission as following:

- The Governor's budget proposal for the fiscal year 14 and 15 biennium included, among other items, a recommendation to merge five of the six legislative commissions onto a new Commission on Citizen Advocacy, which is formed by the consolidation of: the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, African American Affairs Commission, Commission on Children, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and LPRAC. Also, this Commission on Citizen Advocacy will include a representative of the elderly community and its mission is broadened to include representation of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. With the establishment of the Department of Aging, the Governor is recommending the elimination of the Commission on Aging. This restructure will result in a staff reduction from 26 to 18 for savings of over \$1.6 million over the biennium;
- LPRAC staff is very grateful to everyone that already submitted statements in support of LPRAC before the Appropriations Committee. The list of our supporters includes: The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), Viva Hartford TV Productions, Advocacy Unlimited, Inc., Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean & Latin American Studies at UConn, Spanish Speaking Center of New Britain, Center for Latino Progress, the Spanish Community of Wallingford, and Connecticut Students for a DREAM. We also thank Mariano Cardoso, Yanil Teron, Joyce Bolanos, Teresa Perez-Ocaranza, Mary Sanders, & Annette Deonarine for their support at our morning portion of our public hearing. Commissioner Cruz and Chair Diaz were also present in the morning hearing alongside with all the members of LPRAC staff and members from the Latino media. Representatives Vargas, Cuevas and

Candelaria joined us during this event even though they were not members of the Legislative Sub-Committee on Appropriations;

- LPRAC provided written testimony to the Judiciary Committee which was presented by Chair Diaz who testified in person alongside with Commissioner Rick Cruz in support of Judge Carmen Espinosa on Friday, February 1, 2013. Judge Espinosa also received the support of State Senator Andres Ayala, Representative Arce, Representative Vargas, Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association and the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus;
- Commissioner Cruz and I met with Senator Gerratana and Rep. Johnson about the barbers apprenticeship program but as of today we have not heard that the Public Health Committee has any plans to raise our bill;
- The funding allotted to Latino non-profits has been decreased and their budget line item has been merged from the Governor's proposed budget.

Motion made to approve Acting Executive Director's report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries as follows:

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes reported on the following:

1. The Committee will be organizing an OP-ED in both English and Spanish about the work that LPRAC has done in the General Assembly as a result of the Governor's recommendation to merge the Legislative Commissions and eliminate the Department on Aging;
2. The Committee is proud to inform the Commissioners that the outreach capabilities in our social network continue to increase both in Facebook and in Twitter. LPRAC already reached 560 Likes in Facebook and 268 Followers in Twitter and these are both in English and Spanish;
3. We continue to receive written testimonies that we have been collecting for the commission in support of the commission, we urgently need the support of our community, making phone calls to the Co-Chairs of Appropriations to inform them of their support for LPRAC;
4. The Public Information Committee will work with the Latino media in the next few days helping us send out the message to our community.

Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee Report made by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion carries as follows:

8 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Cruz, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres

2 Absent: Commissioners Castillo and Mañjon

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Cruz, Chairman of this committee reported that they met on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 to discuss the Legislative Priorities for this upcoming session. They went over a list of Bills that they are going to be tracking and there is a summary sheet in your packets for your review.

- The Committee identified two issues that require additional research on the area of self-sufficiency; The minimum wage issue; and State contracting reform for small Latino businesses and,
- In regards to Public Safety & Gun Control.

He would like to talk it over with the RBA Committee to look going forward in reviewing these and hopefully get some RBAs in a Turn the Curve Session concerning these topics.

Tape 2A

- The Committee also prepared a letter that will require your vote in support of the passage of comprehensive immigration reform. Both Mr. Oyanadel and himself marched with a delegation of CT Dreamers and members of the Press to the Higher Education Committee yesterday with a petition for the committee to raise proposed Bill #475 which would have provided access to the state financial aid but unfortunately the Committee Chairs, Senator Bye and Republican Willis denied these students that opportunity this year.
- On the Barbers Apprenticeship proposal, has not yet been raised by the Public Health Committee. We urge our Commissioners interested in this subject to call Senator Gerratana and Rep. Johnson to raise the Bill on our behalf; &
- Our Commission will be testifying in support of Bill 6037 – An Act Concerning the Issuance of Motor Vehicle Operator Licenses to certain immigrants on Monday, February 25th at 6:30 pm @ Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, CT.

Mr. Oyanadel said that he just heard from State Representative Juan Candelaria and the date has been changed to Monday, March 4, 2013. He does not know the location yet but will let us know when he does.

Motion made to approve the Priorities & Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion carries as follows:

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

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Torres, Chair for this committee reported that they met today at 4:30 pm and he asked Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández to say the report as follows:

1. The Scholarship Ceremony location is confirmed at the Bond Ball Room in Htfd., CT on Sat., 8-31-2013;
2. The Scholarship Applications are ready and we an email blast and she put on the Facebook page to contact the office to have it either faxed, sent or emailed to them;
3. Amount of scholarships we are going to give and number of students that we are going to select will be decided in March, 2013;
4. With respect to the Golf Tournament, she was instructed at the Executive Committee level to potentially cancel the golf tournament. The committee discussed this extensively and they agreed that they would act as the board recommends to do this evening;
5. Under Old & New Business, they talked about a workshop that she will hopefully participate. They don't know if they are going to get the participants;
6. Verizon Wireless wants to meet with Mr. Oyanadel and herself at the end of March regarding the \$10,000 that they agree to give us over a span of time;
7. Last item was on the gun locks.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries as follows:

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

RBA COMMITTEE

Commissioner Montalvo said that she has nothing to report as they have not met but will be working on the following:

1. She has been meeting with UCONN & EASTERN and she decided to pull the name of the Commission out. Unfortunately, about a week and a ½ ago, she received a communication from a national magazine who would like to make a report and do a good piece in their magazine on this. She thinks we have lost a great opportunity. She is going to do all the work by herself as she has been doing it herself. The request was that we should wait to do more RBA's until after March or April.
2. We already have a couple of RBA's unfortunately the last two RBA's that we have done we do not have the reports yet although people was told that the reports were more than likely going to be done two weeks after the event. She kept telling people to call the Commission. She does not know the outcomes on the one that we did with the Health Equity Commission.

Motion made to accept the RBA report made by Commissioners Cruz, Arroyo and Rodríguez-Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Discussion:

Mr. Oyanadel said that the RBA that we conducted with the Health Equity Commission is going to be ready in two weeks. We are depending on the Health Equity Commission to verify some of the people that were already present. The RBA that was produced in Housing is already finished and was distributed to all Commissioners one month ago. The Commission did approve it and it was in your packets last commission meeting.

Commissioner Dr. Mañjon recommends that we make these reports available in PDF versions on the website.

Motion carries as follows:

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

Motion to go into Executive Session by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Fernández. Motion carries as follows:

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

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked Mrs. Goicoechea Hernandez if she has a list of 100 names, if she does have their numbers and email addresses, she can email the LPRAC Commissioners to get the word out tomorrow about the merger proposed by the Governor. Also, send a separate email with the list of the names and phone numbers of the Appropriation Committee members.

Commissioner Dr. Salorio also asked to attach the form letters so we can edit and send on to our contacts. Also, he would appreciate a list; very specific it can be bullet points, Accomplishments of the last 4 years – 8 or 10 most important things; Activities of the last 4 years – 8 or 10 most important things; and Issues today that LPRAC is addressing 8 or 10 most important things. They can pick the ones more important to them.

Motion made to accept letter on adopting comprehensive immigration reform made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Salorio. Motion carries as follows:

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

Motion made to vote on cancelling the Golf Tournament made by Commissioner Dr. Salorio and seconded by Commissioners Mañjon and Arroyo. Motion carries as follows:

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

Chairman Díaz asked Mr. Oyanadel to talk to the OLM to see if Mr. Jim Tracy can get the \$500.00 back.

Motion made to have a Press Conference with Senator Blumenthal hosted by LPRAC to be held at the Halls of Flags made by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Fernández. Motion carries as follows:

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

Motion made to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion approved as follows:

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo, Secretary
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc