



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
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
March 20, 2013
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Yolanda Castillo, Lourdes Montalvo, Norma Rodríguez Reyes, Dr. Eugene Salorio and Danny Torres
Commissioners on the phone:	Honorable Migdalia Castro, Richard Cruz, Roberto Fernández, Dr. Sonia Mañjon,
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 February 20, 2013 by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Salorio. Motion carries as follows:

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

0 Abstention

1 Absent: Commissioner Castro

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. reported on the following:

1. He announced that Bank of America has requested authorization to give us the funds that were left over in the account for more than 10 years so that we could distribute to two specifically earmarked scholarships for our scholarship program;
2. LPRAC has also received a positive confirmation from the Comptroller's Office that the "special exception code" for issuing checks for undocumented students will meet the criteria for our agency scholarships and has been granted;
3. On March 2nd, 2013 he was invited to a special workshop at the New England Latino Student Leadership conf. held at Central CT State University. He addressed several young inspiring college students and they had a powerful and invigorating discussion and raised awareness of our commission;
4. On March 4, 2013 he testified in support of the Driver's License legislation for immigrants in CT and there were approximately 3,000 people there. Commissioners Cruz, Montalvo and Rodríguez-Reyes we present as well as the Acting Executive Director Werner Oyanadel and everyone also testified;
5. On March 11, 2013 Commissioner Castillo, Acting Executive Director Oyanadel and I attended an important Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Informational Forum at the LOB. It discussed the lack of access to state contracts to Latino small businesses amongst others. The contracts really don't get passed out to Latinos and even when they do, they get passed over them easily. This is an issue that the Legislature has to deal with.

Motion made to accept Chairperson's report by Commissioners Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion carries as follows:

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

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel reported on the following:

- LPRAC received a positive response from Bank of America after I requested authorization from them to use the remaining balance of the money management forum fund currently managed at our agency to be used for our scholarship program. The funds for this project total \$8,034.60;
- LPRAC also received a positive confirmation from the Comptroller's Office that the "special exception code" for issuing checks to undocumented students meeting the criteria established for our agency scholarships has been granted;
- Mr. Oyanadel provided staff assistance to the RBA Sub-Committee of LPRAC on February 28, 2013 and Wednesday, March, 3, 2013;
- Mr. Oyanadel attended an event sponsored by the Mayor of Waterbury on Friday, March 1, 2013 where the President of Naugatuck Valley Community College, Daisy Cocco De Filippis, was recognized as Dominican Mayor for the Day in Waterbury during their annual Dominican flag-raising ceremony at City Hall;
- Mr. Oyanadel testified before the Education Committee on Monday, March 4, 2013 alongside with State Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr., President Pro Tempore of the State Senate of Connecticut in support of Raised S.B. No 1002 "An Act Concerning Community Schools," which would establish full service community schools in alliance districts with the goal of bringing together community partners to provide important wrap around services to students and their families at such schools. The objective of these services is to improve academic achievement, build school and community engagement and improve the skills, capacity and wellbeing of the surrounding community and its residents;
- On Monday March 4, 2013 Mr. Oyanadel testified in support of the Driver's License legislation for immigrants in Connecticut alongside almost 3,000. Mr. Oyanadel thanked Chairman Diaz, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodriguez-Reyes, Castro, and former LPRAC Commissioner Candal, Esq. for testifying in person or via written testimony;
- On Thursday, March 7th 2013 Mr. Oyanadel testified before the Appropriations – Legislative Sub-committee Working Group about LPRAC's budget for the next biennium;
- LPRAC Commissioner Yolanda Castillo, Attorney Isaias Diaz and Werner Oyanadel attended an important Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Informational Forum at the Legislative Office Building on Mon., 3/11/13. The discussion focused on the lack of access to state contracts to Latino Small Businesses among others;
- LPRAC testified on Friday, March 15, 2013 in support of creating a new apprenticeship program for barbers in Connecticut. This issue is very important to LPRAC after Commissioner Lourdes Montalvo informed LPRAC that several Latino barbershops were being closed down in Waterbury and Willimantic for not having the appropriate license to operate their businesses. As a result of that reality LPRAC is now proposing legislation that would allow barbers an opportunity to meet all the requirements of the state to practice their trade by combining on the job training with related classroom instruction. Apprenticeship opportunities like this one offers an effective approach to meet the needs of our community in search of high-quality training that will ultimately lead to self-sufficiency and good jobs. State Representative Victor Cuevas (75th Assembly District of Waterbury) spoke passionately in support of apprenticeship training today as well as State Representative Edwin Vargas (6th Assembly District of Hartford);
- LPRAC called on Congress to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform at a press conference with U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal and many community leaders on Monday, March 18, 2013 at the State Capitol in Hartford. The Commission supports creating a path to citizenship, a moratorium of deportations, and improving the legal immigration system among others. The panel also urged state lawmakers to approve a bill allowing undocumented immigrants to get state driver's licenses. LPRAC stated that the bill will make roads safer by requiring immigrants to take driver tests and allowing them to get car insurance. LPRAC Commissioners Salorio, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodriguez-Reyes, and Castro were also in attendance; &
- The Governor of Connecticut invited all the board members to the official swearing-in ceremony of Judge Carmen Espinosa Thursday, March 28, 2013 at the State Capitol. If you are interested in attending please let us know to RSVP on your behalf.

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

Motion made to approve Acting Executive Director's report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes. Motion carries as follows:

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

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

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

Commissioner Salorio said that he is very concerned that this afternoon he received an emergency email about a hearing that's going to be happening for the Appropriations Committee on Friday, March 22, 2013. Last month we sat here and were ripped to pieces justifiable by two representatives who said we looked like fools and even worse we made them look like fools. And so here, we are with another hearing where, because my wife happens to be a commissioner on another commission where they asked her for testimony and then I have to ask, hey, what's up with that and then we get this emergency thing today where my understanding is that yesterday basically the staff of the Children's Commission spent the day calling people to stimulate testimony and appearances, you're in the same suite

of offices as them. We are not going to get a second chance with our Representatives. Minnie Gonzalez and Juan Candelaria were pretty clear, we've used up all our good will. How did this come to pass?

Mr. Oyanadel stated in response to Commissioner Salorio's statement that unfortunately this is the way that the legislative process in the legislature works. The public hearings are publicly announced only three days in advance of the public hearing. Yesterday we were finishing the work of the event we conducted on Monday, Tuesday he had to take a personal day off, and on Wednesday, today is the day that the public hearing was announced. As soon as we found out we sent the information out to all the commissioners, all the Legislators and several community leaders too. The Commission on Children has a lot more resource than we do, probably three times the resources that we do and unfortunately due to recent cuts, layoffs and other rescissions we cannot provide the services that we used to in the past nor can we be everywhere at all times.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked Commissioner Castillo, Board Secretary to do a roll call to see how many commissioners will be able to testify at the hearing. The following commissioners will testify: Migdalia Castro, Rick Cruz, Norma Rodríguez Reyes and Dr. Eugene Salorio.

Motion made to return to regular order of meeting 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

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Cruz, Chairman of this committee reported the following:

1. LPRAC testified these past few weeks regarding house bill #6037, senate bills #69 and #68 in support of driver's licenses for immigrants;
2. Provided testimony also for proposed bill #643 which would require citizen status prior to the issuance of the driver's license. This public hearing was extremely successful by the amount of people testifying in support of these proposals, close to 3,000 people;
3. LPRAC also provided testimony & support of the Barber's Apprenticeship Program in support of Community Schools;
4. The Press Conference about the immigration reform was also very successful and he wants to commend all commissioners in attendance and the staff to help put together this very successful event;
5. On Friday, LPRAC will also have a public hearing on house bill #6659 known as the CT Trust Act which will set a standard that brings participation in secure communities program;
6. Finally he encourages everyone to attend the swearing-in ceremony for Judge Carmen Espinosa.

Motion made to approve the Priorities & Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Castillo. 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. Spoke about the Public Hearing on the Governor's recommendation to merge the commissions and have already asked all the commissioners to please be there and to bring a couple of community leaders to speak on our behalf;
2. She also attended the LPRAC Public Hearing on March 4, 2013 in New Haven along with Commissioners Díaz, Montalvo, Castro, Cruz and she were able to testify but as you heard, the bill has died in the committee but State Rep. Candelaria is working very hard trying to resurrect this bill and there will be several marches throughout the state promoting this bill;
3. She reported about the Press Conf. on Monday with Senator Blumenthal. LPRAC staff worked in coordination with a paid consultant from Bauzá & Associates writing the Press Release both in English and in Spanish and working to make sure that several media outlets were in attendance. The committee shall produce a final report with all the media attendance and reports that were produced in our state as a result of this event for our next commission meeting. She also wants to thank Commissioners Cruz, Montalvo, Dr. Salorio and Castro for being attending. In your package there's a copy of the letter that we gave our Senator;
4. We are also working on the next newsletter. If any commissioner has any ideas or anything that they feel that need to be in the newsletter, we would appreciate the information.

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

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

Tape 1 B

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Torres, Chair for this committee reported that they met today at 4:30 p.m. reported as follows:

1. Bank of America gave us \$8,034.60 which we have in an account and we are now able to give away as scholarships. They are requesting two in the amount of \$4,017.30 each with several stipulations. They are asking that the students be high school seniors, and that the recipients accept their internship program at the bank. One more requirement is that they want a financial major and a higher GPA. On the normal scholarships, there will be 20 scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each. Also, we did get the approval for the special exception code for issuing checks for undocumented students and it will meet the criteria for our agency scholarships and has been granted;
2. CHFA dropped our fundraising from \$5,000 to \$2,500 this year;
3. On the 7th annual Tribute to Hispanic Veterans, it is scheduled on Fri., 5/17/13 at 5:30 pm at Hall of Flags;
4. Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández will be attending a health workshop called “Tomando Control de su Salud”;
5. We will be meeting with Verizon Wireless on Tuesday, March 26, 2013
6. He spoke to Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández today and asked her how we get in contact with our High Schools, Magnet Schools, Charter Schools and Technical Schools. She informed they get called yearly and that there are about 200 of them.

Commissioner Cruz left at 6:40 p.m.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioners Rodríguez-Reyes and Dr. Salorio.

Discussion:

Commissioner Arroyo commented that it looks like there’s a disparity with the difference in the amounts. If you have \$30,000 to give away that if you multiply that by \$3,000 or \$4,000 it may create a perception when the time comes. The people may say LPRAC was not fair to some students and to others it was more specialized for other reasons. We should try to even up as best as we can from the \$4, 017.30. Instead of giving out 20 scholarships, you may want to give out 10 scholarships at \$3,000 with is \$30,000.

Commissioner Castillo clarified that they do not tell the students how much the scholarship is. Also, she suggests that for the bank situation, have a press conference with the two kids that we give that scholarship to instead of inviting them to our scholarship which is very different because we give 20 kids and it’s a special scholarship award and maybe those two, because it’s and special money and it’s the bank, we can have a press conference with the Bank of America and that’s good publicity for them and LPRAC.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. suggested that we invite Bank of America to our scholarship event, have them buy a table with their people and have them present the scholarship with their criteria and if anyone gets mad, it’s not LPRAC, it was them.

Commissioner Torres said that the Bank of America money was sitting there for ten years. They are going a little bit beyond and it’s a one-time offer. It two separate things, one our normal scholarships and the other is special.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. suggested that the special projects committee contact the finance schools.

Commissioner Montalvo mentioned that last year she asked that someone else be asked as the Mistress or Master of Ceremonies for the Tribute to Hispanic Veterans.

Motion carries as follows:

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

1 Absent: Commissioner Cruz

RBA COMMITTEE

Commissioner Montalvo said that she did receive a copy of the report on Asthma and there is a copy in the packets. Now we are working on preparing a turn the curve session on Minority Business RBA. At the meeting last week, they had a teleconference and it was with Commissioner Salorio and herself. Commissioner Montalvo stated that the committee is in the process of getting information, different stats from the State and the committee is hoping that we can have another meeting to put this together and run the RBA at the end of next month. The date of the Turn the Curve” session is April 24, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. and we are hoping to get the participation of all Commissioners. She could not contact former Commissioner Rodríguez so if someone could contact him it would be greatly appreciated. She would like to have another meeting before the RBA on April 24th.

Motion made to accept the RBA report made by Commissioner Dr. Salorio and seconded by Commissioner Castillo.

Tape 2 A

Commissioner Montalvo asked that LPRAC hold its May commission meeting in Willimantic, CT.

Motion carries as follows:

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

1 Absent: Commissioner Cruz

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Motion made to create an Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee on Civic Engagement made by Commissioner Dr. Salorio and seconded by Commissioner Fernández. Motion carries as follows:

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

1 Absent: Commissioner Cruz

Motion made that the May 2013 LPRAC Commission meeting be held in Willimantic, CT made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioners Fernández and Castro. Motion carries as follows:

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

1 Abstention: Commissioner Arroyo

1 Absent: Commissioner Cruz

Motion made to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Salorio. Motion approved as follows:

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

1 Absent: Commissioner Cruz

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo, Secretary
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc