



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Elena Trueworthy, M.S.

Parliamentarian:

George Hernández

Commissioners:

Ramón L. Arroyo

Migdalia Castro

Ana Gonzalez

Jay Gonzalez

Dr. Ruby O'Neill

Dr. Agnes Quiñones

Ruben Rodríguez

Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

Pablo Soto

Christian Soto

Feny Taylor

Danny Torres

Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

Special Projects Director

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández

Associate Commission Analyst

Orlando Rodríguez

Administrative Assistant

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES
LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting
March 16, 2016
Legislative Office Building Room 2D
Hartford, CT
5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Yolanda Castillo, Richard A. Cruz, George Hernández, Dr. Ruby O'Neill, Emanuela Palmares, Dr. Agnes Quiñones, Rubén Rodríguez, Pablo Soto, Danny Torres and Elena Trueworthy, M.S.
Commissioners on the phone:	Feny Taylor
Commissioners Absent:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Migdalia Castro, Jay González, Dr. Eugene Salorio, Christian Soto
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Executive Director, Lucia Goicoechea Hernández, Special Projects Coordinator, and Clarisa Cardone, Administrative Assistant

Tape 1 A

Chairman Cruz welcomed everyone to our meeting. He then asked Commissioner Palmares, Secretary to do the roll call. Quorum was established. He then welcomed former Commissioners Ana González and Roberto Fernández and presented each one with a beautiful appreciation token for their outstanding work in participation in many successes in the past. Photos were taken and then a few commissioners gave some accolades to both Ms. González and Mr. Fernández.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Former Commissioner Ana González thanked everyone for their kind words and for her experiences that she is taking with her. It is an honor to be seated around the table with everyone, the powerful dynamic women in this room, Yolanda, Elena, Agnes, Emanuela and everyone in here leaving parties aside to make a positive contribution for our Latinos in the State of Connecticut. It is a thrill to know you all and to have collaborated with you all during the past two years. Lucia, Werner, Clarisa thank you all, me los llevo en el alma. Gracias.

Former Commissioner Robert Fernández said that it is a great honor to be honored even with Ms. González and her commitment and the beauty and just the sheer grace and the absolute commitment that this young lady has, it's a real honor. He thanked Agnes, Emanuela, his Comadre Yolanda, Rick, Danny, Pablo Soto and George. It's a matter of giving back to a community that is in dire need not only in leadership but a helping hand.

Chairman Cruz thanked Ms. González's mother for the wonderful food that she brought for us.

Mr. Iriarty from the Catholic Church said that they received support from LPRAC on the Drivers Licenses Project. They are a coalition of different religions and they all work together. The commission has been highly supportive to them and that is why he is here. He thanked Commissioner Palmares, Mr. Oyanadel and Chairman Cruz for helping him in 2 phases. One is how can they get this law passed. He was with people in Rhode Island about a week ago that came from there and tried to get a similar law and they lost this law a couple of years ago but now they are copying ours. We are also invited to go to New York to try to see if in New York to see if it can really work and we brought the law that was adopted here and explained how we received support from LPRAC, from Legislators and from a larger coalition of supporters. Today, Annie Lamtrom which is one of the first individuals to receive a drive only driver's license is here. Today, he brings a recognition plate with pictures with many people that have received their CT "Drive Only" Licenses. He then introduced Annie Lamtrom. She thanked everyone once again and in the name of 52,000 undocumented immigrants including her, she thanked LPRAC Board members and staff for helping pass this law. He then passed around the beautiful plaque with collage of pictures from people that were able to get their license. He also mentioned that one year ago, he came to the LOB to speak before Appropriations on LPRAC's behalf about LPRAC's budget.

Chairman Cruz replied that he remembered how a few of us are left from that commission was the day in New Haven at Wilbur Cross High School and have never seen anything like this in his life where there were thousands of people coming out from everywhere predominately immigrants to testify in support of the Drive Only Driver's license to the Judiciary Committee and he was so proud and overwhelmed. It was a great thing for our immigrant community as a whole in order to be able to achieve this. He will always walk away from when he leaves this commission as one of our greatest accomplishments.

Mr. Iriarty said to please keep your eyes on the people in the picture because he brings the voice of the voiceless out there and it's not me, it is all of us and especially Mr. Oyanadel because when I call him he always answers that's a very impressive thing. Sometimes when I call other offices and nobody ever answers me. He is so happy that when he does call Mr. Oyanadel, and also makes the next step, the additional, sticks his neck out for Latino immigrants.

Commissioner Hernández thanked the Archdioceses for being such a strong advocate for communities and this is just another sample for all of us and a humbling example of what collaboration, reaching over across the aisle, reaching across others that we may have differences with to make things happen. There is much more work to be done in our communities, we have the Dreamers, we have many other issues, domestic violence, social inequity and a host of other things. We are pleased to count with the Archdioceses and many other collaborators that were part of this big coalition across the State of Connecticut to make this happen, to make social justice happen for the greater good. Thank you, thank our Legislators that stepped up to the plate and heard the voice of the people.

Commissioner Palmares not only commended Mr. Iriarty on his public policy work but also the outreach work that we did afterwards – particularly on all those six meetings in Wethersfield trying to help DMV roll it out. She wanted to remind ourselves that this issue is not over and that we have to be on top of it and figure out how it's being rolled out in a way that it is balanced and fair for all the people in CT seeking such license and that the beautiful thing about this drive-only license is not just about improvements to us as immigrants but also its public safety issue for all citizens in our state.

Next speaker is Bryan Daleas, Director of World Languages for Hartford Public Schools and also serves on a Statewide Committee to advance the adoption of a Seal of Biliteracy for the State of Connecticut. On behalf of the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers known as CT COLT and the CT Administrator Programs for English Language Learners known as CAPELL, he thanked LPRAC for the opportunity to explain the rationale for a Seal of Biliteracy and to report on the current status of our efforts as well as to seek the endorsement of LPRAC in support of this Seal. He shared some basic information which is included on the handout that was distributed to everyone. Simply stated, the Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school, district or state office of education in recognition of students who have obtained proficiency in two or more languages by High School graduation. Proficiency refers to how well people use language in real world situation across all modes and modalities of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Some ways to document proficiency are cost free to the student and cost free to the schools and districts. They are proposing that language educators establish a menu of options by which students can document proficiency including but not limited to portfolios and assessments already in use. Of course there are high quality external proficiency assessments available for a cost to highly reputable vendors but he emphasized that his committee will focus on no cost options. In summary, their efforts thus far are:

1. Members of both CT COLT and CAPELL have met several times to plan the work since the fall.
2. A small group of leaders has met twice with the State Department of Education. The first meeting took place between language leaders and Commissioner Wentzell. During the meeting, language educators explained the nature and rationale for this seal and the Commissioner advised that group on how to proceed in terms of getting stakeholder buy-in and reaching out to different community groups. The Commissioner expressed her support of our efforts to implement a State Seal of Biliteracy.
3. On December 17th, language leaders met with the Deputy Commissioner, Ellen Cohen as a follow-up to the prior meeting. The State Department of Education expressed its intention to involve language education professionals in the process of framing the guidelines for implementation. Since that time, language educators across the state have engaged in advocacy work by appealing to commissions such as this and for example, the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission and by obtaining letters of support from school districts and by using the cap wiz program to generate letters to public officials in support of the proposed legislation bill 175.
4. In February language educators appeared at a public hearing before the education committee to testify on behalf of the seal. The Education Committee was supportive and asked a number of questions around criteria and implementation. At this point I would urge that this commission read additional information about the Seal of Biliteracy on the websites that he has provided on the 2nd page of the handout. Additionally, it would be most important for you to voice your support of the seal by following the link indicated to add testimony. Today and Friday are key days on which to voice support. The emails need not be lengthy and detailed but simply a statement in favor of Seal of Biliteracy in Bill 175.

Tape 1 B

Chairman Cruz acknowledged State Representative Arthur O'Neill. He then introduced another guest, Luis Valdez.

Luis Valdez said he is relatively new to Connecticut, moved here in July 2015 but also has a passion for serving his community. His family emigrated here from South and Central America and so he's always been looking for

ways to give back and say thank you for all the opportunities that he has had and Commissioner Palmares who unfortunately will have to step down from LPRAC if she is elected to the Connecticut General Assembly, told me about the commission, told me that it would be something that he should be interested in and invited him to see it. He is very glad to see what he is seeing here and he hopes to one day serve alongside everyone and being the voice for nuestra comunidad. If you have any questions, I will be here after the meeting and he would love to speak to everyone.

Chairman Cruz thanked him for coming to our meeting and welcome. We are always up for new participation and new ideas and hope to see him again.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to accept the minutes of February 17, 2016 by Commissioner Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Hernández. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Cruz reported the following:

As you can see in your packets we have submitted a written response to all the 4 concerns raised by Commissioners O'Neill and Rodríguez during the month of January of this year. In short, LPRAC is in full agreement with O'Neill and Rodríguez that, we as a commission, have departed from our internal rules dealing with the LPRAC 2015 Scholarship Program/Community Leaders Awards. We commend them publicly for raising these concerns to us and as you will see tonight a delegation of board of commissioners and staff worked overtime this past month making all the pertinent changes to our program so that mistakes are not repeated in the near future.

Motion made to accept the Chairperson's Report by Commissioner Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Discussion:

Commissioner Dr. O'Neill asked if his report one of the attachments that came with Mr. Oyanadel's reports or was that separate. They all looked and found it in the packet. She then thanked Chairman Cruz for it and that they will be submitting a reply because there were a couple of inconsistencies in the memorandum that was sent to them. She didn't know if she should delineate them now or just put them in our reply and then distribute it to all of the commissioners so that they would know about, I think we discussed previously the inaccurate wording of item #3 it's not as we presented it in our memo of concerns nor is it as it's printed on the applications, and we also discussed that there was not actually a discussion that the commission did not entertain a discussion to consider the members of the board bringing in nominees and there was not a vote and the minutes reflect that there was not a discussion or that there was not a vote. She just wanted to make that part of the record so when they send a reply, she'll list those things and also the slightly different interpretation in the role of the OSE because they did not submit a legal opinion and they went so far to say this it is an informal staff opinion and it's not legally binding but that will be in the reply and she hopes it will go to all of the commissioners so that they have accurate information available to them. She wanted to thank him for the acknowledgement of the departure and when the Director's report comes up, I want to thank him as well.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel reported the following:

- He has been working with the Congressional Delegation on the matter of the Puerto Rican debt crisis. It is an issue that is going to be heard by Congress very soon. Speaker Ryan in Congress had indicated to different subcommittees in Congress that he will entertain a proposal or proposals dealing with ways to solve the problem and what we've done throughout the past few months is to make sure our Congressional Delegation from Connecticut is on the record indicating to them that this is an urgency for LPRAC to actually act on this matter. The latest of our meetings was with Representative Larson and he sent a letter on behalf of all the New England Delegation in asking Speaker Ryan to taken on this issue and to thank him for agreeing to take this issue on behalf of U.S. Citizens of Puerto Rican descent not only in the Island but around Connecticut.
- He then read a note for the record. LPRAC staff responded to both Commissioners O'Neill and Rodriguez regarding four concerns they had about LPRAC's 2015 Scholarship and Community leaders program. The Executive Committee of LPRAC's response to their concerns is attached to his March 2016 report for FYI purposes. **"The summary of the LPRAC Executive Board and my personal evaluation of their concerns is that LPRAC departed from the rules of the LPRAC 2015 Scholarship Program as delineated by Commissioners O'Neill and Rodriguez."** LPRAC is working diligently with members of the board and staff making corrections and/or clarifying our internal rules immediately so that similar mistakes are not repeated in the near future. I publicly thank

both Commissioner's O'Neill and Rodriguez for raising these concerns and I commend them for working with us on ways to improve these guidelines so, again, similar mistakes are not repeated in the future

- Today we recognized two of our former commissioners that already took place.
- Days ago, we received a request from former Mayor Segarra for an endorsement and that is going to be discussed in one of our LPRAC committees (Priorities and Legislation Committee).
- We have great news about an agreement with the President of Eastern Connecticut State University of an in-kind contribution to LPRAC so that we can issue a new two year fully paid Scholarship for a Latino student from CT. This is great news for LPRAC and our youth we serve.
- We have been meeting with Commissioner Christian Soto during the last month on the area of public information. While he is not here today we shall discuss the progress of our lead poisoning outreach media campaign.

Motion made to accept the Executive Director's Report with changes from Commissioner O'Neill by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Trueworthy.

Discussion:

Commissioner O'Neill spoke about the wording that LPRAC departed from the rules and it refers us to Attachment B, is Attachment B the letter of February 11th, 2016 because in that letter there is not any language that says that LPRAC departed from the rules of the Scholarship Program. Maybe she is not finding it, is there a separate letter.

Mr. Oyanadel responded that the memo he attached to his report is the response that members of the Executive Board reached at a formal meeting of LPRAC and therefore it was the document he sent out to her, Commissioner Rodriguez, as well as to all LPRAC Commissioners. The conclusions of the memo were thoroughly reviewed and approved by all committee members present. He, therefore, couldn't change the content of the memo but having a conversation after the memo was sent out and a dialogue with Commissioner O'Neill, Commissioner Rodriguez and other members of the board of LPRAC I personally agreed that we were going to make additional clarification for the record, which were provided for the record during both the Chairman's and Executive Director's report today. (i.e., the summary of the LPRAC Executive Board and my personal evaluation of their concerns is that LPRAC departed from the rules of the LPRAC 2015 Scholarship Program as delineated by Commissioners O'Neill and Rodriguez.)

Commissioner O'Neill said that she was looking for a separate document not February 11th. There was reference to Mr. Rosado and it says to see Attachment C for more information and Attachment C only has information on Mayor Segarra, not on Rosado, we didn't get that yet.

Mr. Oyanadel indicated that Mr. Rosado did not seek a new endorsement from LPRAC due to the limited time frame available for the promotion but Mr. Oyanadel wanted to point out for the record that he was being considered for such historical promotion. If he is promoted he would be the third highest ranking Latino in the state police in the state's history. Mr. Rosado received an endorsement from LPRAC several years ago when he was promoted to Mayor.

Commissioner O'Neill asked if this is the time, the Director of the Special Projects Committee report that was attached to Executive Director's report is this the time to address that?

Chairman Cruz replied that if she wants to address topics on his report, this will be the time for that.

Commissioner O'Neill asked if the Special Projects Director's report is part of his report correct.

Chairman Cruz said that Special Projects has its own report that he is going to give.

Commissioner O'Neill this was submitted by the Director not by the Chair. It's an attachment to the Executive Director's report correct, not the committee report; it's directed to the Executive Director from the Special Projects Director, Lucia Goicoechea Hernández.

Chairman Cruz It's in the Director's report so we can address all the questions for now.

Commissioner O'Neill reported that on page 2 of her report item 12 it says "Special Award for the Tribute to Hispanic Veterans", is there any discussion or movement to change that to Latino Veterans. Also, on page 3 there is an item, Tuesday, 1st, 2016 that she met with Mr. and Mrs. Ponce an issue with their daughter who is a last year 4 year student at Quinnipiac University and then 3 paragraphs down, Monday March 7th, subsequent to the March 1st meeting, everyone can read it, their daughter disagreement, I suggested that they meet with former Chairman of LPRAC, Isaías Díaz for legal advice, well the attorney involved in this situation is in agreement with me that the best protection of confidentiality would be that the most that should be made public about this very good thing that LPRAC did do and that the Special Project did do, it should be phrased as LPRAC's guidance was sought regarding a matter between a student and their university, LPRAC referred to outside counsel. That should be it, rather than revealing the student's name, the institution, the attorney involved or the action that's being taken and because of that, she makes one further suggestion that all of our reports, your report and the Executive Director's report have the watermark with the word "DRAFT" across each of the pages because Drafts are not subject to FOI and this way we can amend it and change it and we are protected that way. She would recommend that this is amended. She then had one more question, the next to the last paragraph indicates that the Special Projects Director will be applying for the

Women's Campaign School at Yale, which will convene Monday, June 13th through Friday, now that school is \$1,500 and she was wondering if the taxpayers be paying or is this request just to want to find out if it's ok for the Special Projects Director to go. She would still like to know who will be paying for that because this is a school that is primarily designed for women who want to run for political office and to run campaign that is what it is primarily known as.

Mr. Oyanadel said that he would review the suggestions offered by Commissioner O'Neill. The staff monthly reports that he sends everyone on the board are provided for information purposes only (FYI) because the commission's mandate stipulates that that board shall have not authority over staffing or personnel matters – having said that – he indicated that the recommendations offered by Commissioner O'Neill were valid (great) in content and he may take them into consideration in the near future (i.e., to include the word draft on the staff reports). For transparency he also indicated that Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández requested approval from the LPRAC Executive Director to participate in a non-partisan leadership training program after work hours. There would be no cost to LPRAC funds with her request so he accepted Mrs. Goicoechea's request after seeking additional advice from Human Resources.

Mr. Rodríguez said that he read the letter that everyone sent to Mr. Ryan in the case of Puerto Rico; he is really involved in that situation himself. He has spoken to people in Puerto Rico is that Chapter 9 for Puerto Rico will not be the greatest idea and the reason for that is that it is only putting a small bandage to attempt to cure a bigger illness. They discussed this more in detail in their conference call and they are looking is to have a way of helping the island manage their sending people from United States to kind of manage what's going on in the island. I see the letter says that you guys are recommending Chapter 9. Myself, as a commissioner, I don't think we should follow that line, what we are doing is just putting a bandage to this situation; this is the things that we go through. He is trying to help his island too. It's really going to hurt more than help.

Mr. Oyanadel indicated that the Congressional Delegation is making such recommendations but in the absence of other ideas other than Chapter 9 that is what they propose to fix the economic problems in Puerto Rico. Mr. Oyanadel has advised members of the Congressional delegation to think about other ideas other than Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection if they indeed hope to pass legislation given the fact that the large majority of people in Congress will not approve of such recommendation. Mr. Oyanadel recommended that LPRAC draft a letter to congress with our position on the matter but most importantly to urge Congress to act on this important matter.

Mr. Rodríguez said that Puerto Rico cannot go on Chapter 9 by the Constitution and because Puerto Rico is a Colony, we are not allowed to go on Chapter 9 and that is going to be brought up to the Congress that is what they are trying to do for Congress to put them on Chapter 9 but at this point it is going to be helpless cause it is not going to go through even if they go to court just because of the composition that we have in Congress so we might have to come out with something probably ourselves especially since there are a lot of Puerto Ricans here that we could kind of have an idea or have a committees come with an idea on how we can help the island another way to help the economy.

Commissioner Quiñones said that she has also been doing a little research and that Chapter 9 would only apply to nonprofits so the vast majority of the debt is owned by the government so whether it's in the constitution or not it is irrelevant because the Chapter 9 itself the parameters would not apply to the island. The issue right now is whether the Republicans in the House and the Congress in the Senate are having a conversation around putting a Board that would oversee how the credit card "the 93 plus Million dollar debt" will be managed. The implications of having a Board like that, overseeing an island in relationship to the ability that the island will have to maintain commerce and to maintain its economy. The biggest issue that nobody is talking about is that we in the island entertain a massive on the ground economy of cash that nobody reports and that is the main issue so when the conversations between the two political parties become real and she's not sure, she's been a Puerto Rican 50 something years, the conversation continues to be the same and nobody has really dealt with it. But until people that are well intended in the island, that are wealthy, that are professionals, with the exception of the middle class because if you rely on the salary you have to pay taxes no matter what. But the professional body that is sort of moving to Tampa and Orlando and Kissimmee for those reasons until that sector of the island decides to pay its share of taxes we are going to continue to have this issue. So right now, maybe the next President of the United States will take a lead in putting something together in place that is going to be equitable and honorable.

Mr. Oyanadel requested that a motion be raised during new business so that LPRAC can draft a letter stipulating the position of LPRAC in regards to this immense issue impacting Puerto Ricans today!

Commissioner Castillo replied that she doesn't see herself supporting that at this point not because she is not interested but because there are so many different versions going on and before we can sit and really draft something today, we need to be clear that we are all in agreement on how that is going to be stated. She would think that maybe through some committee, there could be people sitting down and drafting something so that then we can decide if we really want to, but at this point I would not acknowledge that for today. We need to really think about this, this is a serious issue and for the Puerto Ricans and anybody else that is supporting us we need to be sure that we know what we are saying so that it is agreed by everyone.

Chairman Cruz said that he would recommend collaboration between committees on drafting this letter to which maybe we can all agree with.

Mr. Oyanadel said he will thank him if he does help him develop our position, a bipartisan position on what we have to do. He is already getting requests from the media asking for LPRAC's position on this issue and right now he can't respond. It can be a brief noncommittal statement urging congress to act!

Chairman Cruz said that he totally agrees and he thinks we should write such statement. He said he would work with the staff and other members of the board to make sure this letter get done.

Commissioner Pablo Soto said that his point is if you are going to take a position on this, you need to define the question. In other words, right now is whether the United States Federal Government should help out or not, that's at that point we should focus. He doesn't know what other position we as LPRAC can take at a State level but if we are going to do that, then that is the only way I am going to agree to it.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel said that since **Commissioner Chris Soto, Chair of this Committee** is not here, we will table the report.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Quiñones reported the following:

They have an action item under New Business as a result of their special meeting that they had to interview Pedro Segarra which approached the Priorities and Legislation Committee wanting to seek the endorsement of LPRAC as he is moving through the Judicial Nomination process. We used a brand new protocol that was developed by Commissioners González, Hernández, and O'Neill, and four of their committee members met last night to interview Mr. Segarra, they followed the protocol to a T and then they engaged in a discussion conversation about how to proceed and took a vote to endorse the committee to propose that the board fully endorses Mr. Segarra for the Judicial Nominations that he is after. She would like to request that we under the New Business take a vote for that. In the packets under Section C in the Executive Director's report there is two pieces of information regarding Mr. Segarra's qualifications.

Motion made to accept the Priorities and Legislation Committee Report by Commissioner Pablo Soto and seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Discussion:

Commissioner Castillo wanted to acknowledge the subcommittee that developed that tool, it went well, thank you all three of you guys, it really went well yesterday the interview and it shows the integrity and the thoroughness that we are taking to do this kind of process for people that want to come through and get endorsed. She thanked them so much and that it went well.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Torres, Chair of this Committee announced the following:

1. We are thrilled to report tonight that Eastern Connecticut State University has offered us the opportunity to award one of our scholarship applicants a two-year full scholarship toward a Bachelor's Degree at the University. The University's President preference is for the award to go to a two year Community College student regardless of whether it's a Connecticut college is located and she also prefers that the award to be a ward of the state. We had a couple apply last year and the year before so hopefully we will be able to accommodate this request from President Nuñez however she is fine with awarding any community college student we advance. The Special Projects Committee members will design parameters for selection and submit them to the board for consideration prior to the selection being made. This way we'll have a standardized and fair system in place in use for this full scholarship award and any others that we may receive this year. The total financial commitment made by ECSU is well over \$40,000 because the annual tuition alone is \$20,000 per year and the President will include lodging and all other college attendance components for the student.
2. We received the latest release of the famous Hispanics on the USPS Stamps, Jaime Escalante and it will be officially unveiled to the public at the July meeting of the full board.
3. We are happy to report that Bobby Fernández generously paid for the Commemorative Pins that we will present to the recipients at the 10th Annual Tribute to Hispanic Veterans. We can't thank him enough for all he does and the pin is beautiful. The copy of the attached is in the Special Projects report.
4. Tickets and Lithographs are available for sale so please promote them in your travels so they can begin sales early.
5. The Perpetual Plaque has been ordered, you can see it on display in the LPRAC office. Chairman Cruz,

- Commissioner Trueworthy and the staff Orlando Rodríguez names are already on there.
6. Also if you would like to have your name up in lights, feel free to purchase a ticket for \$100 for the scholarship award. You'll have a nameplate added to the plaque with your name and you will receive a Commemorative Coin/Anniversary pins.
 7. We would also like to thank former Chairman Isaías T. Díaz, Esq. for helping one of our scholarship families with an issue regarding our scholarship recipient in the school she is attending.
 8. He will be passing out tonight an overview of the work of the Special Projects Committee/Subcommittee on the changes for the Scholarship Students, the GED Students, the Undocumented Students, Latino, Latina and Community Service recipients.

TAPE 2 A

Commissioner Torres said to email him with any questions, the committee has worked very hard on this, our members have had multiple meetings, multiple emails, multiple texts so you'll see there was a lot of work and we are trying to get this finalized for next month's meeting so we can get it up on the internet so our children and our recipients are ready to go.

Motion made to accept the Special Projects Committee Report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez.

Discussion:

Mr. Oyanadel wants to commend all the members of the board that have been working diligently to make some of the changes to the scholarship application. There are a number of commissioners that have put a lot of hours of their personal time to get this done, and Commissioner O'Neill should be commended for that work and Commissioner Chris Soto also did some wonderful work making changes to the application so the product will be much better than what it used to be in the past.

Commissioner O'Neill acknowledged Commissioner Trueworthy as well.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

RBA COMMITTEE

Motion made to accept the Results Based Accountability Committee Report. TABLED

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS

Motion made to select and approve either 9-17-16 or 10-15-16 as the day for this year's Board Staff Retreat in the Old Judiciary by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez.

Discussion:

Chairman Cruz has to work at 7:00 p.m. to do 12 hour shifts. If he is off that Friday, he does not have a problem being there.

Commissioner Hernández said we should table and come to us with some more information first or email us more information so that we can make a decision and be ready at the next board meeting to make a decision and we may very well offer an alternative date as commissioners especially in the case of Chairman Cruz or somebody else may have a date. Is that agreeable to you.

Commissioner Torres replied that it is fine; the bottom line is that we need to pick a date.

Commissioner Hernández said that we should entertain that we table this until the next meeting and we can have some dialogue via email regarding this and we can have a more inclusive discussion on the dates.

Commissioner O'Neill said that the General Election is 11/8/16. The closer we get to the end of October candidates, people are involved in campaigns at the last two or three weekend are really full court press. September is good.

Commissioner Castillo said that since Chairman Cruz cannot be there on these dates, let's get new dates and send it to us so we can vote on it.

Commissioner Hernández said maybe we can have Mr. Rodríguez do a Doodle.

Motion TABLED

Motion to approve the Antonio Pantoja scholarship. TABLED

Motion made to approve the endorsement for former Pedro Segarra for the Judicial Bench by Commissioner Trueworthy and seconded by Commissioner Hernández. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Motion made that we as a Commission proceed to support the efforts of the Seal of Bilingualism for the State of Connecticut through the Department of Education and the Committees that are in front of us by Commissioner Hernández and seconded by Commissioner Trueworthy.

Discussion:

Commissioner O'Neill said that she is totally supportive of this and she wants to make sure it is done properly. She doesn't know if you recall, over the summer, Chairman Cruz, and she and Mr. Oyanadel had a conversation that State Statute provides that when LPRAC endorses a piece of legislation that we need a majority of the members of the commission not the majority of the members present. If you want to do something that is internal to LPRAC than it's the majority of the members present. State Statute provides that we have to have the majority of the membership if we are going to support a motion and that I had also pointed out last summer that our By-Laws are inconsistent with State Statute and she was under the impression that this was going to be addressed. Yes, she would like to see that happen, are we here more than half of the membership.

Commissioner Quiñones mentioned that at this point in time the only thing that we can do based on the document that he gave us is that we are limited by just simply having to send an email in support of the Connecticut Seal of Bilingualism at this point in time our ability to put testimony and go before the committees is done. So the only thing that we can do right now based on what the information he provided is to simply send an email in support. But, to your point, this fits perfectly with our Legislative Agenda.

Mr. Oyanadel indicated that what Commissioner O'Neill is not talking about content just about procedure. Commissioner O'Neill and I looked at the Statute during the summer and we found that there is a State requirement under our Statute that indicates any advocacy of LPRAC before the General Assembly shall be done with the prior approval of the majority of the members of the Commission. We have not changed the By-Laws yet to clearly reflect such mandate by state law because State law oversees our By-Laws so as long as we are in agreement and that we are all aware of our advocating limitations we shall be fine. Again our advocacy has to receive approval by majority of the commission not just by all of those present, which is what Commissioner O'Neill correctly highlighted here today. Again, she was not talking about content.

Commissioner Hernández said that he does think that the motion that he presented is pretty much that we just follow the request of Director Dalias and that we send an email in support of this process because that is all that we can do, just send him an email. He does take the point that Commissioner O'Neill is making and we certainly need to clarify that potential conflict and procedural point because we need to be really sticklers for best practices. I think this motion is a low key motion, let's respond to his request and just send an email.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Motion made to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. by Commissioner Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner P. Soto. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Emanuela Palmares
Secretary
LPRAC Board

EPL:cjc