

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006



**State of Connecticut  
Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs  
Commission  
2006  
Annual Report**

**M. Jodi Rell  
Governor**

**Front Cover Pictures:** Top Left, State Capitol; Top Middle, The Puerto Rican Family Monument by Jose Buscaglia; Top Right, State Capitol; Bottom Picture: Peaceful demonstration in support of *Comprehensive Immigration Reform*.

---

---

---

# Table of Contents

---

Report of the Chair .....	1
Commissioner's Biographical Sketches.....	2
Report of the Executive Director.....	10
Special Projects/Activities.....	11
2006 Legislative Report.....	16
Speaking Engagements.....	22
Budget.....	23
Staff.....	24
Commission Committees and Credits .....	25-27



# Report of the Chair

Dear Governor Rell:



The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission is at the statewide forefront in advocating for the advancement of the Latino and Puerto Rican community in our state of Connecticut. Our mission to coordinate and provide access to resources by developing policy for your office and the Legislature has never been as prominent as it is today. The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission achieves its mission by effecting positive, sustained change in systems.

We have set the course in becoming involved in different statewide projects as well as in submitting legislative proposals that have impacted our Latino communities residing in Connecticut. Some of our lead accomplishments during the Legislative session were:

- Full Day Kindergarten & Universal Pre-School
- Funding for business development training in the town of Windham through the Spanish American Merchants Association (SAMA)
- Task Force on Trafficking of Persons
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Predatory Lending
- No Child Left Behind Act
- Health Care for Uninsured Children

Our Eighth Annual Gala Awards Banquet was a tremendous success; held at the Foxwoods Casino in which we had an attendance of about 1,300 prominent Latino and non-Latino leaders present. It was the first year in which we established a scholarship for our four Promesa Youth Award students. These Promesa awardees are true agents of change that will in turn give back to our community and the LPRAC believes strongly in giving our Latino kids as much support as possible. We also hope that their example will inspire others to dedicate themselves to the betterment of our people throughout our great State of Connecticut.

By building on our mission we continue to establish a stronger presence within our state each year, this year being our tenth. We work hard every day to nurture an inclusive diverse state that enables all Latinos to fully realize their potential by offering and co-sponsoring initiative such as; Latinos with Disabilities, Latino Money Management, Bilingual Toastmasters club, Reflecting Connecticut, *Reflejando a Connecticut*, Latino Expo, Escuchenos Conference and Public Forums held statewide to address the educational gap in our communities, etc.. I have served on the commission for the past seven years, and this has been my second and last successful term as Chairperson. I hope to continue serving the LPRAC, helping to implement its mission, as we still have more to accomplish. I am grateful for the continued support of the Commissioners, the staff and the public.

Sincerely,  
Ramon L. Arroyo

# Commissioner Biographies

## Ramón L. Arroyo, Chairman



(**Public Citizen**) of Hartford, was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut. Mr. Arroyo retired after 23 years of service from the City of Hartford Municipal Government as a Special Assistant to the City Manager. Mr. Arroyo has participated and volunteered in many organizations. He is currently the President of the Puerto Rican and Latino Alliance (PAC) of Connecticut. The following is a list of the memberships he has held:

- Friends of Pope Park, Board of Directors
- Parkville Problem Solving Committee, Board Member
- Hartford's Charter Revision Commission
- Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council, member of Board of Directors
- Hartford Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
- Hogar Crea of Connecticut, state board of directors
- Puerto Rican PAC, President
- Boys Scouts of America
- Long River Council, Volunteer Career Awareness Speaker
- Quirk Middle School PTSA-President
- María Sánchez Baseball Little League, Assistant Coach
- West Middle School, PTA-Vice President
- Neighborhood Legal Services, member of board of directors
- Hartford's Public Access Television, member of board of directors
- Hartford's Democratic Town Committee-Third District, Spokesperson

The **House Majority Leader David Pudlin** appointed Mr. Arroyo to LPRAC in 1999. Mr. Arroyo was re-appointed in 2003 by **Majority Leader James A. Amman**. and by **Majority Leader Christopher G. Donovan** in 2005.

## Manuel García, Vice Chairperson



(**Human Services**) was born and raised in Bridgeport. He is an employee for the City of Bridgeport Board of Education as an In-School Suspension Officer. He previously worked as a Controls Supervisor with many years of service in customer relations experience both in the United States and Puerto Rico. He is an active member of the community and is the Pastor of Iglesia Renacer Inc., in Bridgeport, CT. He provides religious service at the Danbury Federal Correctional Center for Latina inmates. Mr. Garcia has and continues to serve on various boards. Mr. Garcia serves on the Board of Directors for Free Forever Prison Ministries in New Haven, CT. Mr. Garcia has served with various organizations including Chaplain with the Fairfield County Sheriffs Department of Connecticut, religious service provider at the New Haven Correctional Center, Associate Minister of Mission Good Shepherd Church, Inc. Milford, CT; Vice President of the Third Stone Ridge Co-op Board of Directors, The Bridgeport Republican Town Committee; Justice of the Peace in the City of Bridgeport, a former Vice President of the South End Community Center in Bridgeport and as an instructor of the Royal Rangers instructing boys and men in religious and moral values.

In 1997 **Governor John G. Rowland** appointed Mr. Garcia to the Commission and re-appointed him in 1999 and 2002. Mr. Garcia has continually served the Commission since he was appointed to the Commission. In 2005 he was re-appointed by **Governor M. Jodi Rell**.

---

## Carlos Alvarez, Treasurer



**(Arts and Culture)** - a native of Cuba has a long successful history as an entrepreneur and manager of two medical based businesses that provide financial success and employment in the community. Carlos has solid skills in financial management, general business operations and human resources. Carlos has a long history of community involvement. He is fully Bilingual in Spanish and English and has strong negotiation skills and strengths in organizational management. He is the current owner and Chief Operating Officer of Evis Respiratory Services and Medical Equipment based in Hartford, CT. Carlos is an executive board member of the

Spanish American Merchants Association as well as a Director for Hartford Youth's Scholars Foundation. He resides in West Hartford with his wife and two children.

He was appointed to the Commission by the **Senate Minority Leader Louis C. DeLuca** in March of 2005.

---

## Norma Rodriguez-Reyes, Secretary



**(Public Citizen)** Norma has been a resident of New Haven since the age of 5. Although having very humble beginnings her family always believed that education and hard work is the key to success. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Connecticut with a major in Spanish and a minor in Biology. She has 3 sons: Tomás, a UCONN graduate, Andre a Quinnipiac University graduate, and Juan Carlos, who is in the U.S. Air force currently stationed in New Mexico. For the past 7 years she has owned La Voz Hispana de Connecticut, Connecticut's largest Spanish-language newsweekly circulating throughout the 9 cities with the highest concentration of Latinos. This Spanish newspaper speaks to over 125,000

consumers per publication. She has extensive experience in working with Senior Citizens as she was the Director of the Atwater Senior Center of City of New Haven for approximately 25 years where she planned, organized, directed, and controlled programs and services for over 1,200 Senior Citizens in the Fair Haven area of the City of New Haven. She is a Vice-Chair of the New Haven Democratic Committee and was the first Hispanic as a State Central Committee Member from 1984-1988. She is also a certified moderator and a former Assistant Registrar for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. Norma's community involvement is widespread. From 1995-1997 she served as a member of the Board of Directors for LULAC Headstart, a program that focuses on the educational needs of infants to 4 years old. She served as a Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Latino Youth Development, an organization with programs geared toward Latino youth and their families. She has coordinated fund raising events to give scholarships to students entering colleges and universities through the Star of Jacob Scholarship Fund. Presently Norma mentors an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Saint Rose School at Yale New Haven Hospital and serves as a board member for SAMA, the Spanish American Merchants Association.

Ms. Rodríguez-Reyes was appointed to the Commission in 2003 and reappointed in 2005 by **Senate Majority Leader Martin M. Looney**.

## Abner Burgos - Rodriguez, Commissioner



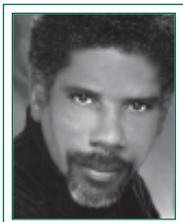
(**Environment**) of Danbury. Born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and raised on the lower east side of Manhattan in New York City, Abner Burgos-Rodríguez has been a resident of Danbury Connecticut for almost nineteen years. He and wife of twenty-nine years, Diana Burgos, raised two children, the late Eulalio Burgos and Maya Burgos. Together, they shepherded their two children through high school and college. He holds a Bachelors Degree from the State University of New York at Old Westbury. Abner has been a marketing professional for over twenty-five years in the Petroleum Industry. He has been at Standard Petroleum Company, a wholesale gasoline distributor based out of Bridgeport, Connecticut for the past fifteen years. He is currently a member of the following organizations: Board of Directors of the Latino Scholarship Fund of Greater Danbury (Current Chair); Concerned Black Men of Action for Youth of Danbury; Corporator of Union Savings Bank, Danbury Connecticut. The following are some of the organizations and activities Mr. Burgos-Rodríguez has been involved in the recent past:

• Member of the Danbury Board of Education  
• Member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education  
• Member of the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Western Connecticut  
• Junior Achievement Counselor  
• Co-Chair of the Regional Forum for Improvement of Educational Quality & Diversity  
• Danbury Republican Town Committee  
• Member of the Land Use Committee of the Danbury Board of Education  
• Foster Parent to two children during the 1990's

- Member of the Danbury Board of Education
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
- Member of the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Western Connecticut
- Junior Achievement Counselor
- Co-Chair of the Regional Forum for Improvement of Educational Quality & Diversity
- Danbury Republican Town Committee
- Member of the Land Use Committee of the Danbury Board of Education
- Foster Parent to two children during the 1990's

He was appointed to the Commission by the **Senate Republican Leader Louis C. DeLuca** in December 2003 and reappointed in 2005.

## Pablo Rivera, Commissioner



(**Public Safety**) Born in Santurce, Puerto Rico. Pablo Rivera has been a resident of Waterbury, Connecticut for almost twenty-two years. He and his wife Nancy M. Rivera are raising their 3 children, Joshua, Jonathan and Melitza. Mr. Rivera holds a Bachelors Degree in Human Services from Springfield College, and a Masters in Education from Cambridge College.

Currently Mr. Rivera is employed by the Human Resources Agency of New Britain. Mr. Rivera had been a Family Intervention Strategist for The Early Childhood Education Program for over ten years in the Waterbury Public Schools, as well as a Spanish Teacher for Adult Education Program. He also worked at United Way/Infoline as a counselor, and The Head Start Program as a Family Social Service Worker. Mr. Rivera is also serving as a Consultant for The W.Y.S. School Readiness Program and Y.M.C.A. Readiness Program.

Mr. Rivera currently is a member of the following organizations:

- National Member of the Board of Directors Title 1 Program
- State Member of the Board of Director Title 1 Program
- Parent As a Teacher Program by State of Connecticut
- South End Neighborhood Association

*The Following are some of the organizations and activities he has been involved with in the recent past:*

- Member of the Naugatuck Valley Community Development
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Spanish Action Council
- Member of the Board of Directors Nilsa Marrero Cooperative
- Member of the Board of Hispanic Student Union at Naugatuck Valley College
- Member of the Board New Opportunity for Waterbury

He was appointed to the Commission in October 2005 by **James A. Amann, Speaker of the House of Representatives.**

## Maritza Tirú, Commissioner

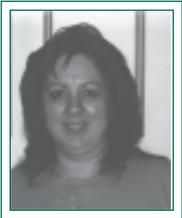


**(Education)** of Waterbury, is the Director of Career Development and Placement at Naugatuck Valley Community-Technical College in Waterbury. She has taught English as a Second Language at the college. She has a Master's Degree from the University of Connecticut. Ms. Tirú is well known in the community and is very involved in many local organizations. These include: the Chamber of Commerce – Waterbury Leadership Program, Community Vision for Waterbury, Vice-Chair of the Educational Task Force, Literacy Volunteers of America – Waterbury Chapter, Mayor's Task Force Against Drugs, Spanish Action Council – Past President 1992-1994, School-Based Health Center Planning Committee, American Red Cross – Waterbury Chapter. Waterbury PRIDE-N.A.A.C.P., CT Trails Girls Scout Council, Get Them Off Program (GTOP), Minority Empowerment Coalition – Vice-President, Northwest Collaboration Committee, UCONN Advisory Board, Waterbury Area Services Team, The Displaced Homemaker Program Advisory Board and Youth Advocacy Association of Greater Waterbury. Ms. Tirú was recently selected to serve a two-year term to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She is also the student advisor to the Black Student Union and the Hispanic Student Union at the college.

Ms. Tirú was appointed to the Commission originally in 1995, reappointed in 1996, and reappointed again in 1999 by former **Governor John G. Rowland** and once again in 2003 by **Governor M. Jodi Rell**.

---

## Sonia Ayala, Commissioner



**(Housing)** Born in Corozal, Puerto Rico, Sonia was the third child of twelve children born to Francisca Pacheco Rivera and Ignacio Pacheco Figueroa. Sonia came to Hartford in 1959 at the age of five, with both parents and four sisters. The family then moved to New York in 1965 and came back to Hartford, CT in 1968. Sonia has raised five children, two boys and three girls as a single parent and currently has eleven grandchildren. Sonia went to Hartford Public Schools and moved to Massachusetts where she graduated from Broms Beauty Academy and Broms Barber Academy. She taught Barber school briefly and went on to becoming a salon owner.

While growing up, Sonia lived in apartment buildings where the owners were absentee landlords and unresponsive to the needs of the tenants. Living with no heat, no hot water, roach and rat infested properties, she knew that she had to get involved. Sonia became involved in housing issues and soon after became a member of the West End Civic Association, also known as W.E.C.A. There, she has served as an advocate and co-chair for the housing committee since 1999. As co chair of the W.E.C.A. Housing Committee, Sonia has worked hard with city officials and the state attorney's office to target problem properties. Sonia has worked on legislation to pass a bill called The Landlord Identification Bill. Thus, preventing property owners to hide behind a post office box. Sonia has worked on legislation to pass a bill called The Heat Surcharge Bill. Sonia goes to Washington DC to the National People Conferences once a year to better inform herself if issues people are facing in other states, such as; housing, community policing, racial profiling, predatory lenders, the community reinvestment act and abandoned properties. Sonia has also served on the NRZ board in the Parkville neighborhood from August of 2000 to March of 2004. Also Sonia served as co-chair of the governance board to the Breakthrough Charter School from 1998 to 2003 where this school became a Magnet school.

Commissioner Ayala was originally appointed to the Commission on February 1, 2003 by then **Speaker of the House Moria K. Lyons** and subsequently by the **New Speaker of the House James A. Amann**.

---

## Luis A. Menendez, Commissioner



**(Public Citizen)** of Hartford, was born in Havana, Cuba. In 1966 Mr. Melendez fled Cuba with other members of his family and was then joined in the United States by his father in 1969. After graduating from Penney High School in East Hartford he continued his education in Manchester Community College and Central Connecticut State University where he received his degree in Business Administration. Mr. Menendez is now employed in his family business, *GLTU Company Cabinet Distributors*. Mr. Menendez plays an active role in the Hartford Community in volunteering for many political functions as well as being a board member of SAMA, The Spanish

Merchants Association. He is most proud of his wonderful family, his spouse Gladie and his two lovely daughters Vanessa and Cristina.

He was appointed to the Commission in 2003 and later in 2005 by **House Majority Leader Robert M. Ward**.

---

## Alcides Ortiz, Commissioner



**(Transportation)** of Hartford, was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He has lived in Hartford for over 30 years. After graduating from Hartford Public High School, he maintained a full time job as a machinist while attending Capitol Community College where he studied Business Management. He is currently the Supervisor of Training at CTTRANSIT. When not at work during the summer months Mr. Ortiz spends most of his time coaching baseball. Mr. Ortiz is a certified Transit Ambassador Facilitator and has been certified as an instructor by the Transportation Safety Institute of the U.S. Transportation Administration.

He was appointed to the Commission in 2003 and reappointed in 2005 by **House Majority Leader, Robert M. Ward**.

---

## Ivette Servera, Commissioner

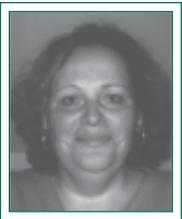


(**Small Business and Economic Development**) of Farmington, works for the State of Connecticut Judicial Department, Adult Probation, at the Bristol office. She attended Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with a minor in Sociology. Ms. Servera is a member of many community organizations including: past President of Handicapped Children of Puerto Rico, Bridgeport; La Danza, Bridgeport; Executive Board of Boys Scouts; President of La Casa De Puerto Rico; Leadership Greater Hartford -Marketing and Education Committees; 2nd President of Hartford Lions Club; ASPIRA Hartford effort; Hispanic Journalists Association; Connecticut Probation and Parole Association; and Republican Hispanic Women's Task Force. She volunteers with the American Red Cross on the Disaster Action Team and is a Community Liaison Volunteer. She is currently a board member with the United Way.

**Governor John G. Rowland** appointed Ms. Servera to LPRAC in 1999 and was reappointed in 2003 and in 2005 by **Governor M. Jodi Rell**.

---

## Ann E. Negrón, Commissioner



(**Children and Youth Development**) - Ann is a resident of Willimantic, CT. She is a 1982 graduate of the University of Connecticut with a BA in Education. She has extensive experience in working with the community in Willimantic, first as an educator teaching various courses from the GED Exam preparation to ESL in middle school and to Spanish as a Foreign Language for the Windham Public School system. For the past 12 years she has worked for the State Department of Children and Families in various capacities such as an Investigations Social Worker, Child Protective Services Social Worker, and a Social Work Supervisor. Ann is highly skilled as an interpreter/translator in English/Spanish, knowledge of community and statewide resources, special education programs, and counsels families, children and youth. In 1998 she received the University of Connecticut's Outstanding Alumni Award and in 1999 the State of Connecticut's Governor's Service Award. Ann is also the proud mother of her ten year-old son Joshua.

**Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams** appointed Ms. Negrón to the Commission in 2005.

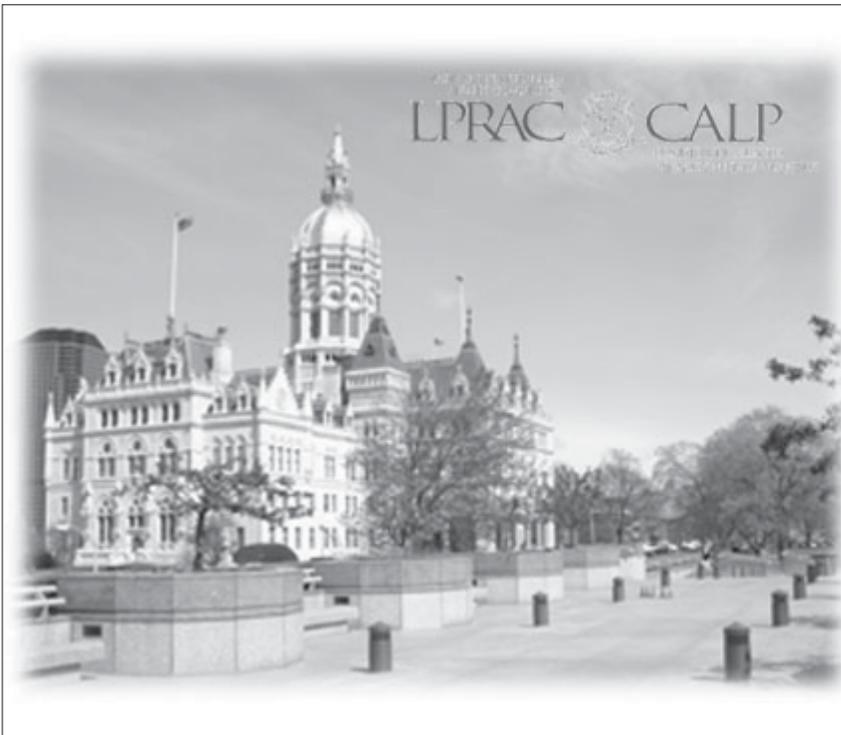
## Awilda (Saavedra) Reasco, Commissioner



(Education Development) - a native of San Germán Puerto Rico, has a B.A. in Psychology, CCSU and an M.S.W. from UCONN. She currently serves as director for Pre-Collegiate and Access Services, PAS at Central Connecticut State University. PAS houses Educational Opportunity Program and Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preperation Program. She was the first Hispanic woman to serve as the Site-Coordinator of the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness Preperation Program. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Reasco serves as an advisor to the Latino Association Student Organization and was the first Hispanic woman to

become a moderator to register voters in the City of New Britain. She frequently speaks at schools, universities, churches and community organizations on career topics and risk diversity issues. Ms. Reasco has received several awards including Outstanding Club Advisor Awards, Youth Service Award for the Diocese of Hartford, YWCA Women in Leadership Award, CONNCAP and EOP Service Award and the Young alumni at Central Connecticut State University.

She was appointed to the Commission in February 2005 by **Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams, Jr.**



### *Commissioner List*

*Ramón L. Arroyo, Chairman  
Manuel García, Vice-Chairman  
Carlos Alvarez, Treasurer  
Norma Rodríguez-Reyes, Secretary*

*Sonia Ayala  
Abner Burgos-Rodríguez  
Luis A. Menéndez  
Ann E. Negron  
Alcides Ortiz  
Awilda Reasco  
Pablo Rivera  
Ivette Servera  
Maritza Tirú*

# The Commission Shall:

## Legislative Mandates

1. Review and comment on any proposed state legislation and regulations that would affect the Latino and Puerto Rican populations in the state and provide to the members of the General Assembly copies of any such comments;
2. Advise and provide information to the Governor and the General Assembly on the state's policies concerning the Latino and Puerto Rican communities;
3. Advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the coordination and administration of state programs serving the Latino and Puerto Rican populations;
4. Maintain a liaison between the Latino and Puerto Rican communities and governmental entities, including, but not limited to, the General Assembly;
5. Encourage Latino and Puerto Rican representation at all levels of state government, including state boards and commissions, and maintain an accessible list of prospective appointees who are members of the Latino or Puerto Rican community;
6. Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of the Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state;
7. Work in consultation with the joint committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to legislative management for the purpose of establishing a plan of short-term and long-term initiatives based on the needs of the Latino and Puerto Rican community and;
8. Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report concerning its activities with any appropriate recommendations concerning the Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state and submit a copy of the report to the joint committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to legislative management, which committee shall distribute a copy of the report to each member of the General Assembly.

*(Excerpt from Section 2-120(c). Chapter 23d  
of the Connecticut General Statutes.)*

# Executive Director's Report



Dear Governor Rell:

Over the past few years the Latino community in our state of Connecticut has grown not only in numbers but in significant accomplishments whether its in the private or public sector. As the Executive Director of the LPRAC, I can tell you that I am more than proud to know that over the last eleven years this Commission has served as a catalyst for networking, action and the forming of a clearer, louder voice for the community in making our mission *"to coordinate and provide access to resources by developing and recommending to the Governor and Legislature policy for the advancement of the Latino and Puerto Rican Communities"*, a reality.

We have engaged the Legislature and community leaders, as we have continued to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level. As we stated in the past, we advocate for systems that are humane and fair in treating undocumented immigrants with dignity. Our Legislative Agenda included a broad range of policy issues affecting the State of Connecticut in which you will read more detail in our Associate Legislative Analysts' report in the following pages. Over the past eleven years we have learned about how, through our work, we have made a difference to many organizations and individuals seeking our assistance. This has given us a keen understanding of the multiple needs of our community and the importance of having a statewide agency that will advocate on their behalf. We Latino/as in Connecticut continue to develop skills, broaden our networks, organize and celebrate our Latino heritage. We are in our eighth year of celebrating our Annual Awards Banquet in which we awarded scholarships to our Youth Promesa Awardees in the presence of almost 1,300 people in attendance! This was by far our largest event showcasing the great economic, cultural, and societal contributions of Latinos in our state.

Another successful event that I am very proud of is, our United States Postal Service Stamp Exhibition. This is our second year of exhibiting these stamps in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, CT as we have acquired 20 stamps to enrich our collection in honoring and celebrating Hispanic people, places, and achievements that have been commemorated on postage stamps during the last 66 years. Our rich history is one that is often left out of our children's textbooks, therefore it is our responsibility to keep educating our youth in what has shaped this country. We continue to form alliances with other state agencies and non-profit organizations as we incorporate our commitment to make a better way of life in helping shape public policy for Latinos in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fernando Betancourt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'F'.

Fernando Betancourt,  
Executive Director

## VISTA - The Latino Impact on the American Landscape

The Public Information Officer of the LPRAC, Moraima Gutiérrez participated in a pilot program called "Vista" about the Latino life in the United States and the Latino impact on the nation's culture, economy and social-political trends. The show's purpose was to provide a television viewing option to Connecticut Latinos on topics and issues of relevance to them. Vista is a Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) *Connecting Our Communities* initiative made possible by a grant from the Aetna Foundation. By highlighting individual people and places, Vista paints a fascinating picture of Latino life in the United States. Vista also examines the changing health of Latino immigrants in the United States. Recent studies have shown that the longer Latino immigrants live in the United States the less healthy they become. CPTV and Borres Productions, the co-producers of Vista have worked together on other successful Latino programs.

## Toastmasters Distinguished Speakers Series

The LPRAC Bilingual Toastmasters Club held its annual 2006 Distinguished Speakers Series in which individuals who exhibit excellent speaking skills and leadership qualities are recognized. This year the first one was held on April 11th, 2006 with a Gubernatorial Debate among the Honorable Mayor of New Haven, John DeStefano and the Honorable Mayor of Stamford, Dannel P. Malloy. This first Gubernatorial Debate among Democratic candidates was widely covered by statewide media such as Univision, Channel 8, Channel 3, and CT-N. It was a really good opportunity for Latinos to hear what type of agenda these candidates had in mind in order to urge positive changes in our communities. For the second series that took place on April 25th, 2006 we had the Honorable Secretary of the State, Susan Bysiewicz and the Honorable Mayor of New Britain Timothy T. Stewart. These dignitaries as well as others in years prior have shown commitment to our community by participating in this Distinguished Speakers Series. The Toastmasters club officers Steven Samalot, Raúl A. Rodríguez, Yvette Ghannam, Ruth Espinoza and Bonnie Lebron continue to remain committed to the institution of LPRAC Toastmasters. The Commission as a whole is proud of the work these individuals do in maintaining quality and consistency in their programs. For more information about the LPRAC Bilingual Toastmasters Club please visit our website.

## Latinos With Disabilities Conference / Latinos Breaking Barriers

The LPRAC collaborated once again with the Department of Social Services Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and Padres Abriendo Puertas in June to redesign and present a follow-up conference to Latinos with Disabilities, which we initiated back in 2002. This conference came together as our Latino community saw a need for breaking barriers through multicultural awareness, an issue that is predominant in our community, especially for those in need of disability providers. The workshops presented on this day related to benefits, education, communication, self-advocacy and family dynamics with a focus on promoting multicultural awareness among individuals with disabilities and those who serve them. Our Special Projects Coordinator, Lucy Goicoechea-Hernandez served as Mistress of Ceremonies throughout the day. The keynote speaker Kathleen Martínez, Executive Director of the World Institutes on Disability provided the audience with statistics and information that proved to be very helpful to all that were present. Her main job is to increase employment opportunities for Latinos with disabilities in the United States through the WID's National Technical Assistance Center; this asset building project is designed to help reduce poverty among people with disabilities. This conference proved yet again to be a huge success and it was made possible thanks to the generosity of the State of Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Dept. of Mental Retardation, CCSU, Office of Protection and Advocacy, Padres Abriendo Puertas, Proyecto Vision and the LPRAC. We will continue to support this important mission as we realize that language is a boundary to be crossed and not a barrier to treatment.



Mrs. Lucy Hernandez representing the LPRAC at the conference.

## Special Projects Continued...

### Hispanic People and Events on United States Postal Stamps

The LPRAC, along with the United States Postal Service presented a historic exhibit for the second year at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, CT featuring Hispanic people and events on U.S. postage stamps during Hispanic Heritage month, September 2004. Our Public Information Officer, Moraima Gutiérrez, spearheaded this project along with Juan Luis Cruz, Hispanic Programs Specialist for the U.S.P.S. This was the second exhibit of its kind done in the United States and we were delighted to have taken the lead in honoring and celebrating Hispanic people and events on U.S. postage stamps. Our first year we exhibited ten stamps, in our second year we acquired ten more including the "Let's Dance/Bailemos" commemorative postage stamps honoring Merengue, Salsa, Cha-Cha-Cha and Mambo, using vivid colors and sinuous shapes to capture the energy generated by dancers moving to the beat. The stamps depict

dancers performing a different dance on each stamp. These dances and music originated in the Caribbean islands were first exposed to American soldiers during the war in Cuba in 1898. These dances achieved popularity in the United States during the 20th century, and have been continually performed throughout the U.S. by Latin American artists and amateurs alike. Since pre-colonial times, Hispanic people have contributed to the history and development of the Americas. When the Pilgrims were disembarking from the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, established cities

were expanding in Florida, the Southwest, and the Caribbean. Today, Hispanic people continue to influence every aspect of our society, it is for this reason that we highlight them, as unfortunately there are stories that are not taught to us in our schools therefore we as a whole have the responsibility of educating our community. We will continue to highlight Hispanic people that have made a difference to our culture and to our history. Once more, this exhibit was the first of its kind and moving forward we will continue bringing the legacy of our people alive by exhibiting and adding more stamps to our collection for all of Connecticut to view during Hispanic Heritage month at the Legislative Office Building.



Top Left: Juan Luis Cruz of the USPS & Mr. Betancourt of LPRAC, Top Right: Wilson Camelo of Mason y Bauza & Dr. Galo Rodríguez President of the Village for Families and Children. Bottom Left: Luis Caban Executive Director of SINA & Mrs. Gutiérrez of LPRAC. Bottom Right: Hector Cuadrado of the USPS & Mr. Betancourt.

## Eighth Annual Gala Awards Banquet



Top Left: Commissioners Reasco & Alvarez along with Community Service Awardee. Top Right: Commissioner Negrón, Promesa Youth Yesenia Figueroa and Chairman Arroyo. Left: Commissioners Rodríguez-Reyes, Arroyo, Ms. Marcia Bonito, CHASE recipient, Luis Chavez Brumell. Representatives Mantilla, & Martinez along with Latino Citizen of the Year, Chief Francisco Ortíz. Bottom Left: Dr. Joxel García, Deputy Director of the the Pan American Health Organization and Rep. Mantilla. Bottom Right: Jackie Guerrido from Univision and Commissioner Alvarez.

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission held its Eighth Annual Gala at the Foxwoods Casino in Ledyard, CT. The Banquet was very well-attended drawing 1,300 prominent Latino and non-Latino individuals from throughout the state. We also had the pleasure in hosting Ms. Jackie Guerrido, talent for UNIVISION on "Despierta America". Ms. Guerrido served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening.

We recognized the following individuals and organization for their outstanding achievements on behalf of the Latino community:

*Latino Citizens of the Year:*

**Aida Fernández Ramos**

**Chief Francisco Ortíz**

*Promesa Youth Award:*

**Yesenia Figueroa**

**Daniel Martínez**

**Luis Chavez-Brumell - recipient of scholarship on behalf of CHASE**

*Community Service Award:*

**Pentecostal Church of God International Movement**

*Keynote Speaker:*

**Joxel García, M.D., MBA**

**Deputy Director, Pan American Health Organization**

By recognizing these outstanding individuals and organizations, we were able to meet one of our State mandates to promote awareness and secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of our community. This was our very first year in which we awarded \$1,000 scholarships to our Youth Promesa Awardees.

## Dual Language Institute - Hartford Bilingual Education Program

The LPRAC joined forces once again with Hartford Public Schools Bilingual /Bicultural Program on June 29th and 30th for their Sixth Annual Dual Language Education in the New Millennium Summer Institute. The event was held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT with over 300 people in attendance. The emphasis on this program was letting educators know that the most successful program for English language learners is a Dual Language (two-way) program as research shows that knowing more than one language increases a person's thinking abilities thus making our children more competitive in the job market as we move into a global marketplace of employment. LPRAC is proud of supporting this initiative in Hartford, CT as we consider bilingualism a way of ensuring that all students receive a quality education and unlimited opportunities to succeed. This two day institute was advertised nationally and as a result, both days were well-attended and the conference rooms were filled to capacity. The key presenters were outstanding in their wide ranging knowledge of what a successful dual language program entails as well as in the manner in which they presented their information. The institute was attended by practitioners as well as administrators from school systems throughout the country.

## Democracy Works Roundtables : Reframing Democracy Series

Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the LPRAC actively participated in the **Democracy Works Roundtables - Voices of Democracy Series** that took place during the year. The first one took place on September 27, 2005 entitled *"The Latino Voice: Population, Electorate and Voters."* This discussion talked about the impact of the Latino voice in our democratic process. The second roundtable took place on March 21, 2006 entitled *"Democracy Unrealized: Challenges & Strategies for Increasing Representation of Women & People of Color in Leadership."* This public forum discussed trends in gubernatorial appointment patterns in the 50 states and Connecticut. The objective of this particular one was to identify strategies to change enduring patterns of underrepresentation. The last one took place on April 29th, this one was geared specifically toward youth entitled *"2nd Annual Youth and Democracy Forum"*. This roundtable geared toward high school students, parent, educators and community activists across Connecticut interested in learning more about opportunities to engage young people in our communities. These roundtables were all held at the State Capitol in Hartford, CT and the LPRAC was proud to co-sponsor these type of civic engagements.

## Public Forum - Jobs in Connecticut, Where are They?

In keeping with our promise to host a series of Public Forums throughout the State of Connecticut the LPRAC held a Public Forum on October 18th, 2005 at the John S. Martínez School in New Haven, CT to address the topic on employment. This forum was entitled "Learn where the Jobs in Connecticut are where they will be". The successful forum was spearheaded by Commissioner Norma Rodríguez-Reyes in which alliances were made with the City of New Haven Board of Education, Gateway Community College, Southern CT State University, Workforce Alliance/Private Industry Council and the Spanish American Merchants Association. We had over 100 people in our audience and received great media coverage by local newspapers as well as Fox 61 as they interviewed several dignitaries and students that were in attendance.



L to R: Bill Villano of Workforce Alliance, Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes, Angel Sierra of Hispana Vision & Moraima Gutiérrez of LPRAC

## Latino Money Management Conference

On June 2nd, 2006 the LPRAC along with Bank of America and our Office of the State Treasurer hosted the first of its kind Bilingual Money Management Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Cromwell, CT. This initiative came from an initial grant that was awarded to the LPRAC by Bank of America in collaboration with our Office of the State Treasurer to offer the Latino community in the state of Connecticut financial education. We were more than happy to respond by putting a think tank together of local community organizations such as Co-Opportunity Inc., ACCESS Agency, SAMA, The Village for Families and Children, CHFA, ACORN Housing, CT Puerto Rican Forum, CT Council Family Service Agencies, CT Association for Human Services, IRS, Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven and the Office of the Mayor, Hartford. We had an audience of about 250 people that was very diverse in ages as well as in ethnicity.

The ultimate goal of this initiative was to endeavor to educate low and moderate income families and individuals on savings, investment and financial planning and advisory services and strategies available to consumers from a wide range of corporate, private and public sectors. The agenda set for this day included welcoming remarks from Denise Nappier our State Treasurer for the State of Connecticut, Mayor Eddie Perez, Mayor of the City of Hartford and Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of LPRAC. Moraima Gutiérrez served as Mistress of Ceremonies and during the lunch hour we had a keynote speech delivered by Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, CNBC Anchor of "Worldwide Exchange". Mrs. Caruso-Cabrera was very accommodating to the diverse needs and questions of the audience present as she emphasized key points on the buying power of Latinos in the United States as well as touching on several issues regarding the economy of our audience's countries of origin.

There were eight workshops being offered during the day so that everyone in the audience would find a topic in their area/as of interest, these were:

*Getting Out of Debt / Repair Your Credit Score - Saliendo de Deudas/ Arreglar Sus Cuentas de Credito*  
*Plan for Retirement - Planifica tu Retiro*  
*College Planning - Planificar para la Universidad*  
*Preparing for Home Ownership - Preparate Para la Compra de tu Primera Casa*  
*Getting Started in Investing - Inversiones*  
*Estate Planning - Planificacion Basica sobre Herencia*  
*Your Insurance Needs - Determina Tus Necesidades de Seguros*  
*Budgeting 101 - Presupuestos*  
*Basic Banking - Conceptos Bancarios Basicos*

Due to the great success of this conference we expect to hold at least two smaller workshops on financial management in 2007 in different parts of the state.



Top: Mr. Oyanadel of LPRAC, Mayor Eddie Perez, Mr. Betancourt & Mrs. Gutiérrez. Left: Comm. Alvarez & Mrs. Caruso Cabrera. Right: State Treasurer Nappier & Mr. Betancourt. Left: event & display booth pictures. Bottom: Credit Repair Workshop

Education = future

Legislative Agenda

## End of Session Report Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission 2006 Regular Session

### Introduction

This document provides a summary of Legislation that the LPRAC staff followed during the 2006 Regular Session of the Connecticut General Assembly in compliance with the Commission's legislative mandate stipulated in section 2-120 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The list of bills that will be summarized on this report were guided in large part by the LPRAC's 2006 *Legislative Agenda* under the direction of the LPRAC's Executive Director and the Priorities and Legislation Committee.

### 2006 Regular Session Summary

The 2006 Regular Session ended on May 3rd, 2006, after having spent 60 days working on a broad range of policy issues affecting the State of Connecticut. Some of the most important areas that were not adopted into law this year based on the LPRAC's Legislative Agenda and the Commission's mandate included:

An attempt to pass a state low-income tax credit, In-state tuition for Connecticut immigrants, Failure to adopt universal pre-school legislation, & mandate that corporations provide health insurance.

The Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) also made significant adjustments to the State budget for the upcoming fiscal year of 2007. Some of those items included new funding for the Spanish American Merchants Association in Windham, Connecticut, and new funding for a broad range of

state agencies to combat trafficking of women and children in Connecticut. Moreover, the budget includes new funds to implement the recommendations of the Prison and Jail Overcrowding Commission, and continued monetary support for programs for people with AIDS, mental health services for youth offenders, HUSKY, SAGA, after school and Early Childhood programs (many of these programs have been supported by the LPRAC in the past).

At the federal level the LPRAC continues monitoring a historic reform on immigration, which may significantly impact Latino immigrants residing in the State of Connecticut and in the United States. Specifically the Commission spoke against HR 4437 – the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 – the LPRAC argued that the punitive provisions of HR 4437 would not significantly deter workers from venturing across the border in search for agricultural, construction, and other low paying jobs that are not available in their homelands. The LPRAC was also concerned how these provisions would impact people seeking asylum, or the public safety impact of this policy and the potential exploitation of people due to their legal status.



Commissioner Alvarez, Clarine Nardi Riddle, Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Lieberman, Commissioner Menéndez & Werner Oyanadel on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC April 10th, 2006 discussing Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Education = future

Legislative Agenda

The Commission, however, spoke in support of the McCain (R-AZ) & Kennedy (D-MA) bipartisan Comprehensive Immigration Reform. This proposal included a comprehensive agreement entitled the Agricultural Jobs Opportunity (AgJOBS) program enabling several hundred thousand H-2A guest workers and immigrant farm workers to obtain temporary immigration status with the possibility of becoming permanent residents of the U.S. and opportunities for earned legalization for the current population of undocumented immigrants living in the United States. More specifically, the LPRAC argued that immigration reform should also include a complete review of the visa issuance process for workers seeking labor in the U.S. The basis for this review is found on the belief that the number of visas available for workers able to meet the needs of American employers seems to be insufficient in several visa categories. As a result the demand for labor of undocumented immigrants increases. The LPRAC was also satisfied that several labor agreements, additional family based and worker visas for laborers were included in the Hagel (R-NE) – Martínez (R-FL) compromise. However, absent an in-depth study of the real need for “essential workers”, the LPRAC believes it was impossible to determine if the proposed amount of visa increases would lessen undocumented immigration. The LPRAC also had substantial concerns about Senate Bill 2611, which passed the Senate by a vote of 62 to 36. The LPRAC does not believe that the proposed legalization program, which separates immigrants in different categories, will be enforceable. The LPRAC is also concerned about the proposed restrictions of due process for refugees or people seeking asylum, or the negative

impact to the Latino community if the English-only amendment is adopted onto law.

### 2006 Legislative Agenda Results

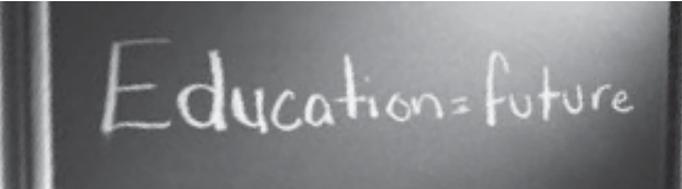
The following list summarizes all the testimony submitted by the LPRAC to the Connecticut General Assembly during the 2006 Legislative Session. This effort is in compliance with the 2006 LPRAC Legislative Agenda, which was prepared with approval of the Priorities and Legislation Committee and the endorsement of the LPRAC.



Mr. Betancourt testifying before the NAACP regarding the LPRAC's 2006 Legislative Agenda. Mr. Betancourt spoke passionately about the need for the NAACP and the Black and Latino Caucus to prioritize issues of education.

### Full Day Kindergarten & Universal Pre-school

The LPRAC proposed the implementation of a comprehensive education policy reform in Connecticut. The objective is to provide Connecticut lawmakers with legislative recommendations that can help them close the educational achievement gap between Latino students and their Caucasian counterparts. The



Education = future



Legislative Agenda

LPRAC also recommended that the CGA provide state funding for early childhood education programs (as proposed by Raised Bill Number 5517) and full day kindergarten (as recommended by Raised Bill Number 376). The LPRAC recommended to the Education Committee of the CGA to consider increasing school readiness programs for low-income children in urban cities and establish a loan forgiveness program for math and science teachers (as listed by Raised Bill Number 5519). Finally the LPRAC spoke in support of providing additional funding for reading programs for priority school districts (as highlighted by Raised Bill Number 407).



### **The Spanish American Merchants Association, Inc. (SAMA)**

Raised Bill Number 5086 was referred to the Commerce Committee of the CGA by State Representative Walter Pawelkiewicz, serving the 49th Assembly District of Windham, Connecticut. This bill, which the LPRAC supported, requested the amount of \$350,000.00 dollars for business development training in the town of Windham. This legislative effort was a collaborative agreement between the Windham Regional Community Council and SAMA. At the Commerce Committee Public hearing of February 23rd, 2006 the LPRAC helped move this bill forward by responding to questions from Connecticut lawmakers about 5086. Some of the questions asked from the staff of the LPRAC involved issues dealing with the labor force,

unemployment rate and other socio-economic characteristics for the City of Windham. The CGA adopted this proposal in a separate bill dealing with the State Budget (H.B. 5845, An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures and Revenues for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2006). The total amount provided for this effort was \$300,000.00 dollars.

### **Task Force on Trafficking of Persons**

The LPRAC testified in support of Raised Bill Number 153, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking of Persons. This collaboration began at the request of State Senator Andrea L. Stillman, who invited the LPRAC to participate in this study. The goal of the original study was to present a report with recommendations to the CGA for consideration in the 2004 Legislative Session. This legislative study determined that more information was required to review if there were women and their children falling prey to traffickers here in Connecticut, and as a result, the CGA adopted Special Act 04-08, which established the current interagency task force. The LPRAC designated Commissioner Eva Maldonado as our representative and received staff support from the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW).

As we continue researching this topic for the CGA, we spoke in support of enacting a state-level anti trafficking statute in order to define and criminalize human trafficking in state law. This statute will help the LPRAC and other researchers facilitate the data for ongoing study.

Education = future

Legislative Agenda

### **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

The LPRAC endorsed the idea of creating a state version of the federal earned income credit against the personal income tax (Senate Bill Number 147). The LPRAC argued to Connecticut lawmakers that Latino low-wage working families disproportionately pay higher taxes either by paying property taxes – if they own their homes, new cars, or sales taxes. In order to illustrate the Commission's position, the LPRAC asked legislators to consider an example given by Connecticut Voices for Children, which stated that a Connecticut family earning \$14,675 – an income near the Household Medium Income for Connecticut residents from Puerto Rico – each year owed nothing in state income tax and received nothing in tax refunds, while the same family in Vermont with a similar income received \$1,282 in tax refunds. These tax refunds would not only help these families pay off their debt or induce family savings, but they have the potential of stimulating Connecticut's local economies, which in turn is favorable to the State economy. The LPRAC also informed the CGA that as of mid-2006, nineteen states have implemented the state version of the federal EITC.

### **Nomination of Mercedes G. Alonzo to be a member of the Judicial Review Council, as an alternate attorney**

The LPRAC spoke in support of the Legislative nomination of Mercedes G. Alonzo, Esquire to be a member of the Judicial Review Council, as an alternate attorney. The hearing took place at the Legislative Office Building on February 23rd, 2006, and it was preceded by the co-chairpersons of the Executive & Legislative Nominations

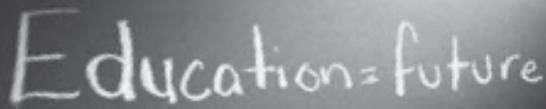
Committee, State Senator Martin M. Looney and State Representative Claire L. Janawski. At the hearing, the LPRAC highlighted attorney Alonzo's high degree of integrity, responsibility and leadership throughout her education and employment career. The LPRAC also indicated that attorney Alonzo was a volunteer at the LPRAC and continues to be involved in the community at large.

### **Predatory Lending**



The LPRAC spoke in support of Raised Bill number 5294, "An Act Concerning Predatory Lending". The Commission is on the record on the need to adopt

policies that can guarantee a fairer playing field for people purchasing their home. This is extremely important when only 31.4 percent of Latino households own their homes in Connecticut. The Connecticut General Assembly adopted Public Act 01-34 in 2001, which requires a lender to make public disclosures to prospective borrowers, and in 2002, Public Act 02-12 expanded the definition of prepaid charges and fine-tuned the 2001 law. This change places the State of Connecticut in-line with similar changes adopted in North Carolina, Georgia, Colorado, Maryland, New York, and Florida. Raised Bill 5294, if adopted, would have (1) prohibited mortgage brokers or lenders from advertising lock-in rates that ultimately change before closing, (2) require all mortgage loan



Education = future



Legislative Agenda



commitments to be signed at least five days in advance to closing, and (3) to require lenders or brokers to inform borrowers of all their legal rights at the time of submission of their

loan application (This bill died in the Banks Committee).

### No Child Left Behind Act

The LPRAC testified in support of Raised Bill number 5753, "An Act Concerning No Child Left Behind Act," which would have required the State Board of Education to develop procedures for dissolution and reconstitution of a school. The LPRAC recommended that in addition to the language already included in 5753, the Education Committee should also consider including the following language: "The State Department of Education will prepare a comprehensive plan of intervention for non-performing schools." The objective of our Commission's recommendation is to have the Department of Education prepare specific steps that can be given by the State to non-

performing schools in order to avoid their dissolution. Furthermore, this mandate can also result in additional data that can be distributed among State lawmakers on how progress is being made in non-performing schools before they reach the final point of dissolution (This bill died in the Education Committee).



### Health Care for Uninsured Children

The LPRAC testified in support of Raised Bill number 475, "An Act Concerning Revisions to the HUSKY Plan Part A and Part B." In specific, the LPRAC informed the Human Services Committee, among other things that, the HUSKY program provides health insurance coverage for about 212,000 children and 90,000 parents through HUSKY A (out of which 33% are Hispanic) and an additional 15,000 children in HUSKY B (out of which 15% are Hispanic). In 2001 the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), which is in charge of the administration of the HUSKY program allowed HUSKY applicants to declare their own incomes. In 2002 those regulations were changed. These changes, according to a recently released report, argues that the income declaration change makes it more difficult for recipients without formal employment, cooperative employers, or have limited English proficiency to provide the required documentation in order to

## E-MAIL ALERTS

If you are interested in receiving Legislative Updates via e-mail, please contact Werner Oyanadel at: [werner.oyanadel@cga.ct.gov](mailto:werner.oyanadel@cga.ct.gov)

Education = future

Legislative Agenda

obtain HUSKY for themselves and their children. This technical changes, in effect create unnecessary barriers that disenfranchise in large part the segment of the population that could really benefit from this State program. The LPRAC supports Raised Bill 475, as this bill if enacted by the Legislature and signature by the Governor, would restore the self-declaration of income in the HUSKY plan and appropriate additional funds to the Department of Social Services for the purpose of allowing the improvement of outreach activities of the HUSKY program.

**Nomination of the Honorable Antonio C. Robaina to be a Judge of the Superior Court and Michael J. Martínez to be a member of the Board of Trustees for the University of Connecticut.**

The Commission is on the record speaking in support of the re-appointment of the Honorable Antonio C. Robaina to the Superior Court (S.J. No. 21,) and the re-nomination of Michael J. Martínez of East Lyme to be a member of the Board of Trustees for the University of Connecticut.

#### **Joint Committee on Legislative Management Mandate**

The LPRAC forwarded a letter to the chairs of the Joint Committee on Legislative Management on February 21, 2006 to comply with Public Act 03-229, which amended section 2-120 of the Connecticut General Statutes letter (c) number (7) as follows: "[LPRAC] should work in consultation with the joint committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to legislative management for the purpose of establishing a plan of short-term and long-term initiatives based on the needs of the Latino and Puerto Rican community." We informed the committee the need for additional funds for early childhood education programs, and for a comprehensive education policy for urban settings as long term initiatives and presented the 07 Legislative Agenda for the short term initiatives.



#### **Educational Attainment**

- Early Child Education
- Chronic School Truancy Prevention
- No Child Left Behind and School Accountability
- Access to Post Secondary Education

#### **Economic Development**

- State Earned Income Tax Credit

#### **Democracy Issues**

- Election Day Registration (EDR)

#### **Health Care Access**

- Extend HUSKY eligibility

#### **Judicial Reform**

- Court Interpreters
- Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Judicial System
- Juvenile Justice Reform

#### **Housing Issues**

- Affordable Housing & Rental Assistance

#### **Immigration**

- Trafficking of Persons & the "Real ID Act"

Speaking engagements by Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the LPRAC



## Participation, Speaking Engagements & Presentations

Participated with State Representatives Aldarondo and González as well as the Vice Counsel of the Dominican Republic in the flag raising ceremony of the Dominican Republic

Toastmasters Annual Distinguished Speakers Series, moderated for our historical Gubernatorial Candidate Debate

Participated in a panel unveiling the Social Health Index Report for the State of Connecticut

Presenter for the Coalition for Children, Youth and Families

Moderator for Reflecting Connecticut - Reflejando A Connecticut: Boards & Commissions that was televised on March 21, 2006

Presented at Trinity College on Public Policy issues that the LPRAC is advocating for

Participated at a rally on Immigration Reform that took place in New Haven, CT

Participated in the Sixth Annual, Dual Language Two-Day Institute

Presented at the LPRAC Public Forum held in New Haven, CT, discussing where the jobs are for Latino youth.

Guest on Adelante, a TV program run by NBC Channel 30 to discuss the LPRAC.

Presented with the Advocacy Institute on various occasions

Participated at the Latino Expo at the Hartford Convention Center

Participated at the East Coast Latino Voting Rights Act Reauthorization strategy meeting sponsored by the National Institute for Latino Policy

Speaker on panel entitled "Hartford in the 40 year plan", that was televised throughout the Hartford region

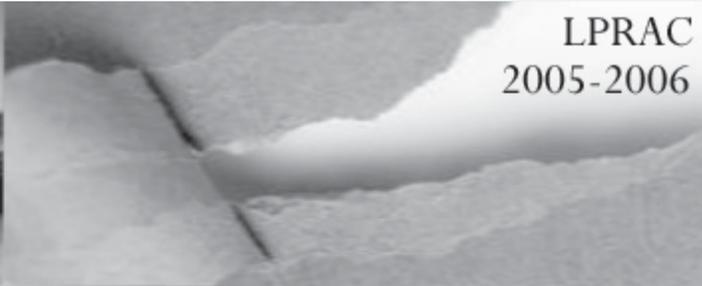
Participated at a Press Conference with U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Presented to students from the University of Puerto Rico, P.R.

Panelist of the Latin American Immigration and Human Rights Conference at UCONN on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

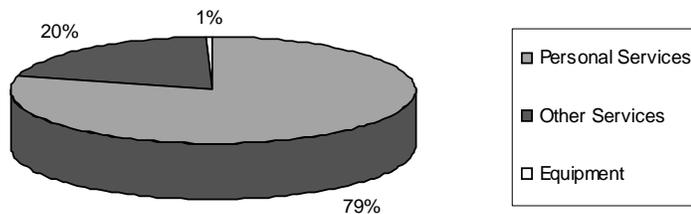
Speaker for Latino Money Management Conference

# The Budget 2005 - 2006



Item	Appropriated
Personal Services	\$363,692
Other Services*	\$93,631
Equipment	\$2,500
Total	\$459,823

## Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission Budget 2005 - 2006



\* *Other Services includes contracted services as well as staff development and printing costs.*

# The Staff



LPRAC Staff from Left to Right: Clarisa Cardone Senior Legislative Secretary; Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director; Moraima Gutierrez, Public Information Officer, Werner Oyanadel, Associate Legislative Analyst; and Lucy Goicoechea-Hernandez, Special Projects Coordinator/Grants Writer.



## *LATINO & PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION TOASTMASTERS CLUB*



Invites you to attend the only bilingual communications skills building organization in the state.

The Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission Toastmasters Club will help you develop your bilingual communications skills in either English or Spanish through multiple roles, speeches and competitions.

For further information, please call us at:  
**(860) 240-8330.**

## Committees of the Commission

The following committees meet at least quarterly in order to undertake the various assignments that culminate in the accomplishment of the work of the Agency:

### Executive

Article VIII of the By laws  
This committee meets monthly

### Budget

Article IX (e) of the By Laws  
This committee meets every month

### Procedures & Personnel

Article IX (d) of the By Laws  
Meets only if requested by the Commission

### Talent Bank

Article IX (b) of the By Laws  
Meets only if requested by the Commission

### Priorities and Legislation

Article IX (a) of the By Laws  
Meets on a monthly basis

### Public Information & Education

Article IX (c) of the By Laws  
Meets only if requested by the Commission

### Special Projects

Article IX (f) of the By Laws

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

COMMISSION MEETINGS  
ARE HELD EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH AT THE  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM  
2600  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
5:30 PM

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO ADD TO OUR  
TALENT BANK AND WE ASK THAT IF YOU ARE  
NOT ALREADY LISTED, PLEASE CONTACT OUR  
OFFICE TO FIND OUT HOW YOUR NAME CAN  
BE PART OF OUR LIST. THIS DATABASE IS HELPFUL  
IN GENERATING CANDIDATES TO SERVE  
ON STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

*This report was prepared by*

*Moraima Gutiérrez  
Werner Oyanadel*

*Graphic Design by*

*Werner Oyanadel*

*Photography by*

*Moraima Gutiérrez  
Werner Oyanadel*

*Editing*

*Fernando Betancourt*

*Printing*

*AM Lithography Corporation  
1-(800)-582-6605*

*Approved by the LPRAC Board on December of 2006*







The Commission meets on the third Wednesday of every month except in August.

**Connecticut General Assembly's  
Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission  
18-20 Trinity Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
860-240-8330(Office)  
860-240-0315(Fax)  
[www.cga.ct.gov/lprac](http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac)**