



**State of Connecticut**  
**Latino and Puerto Rican**  
**Affairs Commission**

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*Francisco O. Cuín*

*Dr. Sonia B. Manjon*

*Lourdes E. Montalvo*

*Juan M. Pérez*

*Norma Rodríguez-Reyes*

*Eugene M. Salorio*

*Danny Torres*

**Acting Executive Director**

*Werner Oyanadel*

**Special Projects Director/  
Grants Writer**

*Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández*

**Senior Legislative Secretary**

*Clarisa Cardone*

**MINUTES**  
**LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting**  
**April 20, 2011**  
**Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut**  
**5:45 pm**

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Hon. Migdalia Castro, Isafas T. Díaz, Esq., Carlos Candal, Esq., Richard A. Cruz, Francisco Cuín, Enrique Marcano, Sr., Ed Rodríguez and Eugene M. Salorio
Commissioners on phone:	Juan M. Pérez, Norma Rodríguez Reyes and Danny Torres
Commissioners Absent:	Yolanda Castillo, Dr. Sonia B. Manjon, Lourdes E. Montalvo and Maritza Tirú
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director and Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary

**Tape 1A**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** asked Mrs. Cardone to do the roll call as Commissioner Maritza Tirú, Secretary of the Board was absent. Quorum was not established yet.

**Public Participation:**

Ms. Sonia P. Ayala announced that the Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission will be awarded the Community Service Award from the Hartford Multinational Lions Club for their efforts related to the LPRAC Birth Certificate Campaign and scholarships given by LPRAC to the Latino youth. The official celebration will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hartford in East Hartford, CT. The cost is \$45.00 a person, \$80.00 per couple and LPRAC is receiving two complimentary tickets.

**Motion made to suspend the regular order of meeting by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion made that the LPRAC pay for all the Commissioners that would like to attend and a friendly amendment made that LPRAC pay for all staff too by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes and seconded by Commissioners Pérez and Cruz.**

**Ms. Ayala** asked if the staff can be included too and both Commissioners Rodríguez-Reyes and Pérez agreed.

**Approved unanimously.**

**Motion made to return to the meeting by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Approved unanimously.**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** asked the Borinqueneers to introduce themselves.

**Mr. Daniel García**, introduced himself to the LPRAC as a member of the Borinqueneers Motorcycle Club. They are here to raise awareness for a Borinqueneers monument to honor Puerto Rican soldiers who fought during the Korean War. State Representative Robert Sanchez encouraged members of the club to officially ask LPRAC to write a letter to help support this cause to try to erect the monument in Hartford. Mr. Garcia brought with him US Army Sgt. (Ret.) Dolores Nieves and Sgt. (Ret.) Celestino Cordova to speak about their experiences during the Korean War.

**Commissioner Candal, Esq.** came in at 6:04 p.m.

**Commissioner Marcano, Sr.** came in at 6:08 p.m.

**Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes** recommended that being that Celestino Cordova is from New Haven we should consider some place in New Haven and since there is a Puerto Rican Monument in Hartford already, and New Haven being in the middle of the state, would be a much better location and we have a lot of people that would be very friendly towards a monument of that caliber in our city.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** asked how do the members of the Borenequeers Club find the members of the infantry? Is there a local VFW? He mentioned for the record that his uncle, Edwin Díaz, was in the Korean War and he is still alive.

**Ms. Lourdes Pérez** said that they are in touch with Noemi Figueroa Soulet when she was finishing her documentary, The Borinqueneers. Through her they were able to get the list of some members that were here in Connecticut.

**Commissioner Rodríguez** came in at 6:16 p.m.

**Commissioner Arroyo** asked if the Borenequeers Club is doing any kind of fund raising to erect the monument. He knows this project is going to need money. He was involved with the Puerto Rican Family monument previously mentioned by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes and right now it is at the Learning Corridor in Hartford, CT. Do you have an estimation of what it will cost to have it built?

**Ms. Lourdes Pérez** said right now the Borinqueneers Club is proposing a plaque standing on a pedestal with a bench around it. They have their sister chapter in Florida that has already done one. They raised all their funds from private fundraisers. The actual plaque costs \$1,500 and the park actually erected the pedestal so there were certain dimensions they had to follow. The Borinqueneers Club wants to follow the Florida model. A plaque in bronze would be much more feasible and since we are in Hartford and the Borinqueneers Motorcycle Club was founded here in Hartford they recommend placing the monument at the Minuteman Park. They already allocated a piece of land for them and they just have to draft a letter and send it out to the Legislature.

**Commissioner Cruz** congratulated them and said that when they are ready to go around the State, the City of Bridgeport has a war memorial and recommended that the Borinqueneers Club contact him if they need anything in Bridgeport.

**Commissioner Cuin** said he knew about their efforts by information he received from State Representative Robert Sanchez. He is very proud of them and is willing to help in whatever they need and to support the project.

**Mr. Daniel García** asked if he can count on the commission to write a letter of support. If LPRAC is agreeable to do so they need it by Monday, April 25, 2011.

**Motion made to prepare a letter to support the Borinqueneers Motorcycle Club by Commissioner Cuin and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Approved unanimously.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion made to approve the minutes of March 16, 2011 by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Approved unanimously.**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** updated the LPRAC as follows:

1. The Second Latino Advocacy Day that was held on Wednesday, March 30, 2011. He said it was a huge success and the LOB had many people in attendance from all over the state. Present was the Governor of Connecticut and many elected officials from the Connecticut General Assembly. Representatives González and Candelaria were both ill. Speaker of the House Chris Donovan was present and Rep. González's intern on her behalf, Angel Moralez. Senator Harp, Co-Chair of the Appropriations Committee spoke very highly of the work performed by the LPRAC and the Latino non-profit agencies of the state of Connecticut.
2. On the In-State Tuition Bill, it passed the Higher Education Committee by a vote of 11 to 8.
3. Mr. Oyanadel, LPRAC's Acting Executive Director was invited by the Embassy of Mexico to a reception to honor the Honorable Bill Richardson, former Governor of the State of New Mexico and Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr., President and CEO of the US Hispanic Leadership Institute for their contributions in support of the Mexican-American communities in the U.S. He will be traveling, May 4, 2011 to the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C. He will be paying for the flight and for the overnight stay therefore there will be no cost to the state.
4. The Amarante's contract was finalized by OLM on April 14, 2011 and is on its way for final signatures. OLM is also reviewing the contract for the Golf Tournament.
5. The LPRAC staff and Commissioners are much honored to inform everyone that Commissioner Lourdes Montalvo received the *2011 Latin American Community Service Award* given by Eastern CT ST Univ. &
6. LPRAC also purchased a beautiful award for Dr. Isnoel Rios for his contributions to the empowerment of the Latino & Puerto Rican Community in the State of CT dated April 29, 2011 and will be presented on that date at UCONN in Storrs by Commissioner Pérez.

**Motion made to approve the Chairperson's report by Commissioner Cuin and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo.**

**Commissioner Rodríguez** mentioned that she heard Governor Molloy speak on National Public Radio (NPR) in support of the in-state tuition bill.

**Approved unanimously.**

#### **ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Tabled as it was covered in the Chairperson's Report.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Commissioner Cruz, Chairman of this committee** said the committee is coordinating a forum on redistricting from the Latino perspective. A date has not been set yet as they are waiting to hear from several elected officials and guests. The proposed budget for this event is about \$2,500 for a continental breakfast, the travel expenses of our Keynote Speaker as well as invitations, first by email and then by regular mail. The Committee is trying to get at least 100 people attend.

**Commissioner Castro** came in at 6:43 p.m.

**Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Castro.**

### **Discussion:**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** spoke in support of the Public Information Committees efforts.

**Honorable Commissioner Castro** agreed with Chairman Díaz and Commissioner Cruz and stated the need to have more Latinos involved in these conversations and stated that the participation of the Latino community in these informational forums is crucial.

**Commissioner Cruz** said that one of their goals that may arise from this informational and non partisan forum is the need to create a Community Redistricting Equity Task Force which shall include the voices of diverse peoples interested in learning about the redistricting process.

**Honorable Commissioner Castro** asked if the LPRAC is thinking of a partnership with other organizations that also want to be involved in the redistricting process.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** responded that he would prefer for LPRAC to host this event independently from other agencies because there is such a narrow window of time to coordinate this event that it is better that we plan this just on our own.

**Commissioner Cruz** said that the plan is to invite many Latino leaders from around Connecticut and stated that Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Institute at UCONN already agreed to be our co-sponsor and that the Institute had already provided members of the Committee with resources for the development of this event.

**Approved unanimously.**

## **PRIORITIES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Commissioner Candal, Esq., Chairperson for the Priorities and Legislation Committee** reported that their committee also met during the month to discuss the status of certain bills including four that we as a committee as well as a commission looked to focus on and is pleased to state that they've made some progress. For instance, the in-state tuition bill passed the Higher Education Committee by a vote of 11 to 8 and the Office of Fiscal Analysis wrote an excellent fiscal note saying the bill will cost the state no money. Another focus was the racial profiling bill and our legislative efforts to close the achievement gap. The Legislature took into account the information that resulted from the form their Legislative Roundtable on Education Reform and Results Based Accountability Turn the Curve Sessions on Education. Furthermore, Commissioner Candal suggested that the LPRAC host a forum and conduct research on the Public Safety and Economic benefits of having undocumented immigrants in the state of Connecticut to be allowed to obtain a Connecticut Driver's License.

**Motion to approve the Priorities and Legislation Committee Report by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioners Rodríguez and Castro.**

**Commissioner Castro** spoke in support of Commissioner Candal's recommendation to conduct research/forum on driver licenses to immigrants and spoke about the potential benefits for the insurance industry, taxes and public safety benefits if the Connecticut General Assembly were to pass a law allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain driver licenses.

**Commissioner Arroyo** mentioned that State Representative González tried to pass a bill a few year go to create a new state insurance plan so that individuals can insure their cars at a lower rate to the plans sold in the private sector. The bill did not pass but she is going to try to bring it again.

**Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes** suggested that the Committee perform a comparative analysis on this subject to learn what other state that passed similar laws are doing and the effects of such legislation to their local economy.

**Approved unanimously.**

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Vice Chairman Marcano, Sr.** reported the following information:

1. There was a meeting on April 13, 2011. Committee discussed the OLM meeting of April 5 with the Board Chairman on the phone and decided to forward a memorandum to OLM regarding manner in which a staff interacted with LPRAC staff. The Board Chair was going to review the memo written by LPRAC staff and discuss any changes with them and forward it to John Harnick's attention. LPRAC Chairman and Lucia Goicoechea Hernández have not been able to review memo together therefore it has not been finalized;
2. OLM has asked for the specifications on the golf tournament and LPRAC staff responded accordingly;
3. Scholarship nominations have been received and as of today, there have only been 3 received. We need to keep promoting the scholarships. We have not received any nominations for the Latino/a Citizens nor for the Community Service Award.
4. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribute to Hispanic Veterans paperwork has been sent to OLM and all requisitions are placed. We are expecting about 100 guests.
5. In fundraising we have received \$15,000 from Verizon and OLM will bill CHFA for an additional \$5,000. The Acting Director has approached Mass Mutual and feels comfortable that he will be able to generate a large contribution for the LPRAC scholarship awards.

**Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee Report made by Commissioner Cuin and seconded by Commissioner Castro.**

### **Discussion:**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** asked in regards to the Latino/a Citizen's award, can be given to somebody posthumously.

**Commissioner Cruz** answered that that question was never asked.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** said that has a worthy candidate that he was planning on nominating this year but he passed away over the summer.

**Commissioner Rodríguez** said that it is an issue of criteria, not whether they are alive.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** said that we should probably look into this.

**Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes** suggested that we announce our Scholarship prog. on the Latino Radio & TV.

**Commissioner Arroyo** agrees and said that if the Chairman would like to have him talk to some of the Spanish speaking stations, he can talk to several of them at no cost to LPRAC. He also said that he's not sure of Chanel 18 or 13 but they should be able to do something too.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

## **RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Commissioner Salorio, Co-Chair** apologized for being behind on this and have not gotten together this past month. Commissioner Castillo and he did meet the previous month. They discussed their subcommittees and Commissioner Montalvo agreed to work on the Health RBA Sub-Committee. Thanks to Mr. Oyanadel and Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández, they've followed up on Education and they've met with Marcus Rivera and Charles Venator Santiago.

## **OLD & NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion made for the LPRAC to give no more than \$400 for a booth at the Puerto Rican Parade on 6-5-11 with a friendly amendment to include Fairfield County for an additional \$400 made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion made for the Public Information Committee to continue to work on the Redistricting Forum, date to be announced once we have confirmations from our invited panelists and guest speaker, for up to \$2,500 by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Approved unanimously.**

**Commissioner Arroyo** said that even though he applauds and recognizes and acknowledges the individuals that are going to be there tomorrow during this picket situation in New Haven, he is very, very disappointed in a sense that the first Puerto Rican Latino Judge was sworn in the other day and there was not even one member from this organization, not staff or members in this swearing in ceremony.

**Motion made to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Clarisa Cardone  
Sr. Legislative Secretary, LPRAC