



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Acting Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

**Special Projects Director/
Grants Writer**

Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández

Senior Legislative Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES
LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting
December 21, 2011
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:32 p.m.

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

Tape 1A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked Commissioner Yolanda Castillo to do roll call. Quorum was established.

Public Participation: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of November 19, 2011 by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion approved as follows:

9 Yeas: Commissioners Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes, and Torres

2 Abstentions: Commissioners Arroyo and Castillo

4 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Marciano, Sr., Dr. Salorio and Tirú

Commissioner Salorio came in at 5:40 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON'S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. updated the LPRAC as follows:

1. Chairman Diaz and Mr. Oyanadel attended the Redistricting Commission meeting and stated that they did not get what they requested. They want to report to the Commission that LPRAC testified at all of the public hearings and we asked for our first Latino state senate district because of the large population of Latinos in Hartford and the borders of West Hartford and East Hartford. Unfortunately, the map that he saw and of course all the data isn't crunched yet, but we got more Wethersfield and we did not get the borders extended in West Hartford and East Hartford. We did not get as far as we fought our first Latino Senate Majority District. Chairman Diaz stated that due to the fact that the LPRAC is a state agency, we are not going to be able to pursue any litigation against the approved plan – Chairman Diaz said that litigation is something that is going to take place in the general community but not by LPRAC.
2. Both he and the Acting Executive Director, Werner Oyanadel met yesterday with attorneys from Washington, DC from the U.S. Justice Department regarding the racial profiling case taking place in East Haven. The manner in which it's going to be rectified depends on whether or not East Haven wants to cooperate amicable with the Justice Department. So the next step depends on what the Mayor and the Town Counsel wants to do in East Haven; if not, they have an old school avenue of filing a law suit but he highly doubts it will get that far.
3. Chairman Diaz also commended our Acting Executive Director, Werner Oyanadel for receiving the Latino de Oro Award in the area of politics by La Identidad Latina Newspaper.

Mr. Oyanadel added that the Governor of the State of Connecticut sent the LPRAC a letter asking us to work with him in the Education Reform Legislation that he will propose next year.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's/Executive Director's report by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioners Arroyo and Hon. Castro.

Discussion:

Commissioner Pérez announced and congratulated State Representative Minnie Gonzalez for being recently elected President of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislatures.

Commissioner Arroyo said that we are a state agency under the statute of the State of CT but it is also clear that this Commission is in the legislature to defend the interests of all the Latinos and Puerto Ricans in the State of CT. He is puzzled why this commission can not take charge into the redistricting process which basically many of us feels that it was disproportionately distributed in the State of CT where it minimized the impact of the Puerto Rican and Latino communities across the State. He feels that we should voice our displeasure on how this redistricting process took place because the fact is that we did not have a seat at that table. Basically we've been dictated on how our districts are going to function or how our districts are going to look like. We did not have the opportunity to be part of the subcommittee like 10 years ago.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that his comments are well taken. He then gave a little background on the position LPRAC took on the redistricting process. LPRAC testified at all the redistricting hearings, we held a forum on Redistricting, and met with legislative leaders about our agency's position on redistricting. When they reached an impasse and had an opportunity to put a 9th person, we advocated for Rep. Andres Ayala to be that 9th person. As a matter of fact the LPRAC considered a couple of people but time was of the essence. Rep. Minnie Gonzalez was out of the country and one other person considered by the LPRAC was too ill to get involved. However, the LPRAC recommendations were not accepted. Chairman Diaz recommended that LPRAC does not get involved any further because he doesn't want to give the state an immunities defense.

Commissioner Arroyo emphasized that this commission should at least be on the record telling the legislative leaders that we felt ignored, felt that basically they didn't take our community in regards to how they develop this type of plan. Moreover, he asked that LPRAC write a strong letter to the legislative leaders and state that as a commission we feel that that their decision created an injustice to our community.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that it works for him and that we will take it up in New Business and itemize the people we want to send the letters to.

Commissioner Castillo said that as you look at our new agency pamphlets (which are beautiful) it says that our agency is mandated to advise the Connecticut General Assembly and the Governor on public policies that foster progress in the Latino communities residing in Connecticut. We, as an agency, took the time to participate in the process to tell them what was going on politically and how we want to keep our people involved politically. The members of the Reapportionment Commission did not accept our recommendations; so we must write a letter to them and express our frustration and asked; how is that fostering progress in the Latino community if we don't have political power?

Commissioner Marciano, Sr. came in at 5:51 p.m.

Motion approved as follows:

12 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres

1 Abstention: Commissioner Marciano, Sr.

2 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq. and Tirú

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked to table all reports unless there are some action items.

Motion made to table all reports to next commission meeting by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioners Cruz. Motion approved as follows:

12 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marciano, Sr. Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres

0 Abstentions:

2 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq. and Tirú

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Rodríguez asked a request from everyone that if possible at all, when you are addressing or answering an email from the commission, if you just answer it to the person who is asking the question as opposed to copying everyone on every single email. He receives 500 emails a day.

Motion made to have LPRAC send letters to the Governor and all leaders about the displeasure on the redistricting policy by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioners Rodríguez and Cruz. Motion approved as follows:

12 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Honorable Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr. Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres

0 Abstentions

2 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq. and Tirú

Commissioner Pérez announced that once the Chairman sent the results of the Reapportionment Commission and sent him a picture of the map, the first thing he did was to send an email to Senator Don William, to the Governor and a few other majority leaders expressing his outrage for what they recommended and he encouraged everyone to do the same.

Commissioner Montalvo agrees with Commissioner Perez sentiment but disagrees with Commissioner Arroyo's statement about the Governor. She stated that for the first time in the history of Connecticut the Latino community has a governor that is actually working with the Latino community of our state.

Motion made to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. and seconded by Commissioner Salorio. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo
Secretary
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc