



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

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Carlos E. Candal, Esq.
Hon. Migdalia Castro
Francisco O. Cuin
Dr. Sonia B. Mañjon
Enrique Marcano, Sr.
Lourdes E. Montalvo
Juan M. Pérez
Ed Rodríguez
Norma Rodríguez-Reyes
Maritza Tirú
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
January 18, 2012
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:35 p.m.

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

Tape 1 A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked Commissioner Yolanda Castillo to do roll call. Quorum was established. He then tabled the Public Participation portion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of December 21, 2011 with a friendly amendment to adopt the minutes of February 16, 2011 by Commissioner Dr. Salorio and seconded by Commissioners Marcano, Sr. and Castro.

Mr. Oyanadel explained the reason for the need to approve the minutes of February 16, 2011. He stated that the LPRAC staff only had an audio tape of the proceedings on file because the LPRAC secretary was absent for a month on Family Medical Leave in February of 2011 but at the request of the auditors we have to have them transcribed and approved for the record.

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres
4 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Pérez and Tirú

CHAIRPERSON'S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced the new Committees Chair as recommended by the Executive Board and highlighted other information from a written report forwarded to all commissioners as follows:

1. For the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee – they appointed Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes;
2. For the Priorities & Legislation Committee – they kept Commissioner Attorney Candal present;
3. For the Special Projects Committee – they also kept Commissioner Pérez; and
4. For the Results Based Accountability Committee – they recommended Commissioner Cuin to Co-Chair the committee with Commissioner Montalvo as new Committee Chairs.
5. He attended a press conference spearheaded by State Representative Kelvin Roldan and other lawmakers on 01/04/12 asking the Governor and the legislature to reform the Alvin Penn Racial Anti-Profilng Act.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's/Executive Director's report by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio and Torres
4 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Pérez and Tirú

Commissioner Tirú came in at 6:05 p.m.

Public Participation:

Dr. Gladys Santiago-Tosado, former Director of the Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center (PRLACC) at UConn.

Dr. Santiago-Tosado informed the LPRAC that she was wrongfully dismissed from the University of Connecticut for reasons that were submitted to our agency in writing and asked the Commission for guidance how she should proceed.

Commissioner Montalvo spoke about the great work that Dr. Santiago-Tosado has done with the voter registration drives during Hispanic Heritage month and spoke about the great work that Dr. Santiago-Tosado was doing at UConn.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that from a procedural standpoint, we would have to do is defer this matter to the RBA subcommittee under the discrimination prevue and keep Dr. Santiago-Tosado informed of any updates accordingly.

Mr. Oyanadel advised Dr. Santiago-Tosado seek legal advice from a labor attorney. He believes that, from what she is testified today, she is protected from being terminated during this probation period and therefore she must seek legal aid. Secondly, he agreed with Commissioner Salorio that we should inquire from the University about the status of the Center.

Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes mentioned that we also need to inquire from UConn about the hostile environment in which the Latino professionals live there. It's like the racial profiling that's going on in East Haven. If you don't stop it, it will continue to grow. We need to let the University know that this has been brought to our attention and that we need to do something about the hostile environment in which Latinos are finding themselves in.

Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández said that Dr. Santiago-Tosado also has the recourse through the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities because they have a labor section. She totally agrees with all the commissioners who are saying we need to look into what the future of the center is and the hostility that is going on.

Note: The Commission heard from several students in support of Dr. Santiago-Tosado. First student is Victor A. Clausen Fernandez. Second student is Giovanni M. Miranda.

Tape 1 B

The third student who spoke is Sara Hodge and she also brought a letter from Lois Ramirez who could not attend the meeting. Last but not least, Professor Diana Rios, UConn, Home Department-Communications Sciences with a Joint Appointment in the Institute of Puerto Rican Studies. She also came to support Dr. Santiago-Tosado and to all Latinas & Latinos and Hispanics in Higher Education with PhDs.

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Cruz, former Chair for this committee said that the last order of business was our new pamphlets.

Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioner Castillo, and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes. Motion approved as follows:

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

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq. and Pérez

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Candal, Esq., Chair of this committee could not be here so we deferred the report to Commissioner Cruz.

Commissioner Cruz asked if the memorandum provided has the updates.

Mr. Oyanadel reported that there was an issue brought up from Commissioner Hon. Castro in reference to whether or not LPRAC wants to take a position regarding Secure Communities. The Priorities & Legislation Committee discussed this in committee and agreed to submit a recommendation to the LPRAC. The recommendation was included in your packets in writing. They received one additional question from Commissioner Castillo regarding the impact of the program in different states and in Connecticut and the response to that question is also submitted in the recommendations submitted in the report. He also wanted to highlight that after the committee conducted the research, the committee recommended that the Commission send a letter to the Governor of Connecticut asking him to "opt out" of the secure communities program. Mr. Oyanadel, also stated that the committee hosted a Fact Finding Hearing in reference to the research that the committee is conducting currently about the potential economic and public safety benefits of issuing drivers licenses to all immigrants in the State of Connecticut including undocumented immigrants.

Motion made to approve the Priorities & Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rodríguez said that the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce today had a Press Release where they stated that they are not going to require undocumented immigrants to leave the country so they can process their immigration papers but instead stay here while they adjust their immigration status.

Commissioner Castro came in at 6:50 p.m.

Commissioner Castro mentioned that there was an article released in the New Haven Register yesterday in regards to Secure Communities and what other states are doing. Commissioner Castro stated that other states are also revisiting the statistics of people deported and found out similar numbers as mentioned by the Acting Director and now they are going back and saying that they shouldn't be deporting them. Already states are doing this so our opportunity to send a message to "opt out" is really on target. She will forward the information to the Acting Executive Director.

Motion approved as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Tirú and Torres

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq. and Pérez

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Montalvo reported on behalf of Commissioner Pérez, Chairman of this Committee who is not present. She said that they met on the 17th of January, 2012 and discussed the Board/Staff Retreat scheduled for January 28, 2012. The committee also discussed the Awards Ceremony and they discussed the prices of what is going to be the advertisement rates. They also decided to encourage Commissioner Pérez to continue as Chair for this committee. Moreover, the committee discussed the Golf Tournament. Finally, she encouraged all Commissioners to please participate even if they don't know anything about golf.

Commissioner Cruz said that there weren't any actual responses to the proposals for proposals sent on our behalf by the Office of Legislative Management. When the dateline came and went, our Mr. Oyanadel met with the Director of OLM and we were told that we can get whoever we wanted. We are moving forward with last year's proposal by Traditions in Windsor, CT.

Mr. Oyanadel made the following corrections to Commissioner Cruz's statement:

1. He did not meet with the Director of OLM; and the statement that we can now get "whoever we wanted" is incorrect. OLM sent out a Request for Proposals on our behalf and there were no responses from any golf course in Connecticut. John Harnick from OLM sent us an email explaining this situation and asked us how we would like to proceed.

Commissioner Cruz said that this can be a major boost to our Scholarship Fund. We are looking to raise \$100,000 from this fundraiser and there significant evidence that we can reach this goal. It's going to take a lot of work; it's going to take a lot of time; we need a lot of volunteers to be involved in this process and we can make this happen in the next few months.

Commissioner Montalvo reported that we also discussed the RBA's. The next RBA is perhaps working with the Small Business and then after that going to the Education RBA. She spoke to Commissioner Rodríguez and she told him that she has some of the information that is needed for this RBA and that he and Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes can meet to get this RBA going for the month of February.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion approved as follows:

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

3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq. and Pérez

RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Castillo, Co-Chair of this Committee reported that we received another RBA with our speaker on Discrimination and she said that Chairman Díaz, Esq. had divided the RBA groups and different members will work on that. There is a lot of work to do under the subcommittees.

Mr. Oyanadel reported the following:

1. That the Diabetes and Obesity RBA Turn the Curve trainings which also were worked with the help of Commissioner Montalvo is almost finished. The documentation of the report has been collected and the information was already sent to the members that participated in that panel for validation purposes. Now the document will be sent to you;

2. At the staff retreat everyone will be getting the needed and required training on RBA; and
3. In your packets you have our Annual Report which was submitted in RBA format and we are proud to say that the LPRAC staff submitted the report in a timely manner as required by state law. He commended the Committee and the staff that prepared this document on behalf of the agency.

Commissioner Dr. Salorio, Co-Chair of this Committee wanted to commend Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández for the fantastic job preparing the annual report.

Motion made to approve the RBA Committee report by Commissioners Castillo and Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Salorio.

Discussion:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. recommended the following commissioner's names to work in the following RBA committees during 2012. Education we were thinking of Commissioners Maritza Tirú with Dr. Sonia Mañjon.

Tape 2 A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. (cont.) for Safety, Commissioners Enrique Marcano, Sr. and Danny Torres; for Self-Sufficiency, himself and Commissioner Ed Rodríguez, especially on the Minority Set-Aside; for Health, Commissioners Rick Cruz and Lourdes Montalvo and whoever else wants to get involved; and Discrimination, Commissioners Juan Pérez and Hon. Migdalia Castro and also Ramón L. Arroyo.

Motion approved as follows:

12 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres
3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq. and Pérez

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Motion made to adopt recommendation submitted in writing to authorize the LPRAC Chairman to send a letter to the Governor of Connecticut requesting him to opt out of the Secured Communities Program by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion approved as follows:

12 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Rodríguez-Reyes, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres
3 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq. and Pérez

Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes left at 7:15 p.m.

Motion made to conduct a Golf Tournament by Commissioners Dr. Mañjon and Dr. Salorio and seconded by Commissioners Montalvo and Tirú. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres
4 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Pérez and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to suspend meeting by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres
4 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Pérez and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to return to meeting by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres
4 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Pérez and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to adopt the changes recommended by the Special Projects Committee in reference to the Scholarship Award Event. We can through the letters of recommendations, the student's essay and so forth we can make a solid decision through our Commission as to who we can award these scholarships to by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Hon. Castro. Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres
4 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Pérez and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to authorize the RBA Discrimination Subcommittee to begin dealing on work with the Dr. Santiago Tosado issue with a friendly amendment to send a letter to the school stating that recent events have raised concern among some in the Latino Community at UConn about the future of the Center and about the University's commitment to openness, inclusion, diversity and accessibility for traditionally underrepresented groups by Commissioners Dr. Salorio and Montalvo and seconded by Commissioners Marcano, Sr. and Hon. Castro.

Tape 2 B

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

4 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Pérez and Rodríguez Reyes

Commissioner Montalvo spoke about the barber's bill. There will be a meeting on the 30th of January 2012 with the Mayor of Waterbury on this subject.

Motion made to suspend meeting by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Hon. Castro.

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

4 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Pérez and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to return to meeting by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Salorio.

Motion approved as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Castillo, Hon. Castro, Cruz, Cuin, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Rodríguez, Dr. Salorio, Tirú and Torres

4 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Candal, Esq., Pérez and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. by Commissioner Marcano, Sr. and seconded by Commissioner Cruz.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo
Secretary
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc