



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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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
January 19, 2011
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:45 pm

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

Tape 1A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked Mrs. Cardone to do the roll call as Commissioner Maritza Tirú was not present. Quorum was established.

Commissioner Marcano, Sr. connected via conference call at 5:40 p.m.

Commissioner Tirú connected via conference call at 5:55 p.m.

Commissioner Torres came in at 6:00 p.m.

Public Participation:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced that Mr. Americo Santiago will be speaking this evening.

Mr. Santiago Would like to work with LPRAC drafting a resolution in regards to the redistricting process. He also suggested that the LPRAC purchase mapping software that can help LPRAC conduct research on a broad range of issues with data from the new census and to help LPRAC draw test maps to look for unintended consequences that can be sent as recommendations to the leaders of the Connecticut General Assembly as recommendations for change. The cost is about \$5,000.

Commissioners Salorio and Manjon came in at 6:06 p.m.

Commissioner Arroyo said that the Leadership of the State will make the appointments for that. He asked if Mr. Santiago knows of anyone asking Don Williams or Speaker Donovan if they have done anything in regards to including the Puerto Rican and Latino communities into the redistricting Commission because he believes it is important to participate into this. There are 8 Latino legislators in the Connecticut General Assembly and hopefully one of them can be appointed and be part of this process so they can keep us all informed.

Commissioner Cruz came in at 6:11 p.m.

Mr. Santiago thanked Commissioner Arroyo and informed him that the Committee is already formed before the session started. There are 10 members in the committee which is the Senate President ProTempore, the Majority Leader and the Ranking Leaders of the House and Senate. He would suggest that the Commission with the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus come together and ask the leaders of the General Assembly that we need to have representation in this process.

Chairman Díaz thanked Mr. Santiago for his time and for contributing his expertise in this effort. We will take this up in new business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of December 15, 2010 with a friendly amendment from Commissioner Montalvo to change the wording on page 4 under New Business, where it says that she "asked" if it is possible to have the monthly commission meeting, etc., to say "recommendation for future discussion" by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion carries as follows:

12 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Manjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Rodríguez, Salorio, Torres and Tirú

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Honorable Castro, and Rodríguez Reyes

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced that Executive Committee of LPRAC appointed the new Chairs for the LPRAC Committees. He's been informed that it is the custom of the agency if you have somebody operating in the capacity of the committee to leave them in place and for that reason he is going to keep Commissioner Pérez as the Chair of the Special Projects Committee. Also, Commissioner Candal, Esq. as the Chair of the Priorities & Legislation Committee. For the Public Information and Talent Bank Committee he selected to appoint Commissioner Cruz.

Commissioner Cruz accepted the appointment.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. then said for the Results Based Accountability Committee (RBA) he chose to appoint Commissioner Salorio.

Commissioner Salorio accepted the appointment.

Commissioner Pérez said that he suggested appointing Commissioners Yolanda Castillo or Lourdes Montalvo for the Special Projects Committee. He has been happy to chair the committee but would like to give someone else an opportunity.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that no committee can be successful without working together. He then asked if anyone else would like to take the position of Chair of the Special Projects Committee but the reason he chose Commissioner Pérez is because he has already started the process of the scholarship reception and doesn't want to disrupt that work.

Commissioner Castillo said to Commissioner Pérez that she is not interested at this moment and thanked him for considering her and thanked him for the great job he's doing. She also wants to thank him for acknowledging her and other women in commission for leadership roles. She also mentioned that on the RBA, she had recommended that the whole committee work on this.

Commissioner Tirú said that this has been discussed at the Executive Meeting and she did advocate getting females into leadership roles but she does agree with the recommendations from the Chair especially on Special Projects because Commissioner Pérez has taken a lot of issues and he is very passionate when he speaks with this people. She thinks not reappoint him at this time will interfere with the talks he has begun already.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced the following information:

1. That there was some discussion at the last meeting about making a new Ad Hoc Committee, or a subcommittee under the Special Projects called the LPRAC Golf Tournament Ad Hoc Committee. It will be taken up under New Business and vote on it. Once it is created, he'll appoint a chairman of that committee.
2. He then mentioned was successful is that the Priorities & Legislation Committee was setting all their meeting dates in advance and suggested that all committee do the same.
3. The By-Laws say that each LPRAC Commissioner is supposed to participate in at least one committee. Also, the committees have the choice of meeting quarterly, monthly or twice a month.
4. We will take up a vote for a Press Release that's going to be released regarding the legislative agenda. We will take this up in New Business.
5. He wanted to note for the records that Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes is not here but both she and Commissioner Pérez's terms have expired. Please speak to your appointing authorities so you could be reappointed. He has to do the same as well.

Commissioner Pérez replied that he did send his request back in November 2010 to Senator Don Williams.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. mentioned that according to the Hispanic Bar Association (HBA), Governor Malloy will be able to appoint a judge to the Connecticut Supreme Court. LPRAC should vote in favor of writing a letter and hand delivering it to the Governor by a delegation of LPRAC. We're trying to take a more aggressive approach because irrespective of how hard we work, we have been having difficulty getting Latino judges. It would be spectacular to get a Latino Supreme Court Judge.

Commissioner Marcano, Sr. said that since he works for the Judicial Branch he would like to be part of that committee.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced that effective January 1, 2011, we are now operating under our new By-Laws.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's report by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Approved unanimously.

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel highlighted the following information:

On Personnel Issues:

1. Our Sr. Legislative Secretary, Mrs. Cardone will be out of the office under the FMLA for a couple of weeks starting January 26 through February 22, 2011.
2. The Legislative breakfast that we coordinated for Latino Legislators and LPRAC was cancelled due to the winter storm we had last week. Just to give you an idea of the interest that Senator Looney, Senator Prague and Representative Candelaria were really pushing to be able to speak at our event.
3. So far some legislation has been introduced such as:
 - a. Bill #5023 that would consolidate all legislative commissions.
 - b. Senate Bill #40 which would allow children of undocumented immigrant aliens to qualify for in-state tuition.
 - c. Making English the official state language.
 - d. The Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Act.
 - e. Mr. Oyanadel also mentioned that there will be a lot of discussion about the State Budget and there will be Legislation regarding SustiNet.
 - f. He wanted to let everyone know that the Commission, as a mandate by State Statute, is a member of the Health Equity Commission and the commission's staff worked with the Health Equity Commission to introduce legislation to adopt the class standards for culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) standards.
4. LPRAC submitted the Annual Report according to statute by the deadline and you have a copy of the report in your packets. Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández and Mrs. Cardone helped tremendously putting that report together for LPRAC. This is the second report that we submit in the RBA format and he's sure they'll be looking at that document when the Appropriations Committee ask us to testify in support of our agency.

Tape 1 B

5. There is a invitation in the 3rd page of his report from the CT Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) in regards to the 2nd Annual Education Policy Forum at Yale Law School, "The Economics of a Great Education" and asked all Commissioner if they would like to go.
6. He also received some requests from Latino Legislators and responded to them.
7. He also was asked by the Legislative Library for a chronological list of all Latino elected officials to serve in the CT General Assembly.
8. Commissioner Montalvo had asked some questions about a bill that she seemed interested in pursuing which is the barber's bill. He wanted her to know that he submitted a copy of a bill that was passed by State Representative Minnie Gonzalez in 2003 that speaks a little bit about what she was mentioning. But, having a conversation with her today, he realized that the bill that was passed in 2003 will not do what she wants to do for barbers in Willimantic and he encourages the commission to support a proposal that we can submit to the Latino legislators sometime this session so they can support it.

Motion made to approve the Acting Executive Director's report by Commissioner Rodriguez and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that since it's a new reconfigured committee and the Chairman has just been appointed tonight.

PRIORITIES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. tabled this report as Commissioner Candal, Esq., Chairman of this committee is not here.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Pérez reported that the committee is working on the scholarship ceremony. He mentioned that the prices for the ads are in within reach and then passed around a copy of a program book which has the ads in them. They are working on a more conservative budget and that the current economic trends, it may not allow them to fundraise the amounts. If you look at the scholarship application, it says in there \$1,000 or more. We are hoping to give \$4,000 or more each student but its contingent on the amount we fundraise. He made a suggestion that he will bring up at the next meeting would be that each commissioners pay their way and to keep it small. In reference to the Aqua Turf, they are asking for \$50.00 per plate. We are looking at alternatives; one is Amarante's Sea Cliff in New Haven holds 300 people and is \$36.00 per plate and they are giving us one hour of hors d'oeuvres for free, and the Omni Hotel Ballroom in New Haven holds 700 and is \$35.00 per plate and \$14.00 per cart and that is their special cart and charge separate for the hors d'oeuvres. The reason for the changes is the availability of the dates. We plan to stick with the October date.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee Report made by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.

Discussion:

Commissioner Arroyo said that Commissioner Pérez mentioned having 300 people at the event and suggested that the LPRAC should consider increasing the amount of people at this event to 700 or more. He then mentioned that when Senator Blumenthal was the Attorney General he agreed with us that we can look for other places to do our event including Foxwoods or that is still not ok for us to do our fundraising for scholarships.

Commissioner Pérez said that they spoke about this and this being still a year of hardship; we'd rather wait until next year. As you know, we depleted all the funds and we need to start back from the beginning.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that the decision we received was whether having the scholarship gala was under the purview of the new mandate and the Attorney General said it was. We still don't have an opinion with regards to whether as a State Agency we can contract with the casinos which was the initial issue with doing the event at Foxwoods or Mohegan Sun. If the Special Projects Committee would like, they can move forward and request an opinion.

Commissioner Rodríguez reemphasized about getting some good financials. He is pleased to see a list of potential vendors and sponsors. It would be great to see next to that list of the potential vendors, sponsors and supporters we would see a figure associated with them. This is not to suggest that is what they are going to do, this is what they are planning on and then you can say this is what we are budgeting for, this is what we are expect to receive, this is when we will receive it, this is the point person responsible for going after that company so we can have a cohesive plan of attack so you can assure yourself of better success.

Commissioner Montalvo reported that that is why they have their Special Projects Director and Grants Writer and she is working and always working in trying to get more money in this event. She's doing a wonderful job on this and she can assure that as far as she knows, in all the meetings they've had, all the information has been provided.

Mr. Oyanadel stated for the record that he wanted to respond to Commissioner Arroyo's point of increasing the number of participants to the LPRAC Reception. He reminded everyone that the members of the Appropriations Committee criticized the LPRAC years ago for being perceived in the legislature as the "party commission" and that it was their view that they didn't want to see us doing those large galas anymore. Obviously, the LPRAC doesn't agree with the "party" characterization of what they said at that time, but in order to work with them the LPRAC agreed to coordinate a smaller reception style event to issue scholarships to the youth. He also reminded everyone about the efforts of some legislators to "streamline" state government including the potential of our own elimination from the budget process of our own Commission. He pointed out that the staff will know more about our internal budget on February 16, 2011.

Commissioner Marciano, Sr. said he is tired of hearing that the Governor is going to eliminate the commission. He then swore.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. asked not to use vulgarity.

Commissioner Arroyo said that the more people we have, that means that we'll collect more money and give more money to more scholarships. He then commended the Special Projects Committee for all their hard work. He agrees with Commissioner Marciano, Sr. that there is no way that either this commission or any other commissions will be eliminated because this commission has an impact in the Latino community and he does not think our governor will eliminate us.

Mr. Oyanadel said that he respects Commissioner Marciano, Sr.'s point of view and said that last year he approached the commissioners and told them that this commission may be eliminated, and to prove his point, LPRAC lost more than 53% of their budget and lost 2 staff members. He indicated that the LPRAC do not have the resources or staff we used to have to coordinate these large events anymore.

Commissioner Marciano, Sr. said that the reason we don't have any staff is because of budgetary constraints and not because the commission was going to be eliminated.

Motion approved unanimously.

RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. reported that this Committee has just been established and asked Commissioner Salorio, Chairman of the committee, if he'd like to report.

Commissioner Salorio thanked everyone and then mentioned to Commissioner Castillo that he will be happy to co-chair with her this committee as there are five areas; Health, Self-Sufficiency, Public Safety, Education and Discrimination. That's a lot for one person and it could be divided that a different individual could be chair for each sub-committees. He then asked when they can have a good training on this. Hopefully if each individual can be available for training from the Legislative Office would be good.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that if the By-Laws allow him to appoint a co-chair, he does not have a problem with that.

Honorable Commissioner Castro came in at 7:14 p.m.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Motion made that the LPRAC authorize Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández to contract into negotiations with Amarantes in New Haven, CT in reference to the scholarship reception for October 22, 2011 made by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioners Castillo and Salorio. Motion carries as follows:

11 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Cuin, Marcano, Sr., Dr. Manjon, Montalvo, Pérez, Salorio, Torres and Tirú

1 Absention: Commissioner Rodríguez

3 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Hon. Commissioner Castro, and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made so that the LPRAC direct Mr. Oyanadel with a request to the Leadership of the House and the Senate that we, as Latinos, should be part of the table as a subcommittee or something and that we be informed of all the process and steps that are taken that have an impact in the Latino & Puerto Rican Community in the State of Connecticut made by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz.

Discussion:

Commissioner Castillo asked if LPRAC purchases the system or participates in the purchase of something, how would we use it, would it be ours or will it be somebody else's?

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said the motion is that we draft a resolution to get involved in the redistricting process and in reference to the software he stated that this is a very sophisticated piece of software and the LPRAC can use it for everything we are doing for RBA, it's statistical, availability the way it counts people. We are now an analytical, fact gathering commission.

Approved unanimously.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rodríguez spoke about the non-profits section in the draft entitled press release.

Mr. Oyanadel reminded everyone that State Representative Andres Ayala came to testify to the commission earlier this year and he spoke about a coalition of Latino non-profits working together at the Latino Advocacy Day. This statement is really saying that we are going to support the Latino Legislators and those agencies that have worked with us in support of those agencies.

Tape 2 A

Commissioner Manjon asked if she could make a friendly amendment to paragraph 1, that in specific LPRAC during the 2011 legislative session will work on legislative recommendations to focus on (1) the racial and ethnic educational achievement gap; (2) health equity; (3) the racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system; and (4) and assessment of Latino non-profits during this economic crisis.

Motion made to approve the Press Release distributed to the public w/amendment by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Hon. Commissioner Castro. Approved unanimously.

Motion made to have a golf tournament made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Hon. Commissioner Castro. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Arroyo suggested that LPRAC talk to the State Legislators that have more power than this commission in persuading the Governor to name someone from the Latino community to the bench.

Motion that the board authorize the Priorities & Legislation Committee and the Acting Executive Director and the Legislators to have the Governor support the candidacy of a Latino for Judge made by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioners Cruz and Hon. Commissioner Castro. Approved unanimously.

Motion that the LPRAC will proactively engage in understanding and assist in creating and help introduce Legislation pertaining to State MBE spent made by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioners Castro and Marcano, Sr. Approved unanimously.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. reminded everyone that he would like to have a meeting in Waterbury, CT too.

Commissioner Montalvo said that she would like to have everyone meeting also in Willimantic.

Tape 2 B

Motion that the LPRAC authorize Commissioner Montalvo and Mr. Oyanadel to work on Legislation and outreach change the language in the law for battering in Spanish by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Pérez thanked Commissioner Cuin for all his hard work in organizing the wonderful event in New Britain, CT in December.

Motion to have Mr. Oyanadel send letters to the proper individuals working with Commissioner Cuin to thank them including the Puerto Rican Society made by Commissioner Pérez and seconded by Hon. Commissioner Castro. Approved unanimously.

Motion made to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. by Commissioner Marciano, Sr. and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Clarisa Cardone
Sr. Legislative Secretary
LPRAC