



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Eugene M. Salorio

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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
March 16, 2011
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut
5:35 pm

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Carlos Candal, Esq., Yolanda Castillo, Richard A. Cruz, Enrique Marciano, Sr., Lourdes E. Montalvo, Juan M. Pérez, Ed Rodríguez, Maritza Tirú and Danny Torres
Commissioners Absent:	Hon. Migdalia Castro, Francisco O. Cuin, Dr. Sonia B. Manjon, Norma Rodríguez Reyes and Eugene M. Salorio
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 roll call as Commissioner Maritza Tirú did not arrive at that moment. Quorum was established.

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

Public Participation:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced that Ms. Ana-Maria García from the U.S. Census Bureau, Boston Regional Office was going to speak on the 2010 census results. She presented information highlighting the Latino population changes in the past decade, such as: The Latino population in Connecticut grew by 49.6% in the last decade while the Anglo-Saxon population decreased by 0.3% during the same period. The Latino population is at 479,087 or 13.4% of the total population.

Special guests in attendance included: State Representatives Andres Ayala, Jr., Juan Candelaria, Minnie González and Ezequiel Santiago. Also, Angel Morales, Americo Santiago and Carmen Sierra, Executive Director of CAUSA, Inc.

Commissioner Ed Rodríguez came in at 5:57 p.m.
Carmen Sierra of CAUSA came in at 5:58 p.m.
Commissioner Carlos Candal, Esq. came in at 5:59 p.m.

Motion made to suspend the meeting to let elected officials speak presented by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Approved unanimously.

State Representative Minnie González had two issues to discuss with LPRAC. (1) She was upset that the LPRAC Chairman or LPRAC Acting Executive Director did not participate in the nomination hearing for Appellate Judge Carmen Espinosa. (2) Representative Gonzalez was also upset with the LPRAC Acting Executive Director and the LPRAC Chairman for telling the Appropriations Committee that the LPRAC does not need any money. Rep. Gonzalez stated that the LPRAC budget included budget cuts and for that reason she spoke to both Co-Chairs of Appropriations about increasing our funds for a new executive director and both Appropriations co-chairs told her that they were willing to put more money in the LPRAC budget. However, due to the LPRAC Chairman and his Acting Director's refusal to request it, they made her look bad. She told our agency not to allow this fiasco to happen again.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. clarified for the record that the LPRAC budget was not cut. We have the same amount of operating expenses from the year before. He indicated that the LPRAC budget recommendation for the next biennium were not supported by the Governor Malloy because of the budgetary deficit affecting our state but it is not a reduction from current operating or personnel expenses.

Mr. Oyanadel informed that the LPRAC's budget testimony was submitted to the Appropriations Committee in writing and copies of their official statement were distributed to all LPRAC Commissioners for their perusal. Furthermore, he stated that the LPRAC staff requested more than \$40,000 in additional funds for new programming expenses. However, the Governor's budget proposal did not include it in his recommendations to the Connecticut General Assembly as requested. The LPRAC Chairman and I made a powerful argument to the Appropriations Committee to provide us these new funds in order to prepare our 4th edition of our LPRAC statewide Latino Socio-

Economic Study. In regards to Judge Carmen Espinosa, we are sorry for not attending her nomination hearing, but we are short in staff and we currently do not have a Legislative Analyst to help us track all these public hearings. The LPRAC's limited resources are being used to prioritize areas of work identified earlier in the year by the LPRAC in areas such as (1) Contract Compliance/Small Contractor Set-Aside, (2) improvements to the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling legislation, (3) health equity, (4) ways to close the racial and ethnic educational achievement gap and (5) helping our Latino non-profits during this economic crisis.

Mr. Oyanadel also stated that the LPRAC staff has been speaking at different public hearings this session some of which have been after midnight in support of our Latino non-profit agencies or speaking in support of the Earned Income Credit Tax which is beneficial for our working families living near poverty conditions. Moreover, the Chairman of the LPRAC Priorities and Legislation Committee and the LPRAC staff already met with the Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor of Connecticut regarding judicial nominations and finally, Mr. Oyanadel reminded everyone that the LPRAC budget was reduced 53% in October of 2009 and unfortunately the reality is that we are not going to be to be everywhere.

Motion made to return to the meeting by Commissioner Candal, Esq. and seconded by Commissioner Tirú. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Audio Minutes of February 16, 2011 were distributed.

CHAIRPERSON'S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. updated the LPRAC about the progress of the planning of the Second Latino Advocacy Day to be held of Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at the Legislative Office Building. Chairman Diaz, stated that the planning of the event continues to be organized with a coalition of Latino Non-Profits and State Representative Andres Ayala, Jr. (D-128). For the record, CAUSA was able to provide a \$5,000 contribution for this event through a grant they received from AT&T. and the food was donated thanks to a collaborative with the Spanish American Merchants Association.

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Cruz, Chairman of this committee asked all commissioners if anyone would like to join this committee and that the first meeting has been scheduled for April 20, 2011. He then asked for a show of hands how many commissioners are interested in joining this committee. Three Commissioners raised their hands. He asked to please let him know if this date is ok for them.

Discussion:

Commissioner Tirú asked if there is a possibility of the Public Information Committee to look into having a talk show. She heard some of the elected officers talking about what it is that our community is doing. How come they are not getting involved? Seriously, if you don't get them in-between novelas, there is no way they are going to listen to us. They know when the novelas are, they know when the talk shows are. We have to talk to Univision and Telemundo otherwise we are going to be really behind.

Commissioner Montalvo said that both Commissioner Pérez and she went to one of their local access channel and were interviewed and now people are stopping her and asking about the commission because they didn't even know this commission existed. This show goes on for a whole month at all hours. They mentioned the scholarships and they are getting a lot of calls for it and other issues. She said that the whole commission is welcomed to go to Willimantic and they can do a whole TV show and go on the radio too. We should be planning to go to Willimantic to do these kinds of things.

Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioners Montalvo & Tirú. Approved unanimously.

PRIORITIES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Candal, Esq., Chairperson for the Priorities and Legislation Committee said that given the hectic legislative session and the lengthy hearings and meetings that were occurring especially at the date of the monthly meeting, they decided to postpone their meeting for next month. At the last meeting, one of the concerns was the lack of Latinos in State Boards and Commissions. A few days after that meeting, Secretary Lawlor contacted him looking for names of Latinos that may be qualified to serve on different State Commissions. He recommended the Hispanic Bar Association as well as he put him in contact with our Acting Executive Director to recommend names of lawyers and non-lawyers that could be presented to Governor Molloy.

Mr. Oyanadel. Informed everyone that the LPRAC testified in support of bills 5877 concerning the Set-Aside program for minority business enterprises and establishing a supplier diversity council and 5974 an act which would redefine minority enterprises in Connecticut which has the potential to benefit small Latino businesses. We suggested that the goal of racial and ethnic contracts should be at least 5% of the total state procurement. We advised the Government Administration and Elections Committee (GAE) that the small minority businesses were only getting \$4 Million from state contracts and if the legislature were to change the set-aside formula as recommended, the state would actually increase the amount to Latino firms by more than \$100 Million.

Motion to approve the Priorities and Legislation Committee Report by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioners Marciano, Sr. and Tirú.

Commissioner Rodríguez clarified that it is not set-aside for small businesses; it's set-aside for minority owned businesses. Right now we have a 6.25% set-aside for small businesses and even though that target is being met by some agencies the problem is that Latino/African American owned business are not getting their fair share, in fact overwhelmingly it goes to women owned businesses. Not that there is anything wrong with that, as a matter of fact we are supporters of woman owned business, what happening is male Caucasians are asking their wives to be the head of their company and they're the ones getting all of the business/money while in the meantime, us Latinos, are getting absolutely nothing. We need to do something now. He also hopes that we push for the disparity study. The old disparity study was the basis of the 6.25% allocation. If we conduct a new disparity study, in light of demographic data we saw today, we would probably have enough justification to increase our share by over 10%. This is vital and a matter of survival for Latino businesses, it could represent an increase spend of over \$100 million vs. the \$4 million we get today.

Mr. Oyanadel mentioned that in our testimony we spoke in support of conducting a new disparity study and to in specific, we recommended doing it August of this year. We were unsure if this was the best strategy considering that the state is suffering a historic budget deficit and most bills that include a fiscal impact will not likely pass this year. However, State Representative Gary Holder-Winfield, Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus is advocating in support of this new disparity study because of the significance to our businesses and the long term benefits to our economy.

Commissioner Pérez recommended that the board gets more involved on these issues in order to help passage of these bills.

Commissioner Marciano, Sr. recommended the LPRAC to revisit the hiring of a permanent Director because the three staff members are overwhelmed. The Acting Executive Director is already testifying at midnight and we have to remember that he has a family.

Approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Pérez, Chairperson for the Special Projects Committee reported that:

- 1) That in one month they had two meetings.
 - A) One for the scholarship event and they formed a Scholarship Review Committee.
 - i. The deadline for the scholarships is Tuesday, April 19, 2011, and
 - B) One Ad Hoc Committee to plan the LPRAC golf tournament;
- 2) He asked for volunteers to help at the Latino Expo;
- 3) Also, Eastern Connecticut State University has agreed to do an exhibit with the LPRAC Stamp Collection.
 - A) The Commission voted in the last meeting to purchase 5 stamps that are going to be released this year. We want to hold this Stamp Exhibit in September;
- 4) A copy of the letter to Puerto Rico was sent by Chairman Díaz, Esq. and Acting Executive Director Oyanadel in support of human rights not just in Connecticut but abroad;
- 5) He also spoke about approving a LPRAC Retreat where we can discuss Results Based Accountability (RBA);
- 6) In reference to the Latino Advocacy event that we are supporting, there are going to be buses from all over. Identidad Latina will be there as well as other media.
- 7) **Commissioner Marciano, Sr.** spoke about the golf tournament to raise funds for the scholarship celebration.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. mentioned that he agrees it is important to have a retreat and that it should be in August but we need to do research to see who can do the RBA training because we don't know if OLM will do it on the weekends. We need to have the Special Projects Chair Pérez to see who can conduct the training before we can do the retreat.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee Report made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Marciano, Sr. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to suspend our regular meeting made by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Tirú. Approved unanimously.

Motion made to resume our regular meeting made by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Tirú. Approved unanimously.

RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Castillo, Co-Chair said that the committee did meet but as Co-Chair Commissioner Salorio is not present, they will bring a report at the next meeting.

Motion made to accept the RBA Committee Report made by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez.

Discussion:

Commissioner Pérez reminded everyone that this committee was created because of the new mandate so therefore it is so important that in the first meeting the committee Co-Chairs decided to have subcommittees in education and healthcare, etc.

Commissioner Montalvo said that she will chair the Health Committee and that any help is welcomed.

Commissioner Tirú mentioned that RBA training is very extremely important for the retreat; we should seriously consider holding this training to learn exactly what the commissioners are accountable for and what areas do we need to look into to help the staff and the Acting Executive Director creating these reports.

Approved unanimously.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Motion made that the LPRAC authorize Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández to put together a Golf Tournament at Traditions in Windsor, CT for the LPRAC made by Commissioner Rodríguez and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Approved unanimously.

Motion made to have the September 21, 2011 commission meeting in Windham and have the LPRAC Stamp Exhibition up at Eastern CT State University Gallery by made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Approved unanimously.

Motion made to have a LPRAC Retreat in July 2011 authorizing Special Projects Committee to look for venues, with budget limit of \$5,000 made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries as follows:

7 Years: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Marcano, Sr., Montalvo, Pérez and Tirú

2 Absentions: Commissioners Rodríguez and Torres

6 Absent: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Hon. Commissioner Castro, Cuin, Dr. Manjon, Rodríguez Reyes and Salorio

Commissioner Montalvo said that Professor Irma Arroyo is presenting her art at the United Nations. The opening is on March 22nd, 2011 from 6 to 9 pm. She is driving to New York and she can fit 3 to 4 people in her car and invited everyone to attend.

Motion made that the LPRAC authorize Commissioner Juan M. Pérez on the issue of zero tolerance from schools to prison, to be able to say he is a LPRAC Commissioner made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioners Tirú and Torres. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Marcano Sr. asked about the hiring of an Executive Director but it was tabled.

Commissioner Rodríguez asked LPRAC to find a way to fund ASPIRA, Inc. now that it was closed. He said our intervention should be in support the successful after schools programs given by ASPIRA that help kids in our communities be better prepared to go to college.

Commissioner Tirú said that the LPRAC should accept State Representative González word in regards to the Appropriations Co-Chairs having said that they will increase our agency funding.

Motion made to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Tirú. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maritza Tirú
Secretary
LPRAC Board

MT:cjc