

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
11 August, 2009

Ted Strickland, Governor
Ezra C. Escudero, Director

2008~2009
Board of Commissioners

Richard Romero, Chair
Lorain

Mary Santiago, Vice Chair
Lorain

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Cincinnati

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Dayton

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Cleveland

Humberto González
Reynoldsburg

V. Tony Simms-Howell
Cincinnati

Baldemar Velasquez
Toledo

Lupe Williams
Wooster

Riffe Center Room 1932, Room West B, 31st. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus

Attendance

Commissioners - Present

Michael G. Florez
Andres E. Gonzalez
Richard Romero
Mary Santiago
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Baldemar Velasquez - Conveyed that he will be arriving 15 minutes late

Commissioners - Absent

Blanche Aviles Casey
Lupe Williams

Staff - Present

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh
Lair Marin

Call to Order

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Call of the Roll

There are five commissioners present, so no vote can take place until Commissioner Velasquez arrives.

Chair Romero gives floor to Executive Director Escudero since there is no quorum yet for motions.

Director Escudero suggested skipping to Section VII to talk about the Gala.

Ohio Latino Awards Gala 2009

Director Escudero gives a quick recap of the details and asks Commissioners to look at the handouts in their folders. We will have the first of what hopefully will be a series of shared awards galas with the Chambers. The event will take place on Friday, September 4th. It will be called "The Ohio Latino Awards Gala"; you should find invitations in your folders. Senator Sherrod Brown will be the keynote speaker thanks to Commissioner Santiago. The basic flow will be our flow and will transition to the keynote speech, after the speech, the dinner will be served and the awards will be presented after the dinner.



The balance of the function will be 50/50, one-half will be presented by OHCC and the other half by us. There will be a total of 12 awards, 6 from us OCHLA and 6 from the Chambers OHCC. We are working together to develop all the audiovisuals. Something new is that there will be a VIP room where the interviews, media and all awardees will meet with the Commissioners and HCC boards. All Commissioners are encouraged to be in the VIP area. We have secured full control of the event's logistics and the on-line registration system. This will be manned by two of our full time staff. All the proceeds will go to the OHCC. Both logos will be on the stage, table and podium. We will have a full accounting at the October Board meeting. The cost of the entrance tickets will be \$75 and Commissioners and staff will pay for their tickets. Tickets are now available online. Lodging reservation will have to be made by the Commissioners themselves. Chair Romero suggests that since the dinner plate only costs \$35, the Commissioners should only pay for this amount. Director Escudero will work with the Office of Ethics to confirm that this is viable. There will be no entertainment. If the first lady does attend, she will be handing out her Children's book. There will be an art exhibition. There will also be an audiovisual presentation of past Gala photographs. Chair Romero suggest that there be a short presentation o both organizations goals and objectives for guest that aren't familiar with the agencies. Director Escudero states that there will be audiovisuals from past awards ceremonies.

Chair Romero suggests that awardees should be informed in advanced that they must pay for theirs lodging. Menus will be taken care of by OHCC. Commissioner Santiago states that the goal is 250-300 people, around 150 OHCC and 150 OCHLA. Last year we had 143. Director Escudero states that apart from the economy, one of the challenges we are facing and against us, is that the date coincides with the Labor Day weekend.

Chair Romero suggests that College students could partake and we could find sponsors. Director Escudero responds that we will look into this, but must take into account the RSVP's number and that many colleges still have not started school yet. As an example OSU does not star classes until Sept 23rd. Chair opens up the floor for questions and there are none.

Director Escudero proposes moving to Section VIII, C and discuss the Census presentation item since this does not require a vote. Chair Romero agrees and gives floor back to Director Escudero.

Census 2010

Director Escudero gives a presentation on the Census 2010. Director Escudero has been asked to serve as a member in the statewide committee and the hard to count subcommittee. Along with Dr. Jackson from the Department of Health, they both serve as co-chairs at a statewide level. They met last month to go over what their agency's plans was to move forward to make sure that every Ohioan is counted. This is the presentation that Director Escudero gave and they are very happy with it and are very supportive.

Exhibit A. Census bag that will be distributed prior to the Census campaign.

In October, you will all be receiving a sling bag with the commission logo and Census logo. Inside we will have material as well as information inside of everything we need to do locally to make sure we get the message out to the communities of the importance of Latinos participating in the census. The Census paid for the bags. Everyone will be able to give this presentation. The centering question is how our agency can work to ensure that every His-



panic Ohioan is counted in the 2010 Census. The objective is to tell everyone to fill out the form and no one will come knocking at your door.

The question for our plan is how our agency can help to ensure that every Hispanic Ohioans is accounted in the 2010 Census. The answer is by leveraging the agency's networks and assets to educate trusted messengers and facilitate the census bureau as partners.

Commissioner Baldemar Velasquez arrives constituting the total of six commissioners for quorum.

How do we reach the 300,000 Hispanic Ohioans? The answer is by leveraging the agency's networks and assets to educated trusted messengers and facilitate the Census bureaus partners. How can we facilitate their communication and relationships with those trusted messengers? We focus our energies on approximately 80 to 100 readily identifiable trusted messengers, community leaders, starting with those of you around this table and expanding beyond that and focus on high valued relationship building with you to help you become our trusted messengers on the Census message. That would be a very doable goal for an agency our size and with our resources. What won't we do, we are not going to start working on other initiatives. The Census work is not going to distract form our other work. We are not going to stray from our established mandates, we are not going to mess up established relationship that are out there or create new messaging. We are not going to reinvent wheels. We are not going to take the shotgun approach and try to reach out to all 300,000 Hispanic Ohioans. We are not going to ignore the partners that the Census has already established out there, key individuals, or key organizations that are already out there working and prompting the Census. What we will do is continue with our other work but we are going to augment our existing efforts. We are going to multiply the effects of the collaborations we are already have and promote the messaging that is already out there. We will share technology on tools and techniques on how to get the message out there. We are going to focus on approximately 80 identifiable community leaders around the state that can reach Latino population in Ohio. Create open Forum across the state for our partners that help them. Agenda Latina is a perfect example with the road show meetings so that they can co present with us to help us deliver the message. One of our key assets with be OLANet, we will have a section about the Census and devote this tool towards promoting all the messages and activities that have to do with the Census. The idea is that in the Fall if we can secure the funding we will conduct the road shows in partnership with the organizations and those trusted messengers to bring them in teach them what they need to learn about the Census. This is where the bags come in, for the 80 messengers to have their tool kits to present the Census message.

April 1st is the deadline for the Census, so in March, when we have the road shows we will have the last push to get them to fill in the form and no one is going to come knocking. In addition to the OLANet and Agenda Latina, we have two community councils. One is already up and running and the other one that we have not been able to get running again due to lack of funding. The first one is the Council of the Hispanic Chambers of Businesses associations otherwise know as the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. The second one is the council Latino social services agencies there is an outstanding invitation for a summit to bring them to Columbus. If we can secure some funding to make that happen we have a potential sponsor. We can bring them in to talk not only about the agenda we already have planned but also to talk about the Census. Between these 2 groups alone there are over 25 out of those 80 key community leaders, Chamber's Presidents, Chambers Executive Directors, not for profit Board members, not for profit Executive Directors around the state that



we can say look we need you to be our partners on this because Latinos must be counted. So this is the third set of resources that we have available to us.

Commissioner Simms reminds the Board that Ken Blackwell was able to supply a lot of information and recommend that he be contacted for advice.

Commissioner Gonzalez asks if the material will be ready for HHM in order to maximize the information and do some outreach. Director Escudero responds that there is a tool kit, but due to time constrain it might not be ready.

Chair Romero says that he wants to make sure we are exploring every avenue that is out there like a lot of media outlets, Radios, smaller newspaper that we can reach out to. Director Escudero informs that in regards to media, the Census bureau has been perfectly clear that they do not want us to touch the media. It is something that they are planning and budgeting.

Commissioner Florez proposes that since we have reached quorum, he would like to move to approve the March 27 minutes.

Motion 1 - 08-2009 - To approve the Minutes from March 27, 2009. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez. Motion carried.

Chair's Commentary

Chair Romero expressed that he has a couple of comments he wants noted in the minutes. The Latino Community is proud of the fact that we now have a Latino Supreme Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor. That we can all take pride in, as we get ready to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage month. We should set out to highlight all the great accomplishments and share as much information as possible to share of what is going on out there throughout the State. This is one of the purposes of the Commission to share information.

Floor is given to Director Escudero to introduce the Education Report.

Education Report

Director Escudero asks Tina Staigers to please present the Education report to the Board.

Tina Staigers asks that Commissioner Gonzalez and Director Escudero to present and thanks the Board for the opportunity for her to just give a brief background. A quick summary of the report is that it is derived from our mini conferences that were held in the winter of 2008 - 2009 given in eight cities. Where we gave the community an opportunity to prioritize their issues as far as the *Soluciones* Campaign and our previous work. This is a compilation of all those priorities put together but most importantly, we have begun to connect these priorities with government resources, which are the tables in the report. We began with what the Department of Education and Board of Regents has currently addressed as priorities. Something that was a component of that report that we recently took out to revise is Governor's Strickland Education Plan. He has outlined a mayor overhaul to the education system reflected in the Budget Bill number #1. Basically, we analyzed his recommendations from the get go as far as what he wanted in the education plan and how that process of the budget bill panned out and what we are left with as what his initial wish list was, what we now have and what were the changes.



We are going to be talking with the Department of Education and Board of Regents as well to get an update on those different programs, which could have been affected. Again, the idea is to see what we are going to be doing as an education plan, the communities priorities as well as what resources are already out there as we don't want to reinvent the wheel. I will leave it to Director Escudero to talk about the recommendations.

Commissioner Gonzalez states the educational draft that is in front of you is that we clearly looked at the advise, connect and build that we put together to report here are the mini conferences that were held throughout the state. We also looked at the *Soluciones*. Basically, we are building a foundation on the existing initiatives and on some of the documents that we have been able to gather as a result of all the great work that this Commission and previous chairs of our education committee has done. We are looking at the core priorities. On page 4, we have the four areas that we decided were the primary core areas that we decided were the core areas to address. One is the early childhood education, two is the k-12, three is the higher education and the fourth is English language learners. In those four areas, we are looking at programs or initiatives that we would be able to implement as a commission. Very much of this work is aligned with Governor Strickland's educational plan and initiatives. We are not reinventing the wheel; we are looking at what has been proposed, what has been informed, emerging themes. What we have really done is aligned our work moving forward with the Governor's mandate. In early childhood, we are looking at awareness and there will be a comprising PSAs. We are going to be doing a lot of campaigns and awareness in our own communities throughout the state just to make sure that are families know that this is been provided. Results shows that when children attend early childhood programs they are more prone to stay in school and complete high school. We would be eliminating the issue of dropouts by doing that effort through early childhood. Also, a compilation of what exists out here in terms of early childhood programs looking on how we can again connect our communities with those resources

So, OLANet will be used as a primary vehicle to do that. K-12 we are looking at a developing an outreach and access program initiative that would help us improve our family community engagement in schools. We have a compilation of programs that have been proposed, what we are doing is looking at what are some of those programs and what are some of the best practices that exist that we might want to incorporate as part of OCHLA's educational action plan moving forward. On the Higher education, we are looking at developing an initiative aim and insuring tuition equity. This is very timely; Lily, Tina and I were part of the first meeting that the Ohio Access network in partner with OCHLA, roundtable, ECO put together. It was a dialogue with higher end institutions on what were some of the programs that exist and some of the gaps to see who we were and what were some of the issues we need to tackle as a community statewide. We want to make sure that we are part of the solution as we move forward. Therefore, higher education will become a pivotal one because often times, we are just looking at accessing and how are we able to bring some of our best and brightest students into colleges. However, we spend very little time proving the resources to retain them in those colleges and universities. What is it that we need to do, as a group of professionals and obviously OCHLA is one of those key holders?

We are looking at creating an Ohio Latino scholarship network that will be a network of all Latino serving scholarships serving programs in Ohio. Part of the higher education is looking at the Dream Act and how OCHLA can become from a policy standpoint an advocate of really reshaping the policies and the laws here in Ohio. Therefore, that are students that are un-



documented have a chance to really achieve the American dream as many of us have done. The last thing is the English language learning which is OCHLA effort to develop a catalogue or directory of English learning programs throughout Ohio. We know that we have a lot of individuals who are limited English proficient and this is their primary barrier to accessing some of the services and this has an impact in achieving educational attainment or also entering the workforce. We want to do an attempt at looking at the resources that exist, how can we then become an organization that will provide better access and link individuals into those resources. These are in a nutshell what our core priorities are. The next documents are all the programs we have listed here with the challenges and some of the resources that are now in place that we used to put together this Core Report for our educational initiative. With this, I will turn over to Director Escudero.

Commissioner Sims has a question before the presentation regarding Core priorities. He would like that the early childhood Headstart should be a component of the educational plan since undocumented citizens do not qualify for Headstart.

Commissioner Gonzalez, points out that in page 6 in the early childhood this has already been taken into consideration.

Director Escudero makes the Education presentation. The main point is that the name had shifted from the Building Blocks name to the Core name. The items, the recommend next steps and actions items are the same. The second big change is the budget ahead of his budget report is that there are nine distinct, discreet initiatives that we were proposing in the area of education, but because of budget limitation, we will need to scale back to three in this biennium.

The Core model or core program is the successor to *Soluciones*. It is the two-year plan for the biennium for the Educational issues. It is designed to completely integrate with our statutory mandates of advising, connecting and building. It rests on a firm foundation of community input and through our partnership with different stakeholders in the state of Ohio, which include the Office of the Governor, the Board of Education and the board of Regents. It rests on this report that you now have and on your acceptance today, it will no longer be a draft it will become our report. What are the objectives that we set forth? First, we wanted to make sure that this was comprehensive in nature and to cover all the different facets of education. We wanted to make sure that we had unique, discreet components, blocks and moving forward they will be rings that represent unique projects, unique goals, timeframes and outcomes. With this kind of model, we can do three or four since this kind of model is helpful because these also have start date and end dates, measurable outcomes with concrete results. The four facets are early childhood, K-12, higher education and English language learning. We have these six building blocks, something that we'll discuss in committee and recommend back to the board are the six building blocks or rings still doable in the light of our limited budget situation or

which one might we move forward in this biennium and save others for later that is yet to be determined. In terms of identifying partners, we have two distinct set of collaborators that we can work with. IN terms of advising, we can work with State Government. We plan to launch a subset of the interagency council for Latino Affairs specifically in the area of education. This involves identifying participants from the Board of Education, the Board of Regents, someone form the Office of the Governor's Office to serve on the inter



agency council. In terms of connecting and building working with outside groups, we have a third community council that we are proposing to the Commission. We have one with the Chambers, we have one with Social Services agency, and this would be the Ohio Latino Education network of Stakeholders. From the organizations side, we include groups such as Echo, Lulac, LEON, and different Coalitions. In addition non-for profit groups like Adelante, El Centro Esperanza, The Ohio Hispanic Coalition, etc. So, those groups will come together with us to form this third community council of education Stakeholders. What are we going to do with the area of advice, we are going to convene again a subset of interagency council to focus on internal transformation within state government and those are the agencies mentioned earlier including development. On the connect and build side, we have the network of stakeholders to focus on the outside, external community transformation so that these partners can include grassroots social service agencies and community organizations that focus on educational issues. These two documents, the power point with the rings instead of blocks and this report are the sum total of our presentation to the Board for your approval to become our educational report and our educational strategy moving forward in this biennium.

Commissioner Florez motions to accept the Education Report and to vote that its draft phase becomes final phase. Commissioner Simms seconds.

Open for discussion.

Chair Romero asks if all the Commissioners were involved. Commissioner Gonzalez confirms that all this information was sent and shared will all Commissioners.

Commissioner Santiago asked if the results were shared with the communities that participated in the town meetings and if we received any feedback. Community Liaison Cavanaugh confirmed that yes it was shared, sent to participants and no responses were received. Director Escudero also stated that the draft is posted in the OCHLA website and all have access to it.

Commissioner Velasquez does not see where the Latino population mixes in with the broader statistics of drop-off high school population or grade school. Are there any statistics that fit into these broader categories? In order to engage other authorities to participate and involve in helping this children in the communities, like universities. Commissioner Gonzalez responds that it's a point well taken, that document and data we have it. This is an attempt form the education committee to bring you a high-level document action plan for us in terms of moving forward as an initiative. This is the strategy that we will take in engaging our legislators, our civic leaders and higher institutions. This information will be added to this Report as we make the case to those key stakeholders.

Chair Romero summarizes that there is no timeline and Commissioner Gonzales confirms that yes that is why this is a Draft for feedback and to incorporate. Commissioner Gonzalez also wants to says that this is the result of a great job done by Director Escudero, Community Liaison Cavanaugh and Policy Liaison Staigers who did a yeoman's job of doing the research together, putting all the documents together and really looking at all that data and using all these as the platform for our education plan. And running it by our community stakeholders.



Motion 2 - 08-2009 - Chair Romero motions to accept the Education Report and to vote that its draft phase becomes final phase. All voted in favor. Vote is passed and motion carried.

Chair Romero opens the floor to Director Escudero to see if any other items need to be voted on since Commissioner Florez needs to leave.

Director Escudero stated that yes, to please go to point B under VIII. New business Information. He will present the Transition Plan and Budget Plan for the Commission for the new biennium. The first document with the bigger seal on front that is all words is the actual resolution that we seek the commission's vote for. The second document is the spreadsheet for 2010-2011. The first point in the resolution document states that because of our budget situation and the need for us to reduce headcount we need in the office to reduce the number of fulltime employees from four to three. This first provision would establish the Directors termination effective January 1st 2010 and covers exactly 14 pay periods in the current fiscal year and that is the exact amount we have funding for to sustain four full-time employees. After that pay period of January 2nd, we must be down to three employees.

Point number 2 would establish Community Liaison Cavanaugh as Executive Director immediately upon Director Escudero's departure either by termination or by resignation. That way the Board does not have to wait to convene a special meeting. This sets up a transition plan right away without any ambiguity also provides for her to be

Executive Director at the current Executive Director's level with all the benefits and authorities that Executive Escudero currently enjoys. Point Number 3 adopts the spreadsheet as the official budget plan for the commission and establishes the Executive Directors authority to implement the programs and initiatives in accordance to this plan and to make changes if necessary as guided by mandates through the office of the Governor, budget and management and Department of Administrative services. Point 4 establishes our three strategic committees, which do not change from the previous biennium diversity, development and education. Point 5 establishes the three strategic initiatives with the commission. Namely our Hispanic Impact campaign, Project Open and the CORE education campaign. Step 6 establishes the three advisory committees that are strategic alliances, the Latino Social services council, the Hispanic Chamber Council and the Latino Education network of stakeholders. Finally point 7, this outlines our tactical and statutory initiatives which includes our program Office structure, no change form before, the events that we do, DHO. Legislative Visit Day, The alliance summits, the road shows.

OLAnet and it's four parts and our identified services. This documents them in a formal plan for the new leadership.

Commissioner Simms wants to make a point of clarification that this report does not come from the Director Escudero it comes from our Chairman recommending us that this be signed by Richard Romero. We wanted to make this clear since Director Escudero cannot appoint anyone for this position. The commissioner does the appointment for the office replacement. This is only the recommendation that he has discussed with all of you.



Chair Romero expressed that the only concern and change he would like to make is to item number 3. Director Escudero clarifies that in this item 3 the only thing that gives the authority to make the adjustments on the budget in order to make payments but not to make decision on the program changes in the budget which is something that only the Board can do.

Chair Romero expresses an example in regards to the number of board meetings we have to hold, by State we are required to have six in order to meet our requirements. We should plan to have nine in the budget to assure that the six are met. Director Escudero would like to clarify that he does not check for approval for everyday financial decision that is made. He works within the plan he's given and work and make day-to-day decisions within the established plan. What this point seeks out is to continue that business process that within the parameters of the established plan that the Director has full authority to run the day-to-day operations. Any changes to the plan would of course come to the board for approval. Chair Romero expresses that he is still not comfortable to give his approval. Commissioner Florez clarifies that what they are voting is on appointing Community Liaison Cavanaugh as the next Executive Director if we vote for this.

Commissioner Santiago states that she is not comfortable having the resolution been put in front of her today that it feels like a contract and maybe it should be restructured. Executive Simms expresses his concern about this been postponed until October.

Regardless of what the board stand is and ultimately decides in regards to transition, the clock is ticking and we cannot go past the halfway point in the mid year with four full time employees. Director Escudero explains that this is why he publicly announced his intent as soon as he got the budget because his goal as leader of the office was to eliminate any ambiguity in our team because we knew that at a certain threshold one would have to go. The objective was to meet with each one of you and present this plan was to eliminate the rest of any ambiguity that was still lingering out there. Director Escudero conveyed that he was actively looking for new employment. If I should leave, the office would be without a Director until the board convenes a special emergency meeting to appoint an active Director. This plan was to put that out there and have a solid plan in place that would eliminate the rest of the ambiguity. Moral in the Office has been abysmal; we lost half of our funding and we are losing one fourth of our staff and we need leadership form this Board moving forward. I ask that you please consider.

Commissioner Santiago states that she has no problem with most of the plan, but does not understand why all of it has to be approved. Director Escudero explains that this is a document that all four of the staff reviewed and all we wanted to do was maximize stability. The first main point was his termination and Community Liaison Cavanaugh succession upon his departure. The other five points are exactly what is going on today and we wanted to maximize stability for the office, the programs and the initiatives moving forward by having a single document that says this is how we are setting up, here are the things we are working on and here are the groups we are collaboration on. We wanted to capture the snapshot now and have the stability to move forward.

Commissioner Gonzalez explains that what Director Escudero is trying to do is ensure a very smooth transition in terms of succession plan and at least I have to applaud these efforts. As Board members and as Commissioners we are entrusted by the Governor to ensure that the commission is a viable commission, that we are abiding by our mandates and that we obviously have staff that is able to deliver the goods. It seems to me that if we can tweak two or



three things this is a viable document and a succession-planning document that we can approve along with this budget. This would be his preference and if we could do prior to today if not today, he would be more than willing to entertain that. Commissioner Simms likes the document but he would rephrase stating "Community Liaison Cavanaugh would become the ad interim Executive Director or acting Executive Director and offer her contract and see if she accepts. Executive Director Escudero explains that after consulting with the Attorney General and checking Department of Administrative Services, we called CSA and they did clarify that because the position is exempt and unclassified it does not have to be posted, the board can take action when the board is ready to. Commissioner Velasquez is concerned with the appearance to the public and in regards to the budget.

Commissioner Gonzalez explains that what he sees it completely different, the reality that Director Escudero is willing to step down and not really fire anyone else at the end of the year is commendable in terms of been a serving leader as ensure stability and continuity of the services of the organization.

Chair Romero conveys that he applauds the effort of the staff but thinks the transition plan needs to be given to the board and form a transition team to look over the transition plan. He pushes that Commissioners Gonzalez, Santiago and Velazquez and anyone else to be part of this transition team. Commissioner Simms responds than we do not have time and is a decision that has to be made now because in this fiscal period of December/January the Director is leaving, we can approve now and make changes later. Commissioner Santiago states that she can approve this budget today, but is uncomfortable with line 6.

Motion 3 - 08-2009 - Commissioner Simms motions to accept the document as it is with the change according to the amendment that Commissioner Santiago proposes which is to omit line number 6.

Chair Romero states that it is not going to be under his proposal. Commissioners Florez asks if the motion is on the floor. Commissioner Gonzalez seconds it; therefore, we have a motion on the floor now.

Discussion is called.

Motion 4 - 08-2009 - Chair Romero motions to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Simms seconds. Vote is passed and motion carried.

Executive session is called and the rest of the staff leaves the conference room.

Motion 3 - 08-2009 - Chair Romero request the votes to accept the Budget and Transition Plan. Vote is not passed. Motion is not carried.

Motion 5 - 08-2009 - Commissioner Florez motions that on the event of the departure of Director Escudero from the employment of the office and resignation that Community Liaison Cavanaugh should be designated ad interim Executive Director of the Office of Latino Affairs. Commissioner Santiago seconds. Motion carried

Chair Romero asks that Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Santiago and Commissioner Florez to work with the language on how transition should occur in regards to the commission's situation.



Commissioner Florez leaves Board meeting, there is no quorum for voting.

Commissioner Simms would like to show on record that he commends the office and Director Escudero for the work he has done. This past four years have been wonderful for the commission in term of budget increase and I think that for the first time in this commission we have had a Director that had reached the legislators and the community and I want to make a consensus that we should be proud of it. He does not want us leaving today and the Executive Director thinking that we have rejected what he put forth because he supported him.

Commissioner Simms sees that Director Escudero position comes from the heart because he wanted to make sure that we had continuity in the commission. I want this to be respected and want us to remember this with all the work that they do in office every day. I want it to show on record that I do personally appreciate it and that Chair Romero should have done this work and assume that he should appreciate it and do it. I would like to see that Chair Romero finds time so that we do not go through this again, sit down with the Director, and never permit this to happen again.

Chair Romero clarifies that today was the first time he had a chance to look at it. The second point is that any proposal that I bring in front of this commission is will be done in such a way that I get input from those commission that sit and serve in this commission. Chair Romero expresses that he has expressed to Director Escudero and continues to tell him that from all the commissions that Director Escudero has been the most talented Director that we have ever had. Chair Romero happens to believe that as of today, the commission now has the best ever assembled staff that this commission has ever seen and stands behind it.

Motion 6 – 08-2009 - Commissioner Simms motions that the Public be recognized. Commissioner Santiago seconds.

Commissioner Simms inquires regarding the Nominations and Chair Romero requests that Commissioner Simms and Commissioner Velasquez and anyone else interested to be in charge of the Nominations committee. Commissioner Simms accepts.

Adjournment

Chair Romero adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Richard Romero, Chair

Michael G. Florez, Secretary

