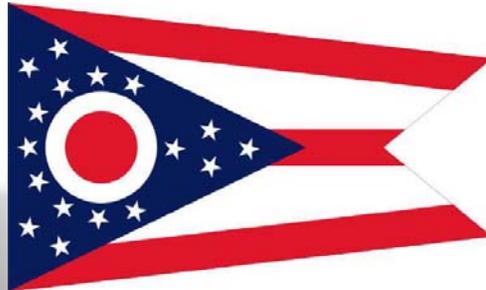
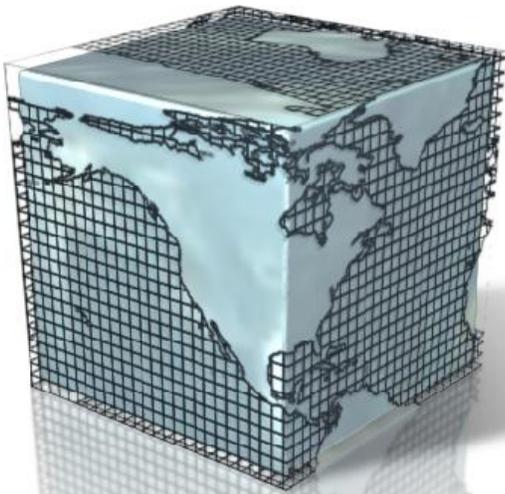


# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO COMMISSION ON HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS

Education ~ Development ~ Diversity



2007



TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR  
EZRA C. ESCUDERO, DIRECTOR



## Commissioners ~ 2006/07

Humberto Gonzalez - Chair  
COLUMBUS

Richard Romero - Vice Chair  
LORAIN

Michael G. Florez - Secretary  
CINCINNATI

Blanche Aviles Casey, Colonel, USAF,  
Retired  
DAYTON

Phillip Barbosa  
TOLEDO

Daniel Porras  
CLEVELAND

Ramona Reyes  
COLUMBUS

Chris Rodriguez, City Councilman  
WHITEHALL

Simon Rodriguez  
WOOD COUNTY

Mary Santiago  
LORAIN

V. Anthony Simms-Howell  
CINCINNATI

## Advise. Connect. Build.

The purpose of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is to advise state government on issues affecting Hispanic Ohioans, to connect the diverse Latino communities across the state, and to build the capacity of community organizations so they may better serve the fast growing Latino population of Ohio.

The Commission serves as a liaison between government and the Hispanic/Latino community in Ohio and advocates the development and implementation of policies and programs to address the needs of the Hispanic/Latino Ohioans, especially but not limited to education, employment, economic development, health and housing.

## History

The Commission was created by Legislative Act and signed into Law by Governor James Rhodes on July 8, 1977. The Statute provided for eleven members on the Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Statute requires that all Board members shall speak Spanish, shall be of Hispanic/Latino origin, and shall be American citizens or lawful, permanent resident aliens. The membership shall be representative of the geographical and numerical distribution of Ohio's Hispanic/Latino population. The Commission shall meet not less than six times per calendar year, and six members shall constitute a quorum.

## Office & Interagency Council

The Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs and the Ohio Interagency Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs are two state agencies within the purview of the Commission. Ezra C. Escudero, who leads both as Director of the Office and Chairman of the Council, has served at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners since October 2003. The Office has three program offices, the Public Policy Center, the Latino

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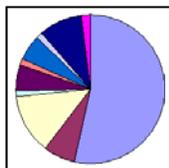
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Global-Ready Ohio for the 21st Century.



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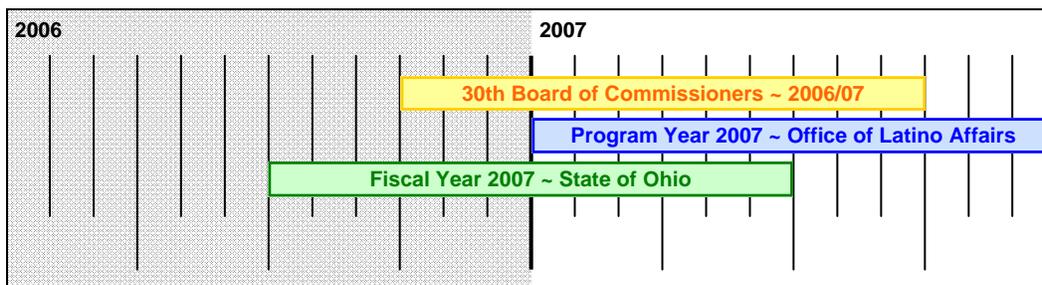
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## Timeframes for the 2007 Annual Report

Note: This report covers the actions of the 30th Board of Commissioners from October 2006 through September 2007, the finances of the agency during Fiscal Year 2007 of the State of Ohio (July 2006 through June 2007), and Program Year 2007 of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs from January through



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ezra C. Escudero, Director of Latino Affairs, State of Ohio

Time. Change. Growth.

2007 was a phenomenal year.

At the very beginning, our biggest challenges included adapting the Commission to the priorities and personnel of a new Governor, a new administration, and a new ruling party of the Executive Branch.

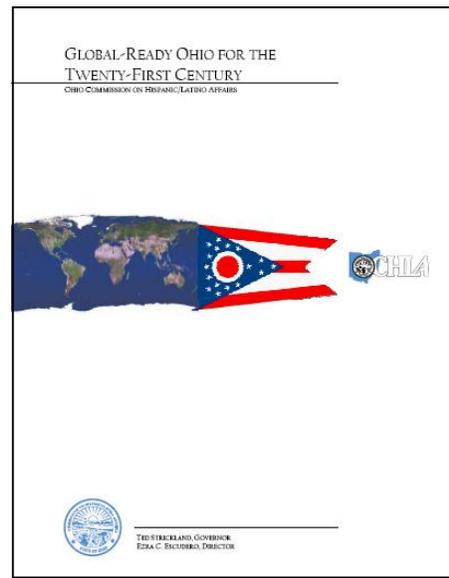
Out of this adaptation grew a new strategic plan - not just for the Commission, but for the State of Ohio. The *Global-Ready Ohio for the 21st Century* strategic plan is the first major edifice resting on our new foundation of “Advise, Connect, Build.”

We came to refer to the plan by the phrase “GROh-21” (pronounced “grow twenty-one”) because every business and strategic conversation about the Commission, its work, and its future, inevitably led back to the *Global-Ready... GROh-21* document. Its three strategic initiatives detailed beginning on page 6 - Education, Development, and Diversity - have the potential of guiding the Commission’s work throughout the 2007-2008 biennium, and perhaps for the next decade.

GROh-21 was critical in providing the Governor with the substantiation for the unprecedented budget increase recommendation for the Commission. Although readers of this report will have to wait for the 2008 report for details of the increase in funding from \$181K in state fiscal year 2007 to \$1.4 million for state fiscal years 2008 and 2009, you can read the new steps taken in program year 2007 beginning with the Director’s Report of April 2007 (page 14)

## Board Realignment

For the 30th Board of Commissioners, the biggest change was moving away from a “functional” committee structure and into a “strategic” structure. Although it fully aligns with our mandates - the way to think about it is that the Commission “advises, connects, and builds” in the areas of “education, development, and diversity.” Furthermore, it marks a tremendous cultural change for the Commissioners, in a way that maximizes their value and addresses the strategic focus the Commission needs.



## Office Growth

The second half of the Office program year 2007 was nothing short of revolutionary. We replaced outdated technology and acquired the necessary tools for implementing GROh-21. We increased our staffing by 50% (from two to three full-time employees) by hiring a new program director to run our Latino Community Network Program. We triggered the deployment and development of the Ohio Latino Affairs Network (OLAnet) community information management system.

By the end of 2007, the Commission was in many ways unrecognizable from the way it was at the start of the year. It is no understatement to say that the comprehensive and cohesive new vision crafted in mid-2006 through early-2007 turned into a dream-come-true, along with all the “dream-come-true” energy and excitement!



## New Challenges

With all the ingredients finally in place, the next measure for the Commission will be its ability to execute

Our constituents have new expectations. More inspiring is that these expectations are the right expectations, thanks to our successful promotion and communication strategies. Be they legislators, agency directors, residents, and voters, our clear articulation of our statutory mandates (advise, connect, build) and our strategic initiatives (education, development, and diversity) helps keep us focused and accountable.

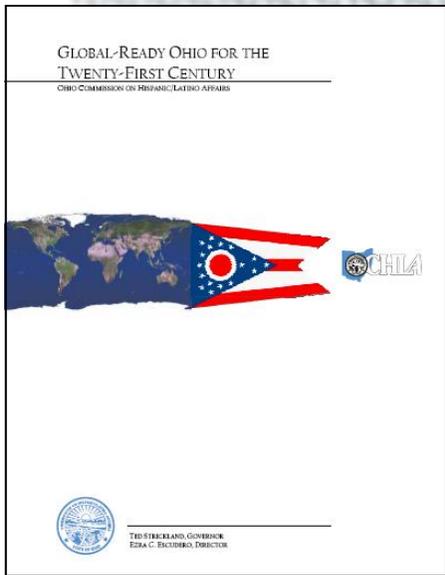


In other words, we are all finally speaking the same language.

To contrast this year with the one past, we are finally an adequately funded state agency. Our mandates match our means. Our focus and priorities have been declared, have been tested, questioned, and found to be true. 2007 was a phenomenal year.

In service to Ohio,

Ezra C. Escudero  
Director



# A NEW CENTURY PLAN

**Global Ready Ohio  
for the 21st Century**

## THE CHALLENGE

Relative to other states, Ohio's population is shrinking – except for immigrants and New Americans, and for the Hispanic & Latino community. The need to help these new Ohioans integrate with life in the United States has never been greater.

As Ohio's school-age population becomes more diverse, it is increasingly more critical to ensure that the education system possesses the cultural competency and skilled teachers to ensure that every child has a fair start.

The demand to help Ohioans prepare for the workforce challenges of the twenty-first century, including developing flexible language workers, and recognizing skill-sets of Ohioans from other countries is an urgent priority to help retain, create and attract jobs worthy of Ohio workers.

The importance of connecting the grassroots, the disenfranchised, and new American communities with policymakers and elected officials at all levels of state & local government is vital to a healthy community and vibrant democracy. Ohio has an opportunity to leverage its emerging diversity so that it yields benefits rather than consume resources.

## THREE AREAS

### ONE PLAN

It turns out that these three areas: Education, Development, and Diversity, are areas of shared concern for the new Governor, Ted Strickland, many members of the General Assembly, and for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs.

Hence, the 30th Board of Commissioners at its annual retreat, with guidance and counsel from the Executive Director, mapped out a new plan for these new realities: Global-Ready Ohio for the 21st century, also known as GROh-21. This plan defines the focus of the Commission for the new biennium inclusive of the 2008

and 2009 state fiscal years.

The dramatic difference of GROh-21 compared to previous strategic plans of the Commission is the clear opportunity to demonstrate the value of the Commission to all Ohioans. Education, Development, and Diversity are three areas that both affect all Ohioans and can be areas of improvement for all Ohioans. If previously, there ever was any criticism of the Commission that it was of exclusive benefit to Hispanic Ohioans, this new strategic focus erases that gap. After all...

## EDUCATION

Every young Ohioan with improved grades in school and enriched resources at school – regardless of race or heritage – translates into more successful residents who pay more taxes and require fewer social services, as well as a more globally-competitive Ohio workforce that attracts more foreign-direct investment and more jobs.

## DEVELOPMENT

Every new Ohio-owned business – regardless of the origin of the founding entrepreneur – means new jobs for all Ohioans, as well as more vibrant city and rural economies from the shores of Lake Erie to the banks of the Ohio River.

## DIVERSITY

Every time a state agency is more effective at disseminating critical information about preventing flu pandemics, weather warnings, fire safety, and other vital health and safety programs – especially to those hard-to-reach Ohioans – equals healthier and safer neighborhoods for all Ohioans.

From conception in late January, through the budget process in the spring time, to early implementation in summer 2007, the strategic initiatives of Education, Development, and Diversity were defined, they evolved, and became reality.





## Education

- Continue the successful Soluciones Plan
- Establish a pathway of alternative accreditation of teachers
- Improve foreign language instruction of Ohio students at all levels
- Encourage establishment of Cultural Competency Standards

## Development

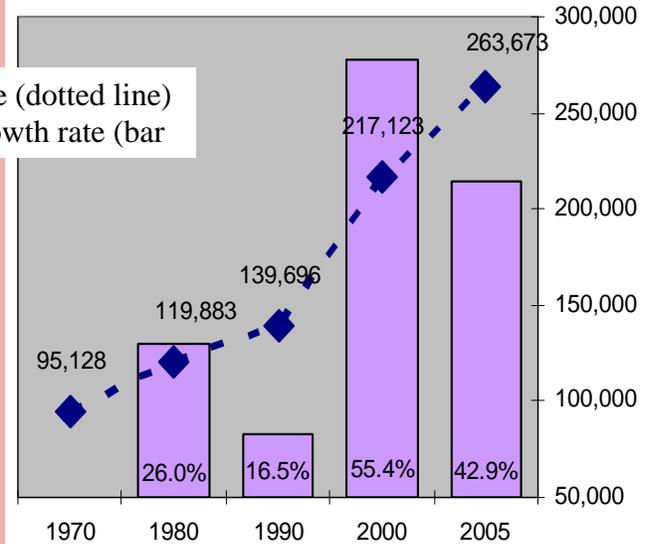
- Establish partnerships with chambers of commerce and business associations
- Develop a study & action plan - modeled after the Commission's seminal education report - regarding the state of Hispanic Business in Ohio
- Create new jobs and new businesses by strengthening expertise of New American entrepreneurs about American business customs, requirements, and practices

## Diversity

- Address growing Public Safety and Homeland Security concerns
- Expand the capacity of Grassroots, not-for-profit community organizations to offer classes in English, Civics, Ohio Heritage, and United States History
- Build a Community Alliance Network utilizing the OLANet system

## Ohio's Hispanic Population Growth

population size (dotted line)  
percentage growth rate (bar)



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

**OED**

**EDU**

**WED**

## New Committee Structure

The Board of Commissioners rearranged their committee structure to reflect and strengthen the Commission's strategic direction.

The Education Committee (EDU), the Workforce & Economic Development Committee (WED), and the Ohio's Emerging Diversity Committee (OED) were forged, also evolved, and engaged the Staff of the Office in new and unanticipated ways.

This was all made possible with the Commission's new organizational structure - underpinned by the statutory mandates "to Advise, to Connect, and to Build."

# Education

## SOLUCIONES EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

Recent test scores highlighted the fact that Latino and African American students displayed the highest increase in academic improvement of any population in the state. However, in spite of tremendous progress Latino students in Ohio still lag behind

others in terms of academic achievement, and lead others in the area of high school dropouts.

### Sample of Major School Districts (Latino population)

CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	34,768	7.2%
TOLEDO CITY SCHOOLS	15,502	6.4%
LORAIN CITY SCHOOLS	13,434	22.3%
COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS	11,491	2.4%
SOUTH-WESTERN CITY SCHOOLS	4,674	3.9%
YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOLS	4,355	5.1%
FREMONT CITY SCHOOLS	2,912	9.3%
PAINESVILLE CITY LOCAL SCHOOLS	2,242	13.1%
LEIPSIC CITY SCHOOLS	773	19.1%
DEFIANCE CITY SCHOOLS	2,095	12.3%

The Soluciones Education Action Plan brings together community-based organizations (CBOs), parents, policymakers, teachers, and administrators partnership to close the gap.

Ongoing work for Soluciones includes a biennial statewide conference, annual local meetings in seven communities across Ohio,

policy studies, and research with our established partners, such as the Ohio Department of Education, the Board of Regents, and The Ohio State University.



### ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION OF TEACHERS

- Work with partners and stakeholders to establish a pathway of alternative accreditation of teachers (similar to the Troops to Teachers program) to allow professional, educated immigrants to obtain a teaching certification in two years or less.

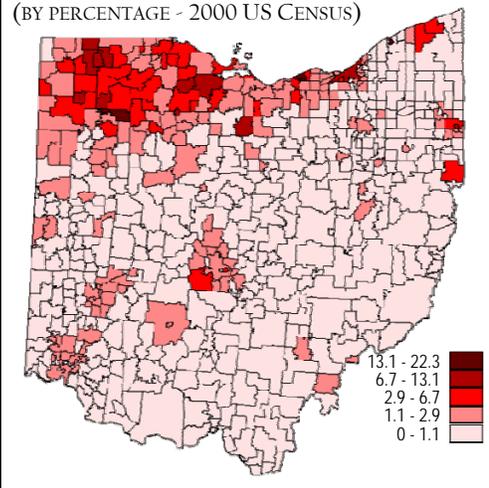
### FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

- Currently 94% of Ohioans ONLY speak English, which is a major disadvantage in today's global economy. An Ohio workforce possessing bilingual or multi-lingual skills will be better prepared for the job market.
- Foreign-language instruction of students should begin in early primary school
- Learning languages should be a central part of the curriculum at all levels of instruction, from Preschool through Grad School.

### CULTURAL COMPETENCY STANDARDS

- In order to help improve the learning process for students caught in the academic achievement gap, especially for African-American, Appalachian, and Latino students, we must develop and incorporate increased standards for teachers related to cultural competency.

Population of Hispanic Ohioans in School Districts  
(BY PERCENTAGE - 2000 US CENSUS)



# Development

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH HISPANIC CHAMBERS

Quarterly, community-centric town hall meetings with the purpose of informing Hispanic Ohioans, promoting greater collaboration, and leading to the development of a cohesive, grassroots driven, statewide agenda.

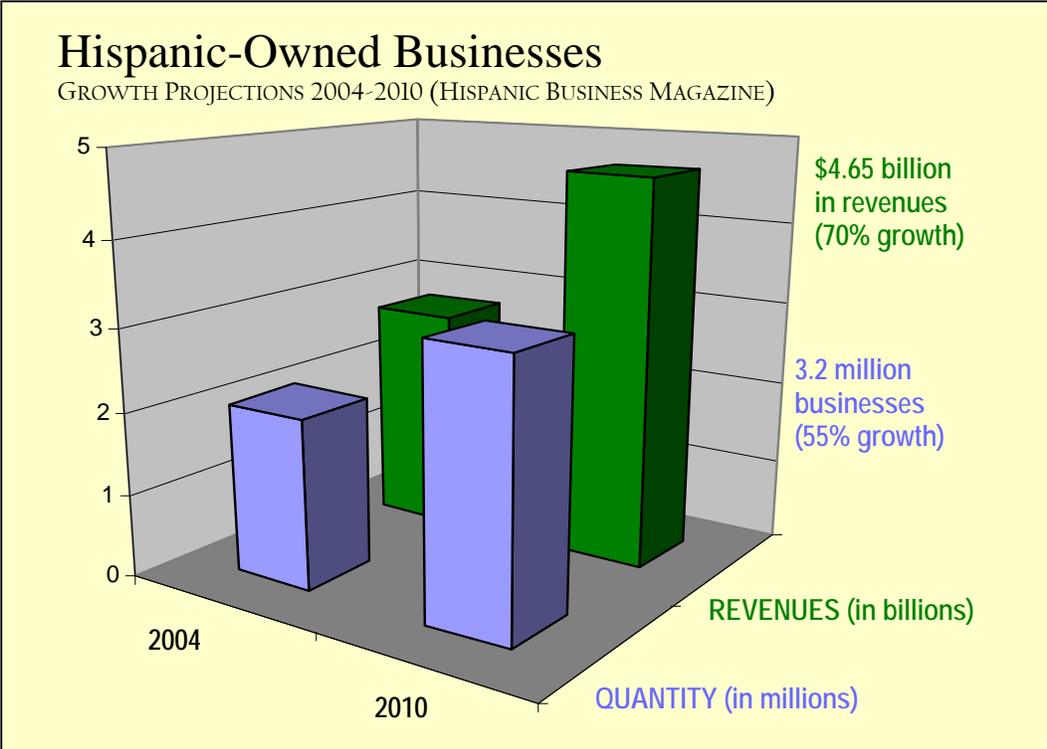
The Hispanic Chamber & Business Association Alliance is currently an unfunded initiative that will help enhance economic growth in Ohio by identifying small and emerging businesses in the Latino community. This initiative will be finalized in partnership with Hispanic Business Associations and the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce across the state, and the Ohio Department of Development.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY: STATE OF LATINO BUSINESS IN OHIO

Developed in partnership with key community stakeholders, the Commission will spearhead the development of an economic impact study regarding Latino business across the state. This multi-faceted study will look at Hispanic-owned businesses, and ventures lead by immigrant entrepreneurs. Information from this study will help create jobs in Ohio by giving key agencies and organizations the tools they need to spur business growth in this sector, determine competitive advantages, and address competitive weaknesses.

## SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH OF NEW AMERICAN BUSINESSES

For the Commission's focus on Workforce & Economic Development, Agenda Latina can be used to deliver training to immigrant entrepreneurs, help foster business relationships for those non-Hispanic businesses seeking to market to the Latino marketplace, and to promote agencies and partners like the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Service Corps Of Retired Executives (SCORE), and others.



## Diversity

### PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY FOR ALL

The Commission has been working to implement a couple sets of critical projects which will enhance public safety and homeland security for all Ohioans, especially those with limited-English proficiency, new Americans, and new Ohioans.

- Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan – OLANet: the Commission is to acquire and maintain the capacity to channel emergency information from EMA’s, Dept. of Health, Public Safety, and Ohio Homeland Security, translate and deliver information to Spanish-language media outlets statewide.
- Coordination with Health & Safety Agencies: As the Department of Public Safety begins its series of National Preparedness Month activities, especially outreach to diverse communities and New American constituents, the Commission is to take all possible steps to enhance and augment those outreach efforts.

### GRASSROOTS CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

A critical partner in helping to integrate and assimilate new American populations in Ohio is the set of private sector, not-for-profit community-based organizations (CBO). Due to the fast growth in the Latino community across Ohio, many of these organizations have been swamped and are today ill-equipped to offer English classes, civics and citizenship classes, and other critical services that help these communities to become successful and productive threads in the fabric of life in Ohio.

By creating a Grassroots Capacity Building Initiative, the Commission will use a “train-the-trainer” approach to help build the capacity of the CBO’s to address the fast-growing communities of Hispanic Ohioans. This will be accomplished by:

- Establishing a Leadership Development Academy
- Offering direct assistance for 501(c)3 applications & grant writing training
- Identifying board governance education programs
- Delivering community education programs through Agenda Latina Ohio
- Conducting an Ohio Survey of New American Programs & Services



### COMMUNITY ALLIANCE NETWORK

Driven by the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs, fulfilling this mandate would serve to maximize community participation and grassroots input to the programs and initiatives of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs.





## DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Program Year 2007 of the Office of Latino Affairs ♦ January ~ De-

### January 2007

#### SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Global Ready Ohio for the Twenty-first Century (GROh-21):** As an outgrowth of the 2008-09 biennium budget process, meshing Commission initiatives fully with Governor Strickland's Turnaround Ohio priorities, and complying with his mandates of an accountable, measurable, and results-driven government, the Chair and the Director of the Commission have been working closely to develop a proposal which accomplishes all of the above in a credible and compelling way. The work-in-progress proposal is known as the Global Ready Ohio for the Twenty-first

Century proposal, or GROh-21.

The notion of taking successful Commission initiatives, integrating them with the Governor's directives, and repositioning the Commission's budget appeal, came from the feedback of key individuals such as Lupe Williams and Baldemar Velasquez of the Governor's transition team, and meetings with state legislators such as Senator Steve Stivers (R-Columbus), Senator Tom Roberts (D-Trotwood), Representative Jim McGregor (R-Gahanna), and Representative Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood).

Because of the compressed timeframes to reach policymakers in time for the

introduction of the Governor's budget on 15 March 2007, the Chair and the Director have prepared various drafts and updates of the proposal in advance of the Commission's Annual Retreat on 17 February. A framework for GROh-21 was built based upon concepts and principles shared by the Commissioners, and communicated via feedback to the Chair and the Director. However, it is for the Commissioners to finalize the key components of the proposal by working together during the retreat. The framework is built around the following three pillars: Education & Workforce Development, Jobs & Economic Development, and Maximizing Ohio's Cultural Wealth.

The proposal is in its third iteration, with an ambitious agenda and a two-year cost of just over \$1.9 million. The Director anticipates that the totality of the GROh-21 proposal will need to be revisited at least one more time, especially by expanding the timeframe to a four-year plan. This will spread out the costs in a way that increases the possibility of full funding within the current fiscal constraints, and improves the overall feasibility of the plan as well.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

**Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan:** On 12 January, the Director met with the members of the DHO Committee, Commissioners Romero, Santiago, Simms-Howell, and Commission Chair Gonzalez to discuss next steps, meet with the hotel, and fundraising efforts. Per the request of the committee, the Director resent DHO Nomination forms, modified the sponsorship request letters, and prepared the nominee packets. The nominations deadline was extended by one week by the committee, to 22 January.

**West Side Fire Initiatives:** The Director has been working with the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network

(LEON) of Central Ohio to continue the realization of the recommendations from the West Side Fire Community Task Force of 2004. Their leadership, through Florentina Staigers (formerly of OCHLA), has yielded much success since Summer 2006. On a side note, Ms. Staigers has also been instrumental in the LEON Education Campaign, which measures the Soluciones Education Campaign of the Commission, but on a local level.

Beginning this month, LEON is stepping up its efforts to improve access to 9-1-1 systems for limited English proficiency residents across Franklin County and Central Ohio. Working with LEON, the Director is supporting these efforts in partnership with the Red Cross of Central Ohio, and other organizations.

**National Council on Latino Affairs:** The Director is keeping in close contact with sister commissions on Latino Affairs in Indiana, Kansas, New York, Utah, and Washington. This core group organized last year's National Summit of Hispanic and Latino American Commissions in Kansas City (December 2005). Presently, this group (including OCHLA) is formulating a proposal for the national conference of the National Council of La Raza, and is planning on attending the United States Hispanic Leadership Conference, both in March 2007.



## TACTICAL INITIATIVES

**OLAnet:** As of January 2007, the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs has secured a commitment from Midwest Latino to provide web hosting and web management services gratis to the Commission. The Commission will keep a simple, easy-to-manage structure to the website, and the Director has traveled to Cincinnati to secure basic web management training from Michael Beck.

Although this is not the ideal scenario for hosting the Commission's website, it is a

good short-term solution, in lieu of OLANet implementation, primarily due to the ease of web management and updating with current information. The Director has consulted with the state Office of Information Technology (OIT), and assured the OIT that the move of the OCHLA website was not due to poor service delivery levels on their part. The provision of free services by Midwest Latino cannot be matched by the marketplace or by OIT at this time.

## TERMINATED PROJECTS

The following projects & initiatives are either completed or are no longer pertinent to the Director: Gubernatorial Transition Preparations, and Biennium Budget Preparations.

## DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

### Meetings with Policy Makers –

“Advise”: The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with Office of the Attorney General and with the Ohio Ethics Commission (3 January)
- Meet with Lupe Williams and Baldemar Velasquez of the Gubernatorial Transition Team (4 January)
- Meet with Leonard Hubert of the Office of Governor Taft (4 January)
- Meet with Commissioner C. Rodriguez (8 January)
- Meet with Chairman Gonzalez (9 January)
- Meet with Doug Preisse, Franklin County Republican County (9 January)
- Attend Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Ceremony (12 January)
- Meet with Commissioners Romero, Santiago, and Simms-Howell (12 January)
- Attend Inaugural Ceremonies for Governor Strickland (13 January)
- Attend Joint Regulatory Boards & Commissions Meeting (18 January)
- Meet with Sen. Steve Stivers (R-Columbus) (23 January)
- Meet with Rep. Jim McGregor (R-Gahanna) (24 January)
- Meet with Rep. Mike Skindell (D-Lakewood) (25 January)
- Meet with Sen. Tom Roberts (D-Trotwood) (25 January)
- Meet with Commissioner Florez (29 January – Cincinnati)

Community Outreach – “Connect”: The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Meet with Latino Empowerment Outreach Network (LEON) Soluciones Local Roundtable Group (5 January)
- Meet with Cindy Pappas of “La X” FM Radio (10 January)
- Meet with Leonard Hubert of Hubert & Associates (12 January)
- Attend Martin Luther King Day Ceremonies (15 January)
- Meet with Tom Lianez (16 January)
- Meet with Columbus Chamber of Commerce (16 January)
- Attend Mentoring Center Community Celebration (18 January)
- Meet with Latino Empowerment Outreach Network (LEON) West Side Fire Task Force Meeting with Red Cross of Central Ohio (22 January)
- Attend Press Conference hosted by Baldemar Velasquez (26 January)
- Meet with Michael Beck of Midwest Latino (29 January – Cincinnati)
- Meet with Juan Jose Perez, Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (30 January)
- Meet with Leonard Hubert of Hubert & Associates (30 January)

## April 2007

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Global Ready Ohio for the Twenty-first Century (GROh-21): Since the OCHLA



budget testimony of 22 March, the Director has followed a two-fold strategy. First, work with OCHLA Chair Gonzalez and OCHLA Finance Chair Simms-Howell to refine the GROh-21 plan within the framework of the Governor's two-year, \$1.4 million proposal for the Commission. This is critical to address any discrepancy between the original GROh proposal and the Executive Recommendation. Second, to meet with as many members of the House Finance committee, and as many leaders of the House, to clarify any concerns, address any issues, and secure commitments to preserve the full amount of the Commission's budget.

It seems that the first step, refining the plan in the form of a response to House Finance Chair Schlichter, has successfully addressed his concerns, and the shared concerns of all the legislators and staffers the Director met with in April. A full listing of meetings with legislators may be found in the "Director's Calendar" section of this report.

It should be noted that House Republican caucus members and leaders (including Speaker Husted) and House Democratic caucus members (including Ranking Minority Member of the Finance Committee Skindell) have offered their support and blessing. A vote in the House should take place the first week of May.

The Director – with the approval of OCHLA Finance Chair Simms-Howell – introduced the Biennium Budget Plan for OCHLA at the 20 April meeting of the Board for discussion and approval. This document, which began as the response to Chairman Schlichter, will be the master plan from which the Director will execute the operations of the Office, should the full budget of \$1.4 million be approved by the full legislature and signed into effect by Governor Strickland at the end of June.

The budget plan was unanimously adopted by the Commission on 20 April.

On 5 April 2007, the Director attended the monthly meeting of the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network (LEON) in Columbus. The purpose of the meeting was to serve as guest speaker, and introduce the GROh proposal to a group of Latino community members and leaders. This first-ever public presentation of GROh-21 was very useful in order to garner some feedback and gauge community reaction to the proposal. All in all, the proposal was very well received, and various community members expressed their interest in contacting their state legislators and asking for their support of the Commission throughout the budget process.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

**Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan:** On 20 April, the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala was a complete success. At a meeting with Wade Rakes on Tuesday, 17 April, the Director received confirmation that Governor Ted Strickland would attend the awards gala. This is the first attendance by a sitting Governor of Ohio since then Governor George Voinovich participated at the DHO in the late 1990's.

Other than reporting that numerous meetings and calls took place between DHO committee members, caterers, sponsors, and other persons related to the event, the Director will defer to the DHO committee to make its final report to the Board.

## SHORT TERM PROJECTS

**Multi-Party Agreement for Emergency Death Fund:** Carol Valdez of Schoedinger Funeral Home came to the Office seeking assistance in establishing an Emergency Death Fund to help offset the high cost of transporting deceased family members of immigrants in the event of an untimely death. Ms. Valdez attended the April meeting of LEON, and heard about the GROh-21 proposal.



Although the Director shared that funds from GROh-21 would likely not be a good fit for such a fund, Office assistance was offered to help broker a multi-party agreement between a (1) local Latino community organization, (2) a local “mainstream” community services or community-relief agency, and (3) willing participants of the local faith-based community.

The ability of the Office to negotiate such an endeavor will be critical should GROh funding come through. As such, the Director determined that this exercise would be a valuable for the following reasons:

1. With a successful arrangement, OCHLA will have helped address a critical community need.
2. An effective agreement can be used as a template to be proposed and implemented in various Latino communities state wide.
3. The exercise will prove to be a valuable one in coordinating organizations, securing assistance from other state agencies, and synthesizing parallel concerns into a singular compact between organizations in a problem-solving way.



## TERMINATED PROJECTS

The following projects & initiatives are either completed or are no longer pertinent to the Director: Unpaid/Underpaid Wages Task with Ohio Department of Commerce.

## DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

### Meetings with Policy Makers –

“Advise”: The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with Ohio House Speaker Pro Tem. DeWine (R-Fairborn) (3 April)
- Tentative meeting with the First Lady of Ohio (4 April)
- Attend ODPS Budget Hearing (4

April)

- Meet with Leonard Hubert (4 April)
- Review budget with CSA Manager Cunningham (5 April)
- Meet with Jarrod Weiss of the office of Rep. Courtney Combs (6 April)
- Meet with Jerry Pettit, Department of Health (9 April)
- Meet with Director Guzman, ODPS (10 April)
- Meet with Ohio House Speaker Husted (R-Kettering) (11 April)
- Meet with Wade Rakes, Office of the Governor (17 April)

Community Outreach – “Connect”: The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Attend with Latino Empowerment Outreach Network (LEON) Monthly Meeting (5 April)
- Meet with Herrera & Velasquez (6 April)
- Meet with Carol Valdez of Schoedinger Funeral Home (9 April)
- Meet with Karen Saldaña of the American Diabetes Association (11 April)
- Meet with Mike Hartley of the American Red Cross (12 April)
- Meet with Publisher Alex Flores and photographer Juan Miranda of La Voz Hispana newspaper (12 April)
- Meet with Juan Jose Perez, Ohio Republican Hispanic Assembly (18 April)
- Speak at the Spanish Language Outreach Program of the State Library of Ohio (26 April – Westerville)

## May 2007

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Global Ready Ohio for the Twenty-first Century (GROh-21): On 1 May 2007, the Ohio House of Representatives voted unanimously in favor of House Bill 119, the 2008-2009 Biennium Budget Bill for the State of Ohio. The Director testified before

the Senate Finance & Financial Institutions Committee on Friday, 18 May 2007. There were two concerns brought up during testimony. First, Senator Ray Miller (D-Columbus) inquired at length as to the composition of the Commission members, if any legislators had been appointed to the Commission, and details regarding the requirement that members of the Commission be of “Spanish-speaking origin” and be able to “speak Spanish”. The second concern was introduced by Senator Patricia Clancy (R-Cincinnati). She was interested in finding out more about the Commission’s Soluciones Education Campaign.

A full listing of meetings with legislators may be found in the “Director’s Calendar” section of this report.

**Public Safety for All Initiatives:** (formerly the West Side Fire Initiatives) At the invitation of Henry Guzmán, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Director attended a Homeland Security Brief to launch Ohio’s efforts to build awareness for National Preparedness Month, which will take place in September. As it turns out, the third week of National Preparedness Month is devoted to “diversity” and reaching all Ohioans of diverse backgrounds, with a kick-off on 17 September in Lucas County.

This perfectly coincides with the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Therefore, the Director recommends that the OED committee consider engaging the Dept. of Public Safety and explore ways of publicizing National Preparedness Month to Latino communities statewide. This presents a great opportunity to launch right into OED committee work, and to solidify a great relationship with Public Safety for the future.

**Agenda Latina Ohio:** As an important part of the GROh-21 implementation

process, it will be necessary to conduct a statewide series of meetings to educate Latino community organizations and leaders about the new programs of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, as well as the OLANet tools when they go active in October 2007.

The Director will recommend that the OED committee propose an aggressive calendar of meetings throughout Hispanic Heritage Month so as to inform the community and train key folks on the OLANet tools.

## WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Economic Impact Study:** Beginning in May 2007, the Director has procured the services of a paid intern to assist in the process of developing a DRAFT preliminary Economic Impact Study Proposal. Susan De Luca has worked in the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs as a part-time, intermittent employee since 2006. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Social Work at The Ohio State University and is a native of Cleveland. Her previous work with OCHLA has been in the area of our Soluciones Education Campaign and in conducting general public policy research.

The Director has selected her to assist in the development of the preliminary proposal draft because of her expertise in academic research and skills in developing study proposals.

The purpose of the draft preliminary proposal is to have a broad but specific document to take to potential partners and to begin the process of narrowing the scope of the study to eventually be focused by the W&ED committee, our study partners, and the Director’s advisory committee.

The Director will submit a final version of the draft preliminary proposal to the W&ED for approval before presenting the



document to outside parties. The goal of the Director is to have said draft ready no later than 8 June 2007. Ideally, the W&ED committee will grant approval to the Director on or before the date of the 15 June 2007 meeting of the Commission. Because the final product at this stage is ONLY a preliminary proposal, it will not require approval by the full Commission at this time.

However, the Director will seek COMMITTEE approval before meeting with potential partner groups.

**Partners:** The first most critical contact with a potential partner is a meeting between the Director and Mark Barbash, Chief Economic Development Officer for the State of Ohio Department of Development. At this time, the meeting is set for Tuesday, 26 June 2007.

In addition, the Director has had or is scheduling meetings with Henry Guzman, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Luis Martinez of the City of Cleveland, and other key folks of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. These folks may serve as potential members of the Director's Advisory Committee on Workforce & Economic Development.

At this time, the Director recommends to the W&ED Committee of the Commission that a Special Summit of Hispanic Business Associations and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce be scheduled as soon as possible to take place in July 2007. The purpose of said summit will be to unveil the OCHLA W&ED plan, the Economic Impact Study, and the Hispanic Business & Executive Database components of the OLANet project.

Hopefully, after some work and a series of meetings, OCHLA will be able to secure an MOU with all of the HBA's and HCC's in Ohio. While it is not necessary for all of these organizations to work together with each other, it would be ideal for each of

these organizations to strike an accord with OCHLA. The Commission will have the resources to develop a truly comprehensive statewide database.

If an HBA or HCC partners with OCHLA to develop the OCHLA database, then it makes sense for the participating HBA's & HCC's to have full access to the database, as well as permission from OCHLA to use the database to publish directories and raise funds through advertising sales in said directory.

It is the Director's opinion that, as a government agency, OCHLA should not be making money off the database, but rather creating opportunities for Hispanic community organizations to raise their funds off of the information provided by OCHLA.

## TACTICAL INITIATIVES

**OCHLA Staffing:** The Director is pleased to offer a proposed Position Description for the Community Liaison Officer position. Should the budget be approved by the Ohio Senate by the June meeting of the OCHLA Board, it is the Director's recommendation that the position be announced immediately. Of course, final hiring action will be contingent upon complete passage and signing of HB 119, and no earlier than 1 July 2007 (the first day of Fiscal Year 2008).

## DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

### Meetings with Policy Makers –

**“Advise”:** The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with Staff Members of the Office of Senate Minority Leader Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) (2 May)
- Meet with Auditors (2 May)
- Attend Homeland Security Briefing & National Preparedness Month launch at the Ohio Department of Public Safety (9 May)
- Meet with Senate Finance Committee



- Ranking Minority Member Dale Miller (D-Cleveland) (18 May)
- OCHLA Testimony to the Senate Finance & Financial Institutions Committee (18 May)
  - Meet with Cheryl Boyce, Commission on Minority Health (22 May)
  - Meet with Shelby, legislative aide to Senator Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) (23 May)
  - Meet with Katherine, legislative aide to Senate Finance Committee Chair John Carey (R-Wellston) (23 May)
  - Meet with staffers for Senator Steve Austria (R-Beavercreek) (24 May)
  - Meet with Karhlton Moore, Ohio Dept. of Public Safety (24 May)
  - Meet with legislative aide to Senator Ray Miller (D-Columbus) (25 May)
  - Meet with Jennifer, aide to Senator Joy Padgett (R-Coshocton) (29 May)
  - Meet with Wade Rakes & Matt Colopy, Office of Governor Ted Strickland (29 May)
  - Attend Constituent Outreach event for United States Congressman Pat Tiberi (R-Columbus) (29 May)
  - Meet with Senator Tom Roberts (D-Dayton) (30 May)
  - Meet with Senator Patricia Clancy (R-Cincinnati) (31 May)

**Community Outreach – “Connect”:** The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Meet with Pete LuPiba of the Central Ohio Filipino community (1 May)
- Meet with Ruben Herrera (2 May)
- Meet with Rural Opportunities, Inc (4 May – Fremont)
- Participate in Latino community panel discussion at Terra State Community College (4 May – Fremont)
- Meetings in Cleveland for Convención (14 May – Cleveland)
- Meet with Richard Bitonte of Strategic Government Initiatives (15 May)
- Participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters Ohio Legislative Breakfast (23 May)
- Meet with Carol Valdez of

- Schoedinger Funeral Home, Mike Schoedinger of the Red Cross of Central Ohio, and Josue Vicente of the Ohio Hispanic Coalition Organization (24 May)
- Meet with Josue Vicente of the Ohio Hispanic Coalition (31 May)

## July 2007

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### Ohio Immigrant Legislative Initiatives:

As passage of comprehensive immigration reform appears unlikely in the near future, states have taken it upon themselves to create their own proposed legislations. Immigration-related introductions in 2007 have increased by 240 % with 1,404 pieces of legislation introduced in all 50 states have been considered. Four bills have been vetoed by their respective governors and 12 are pending their governor’s approval. To-date 170 immigration-related bills have become law in 41 states, more than double the rate compared to last year.

These proposals comprise various policy areas such as employment, education, driver’s licenses, human trafficking, law enforcement and public benefits among others. The most-recent federal policy announced in August, social security number matching, puts the burden on employers to determine the citizenship of their employees.

In this same report, Secretary Chertoff stated that local law enforcement officers would also broaden their scope to ascertain legal status.

Ohio State Representative Combs and Senator Cates will reportedly introduce legislation in September to have correctional facilities determine citizenship of inmates, have public employers participate in status verification systems for worker eligibility, withhold state income taxes from businesses who



fail to verify workers' status and to have public agencies verify citizenship status for public benefits.

Finally, REAL ID will be implemented in 2008 to transition from driver's licenses to identification cards that will be needed to board an airplane among other "sensitive areas". The ID's will still be obtained at a local Department of Motor Vehicles but DMV workers and not ICE officers will be determining citizenship. OCHLA will continue to monitor these legislative proposals and federal policies that can affect Latinos in Ohio.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### Ohio's Emerging Diversity - Safeguarding Victims of Crime Policy Initiative:

In response to a constituent's concern over the proposed legislation from Sen. Timothy J. Grendell, R-Chesterland and Rep. Jim Hughes, R-Columbus to help increase sentences for multiple offenders to reduce crime in Ohio, OCHLA created a policy brief regarding Habitual Offender Laws ("3 Strikes" legislation).

The legislators state that by increasing sentences for multiple offenders, crime will be reduced. The proposal also allows judges to decide whether to double the sentence for a third-time felon or to impose the maximum penalties for an individual charged with three violent first- or second degree felony. If passed, Ohio's prison population will undoubtedly increase which is already at 132% capacity.

Data was compiled from 27 state criminal justice agencies, including Ohio, to ascertain the effect this proposed law would have on Ohio's Latino population. Although a preliminary report, findings included that the Latino and African-American populations in states with 3 strikes fared significantly worse than other races/ethnicities.

Those supporting this proposal argue it

helps reduce crime rates while opponents stated that it is ineffective, costly and unfairly targets minorities. OCHLA will continue to monitor the progress of this proposal and others that may affect Ohio's Latinos.

### Workforce & Economic Development - Economic Impact Study:

A preliminary proposal was submitted in mid-June ascertaining demographic data pertaining to Latinos in Ohio. Understanding the needs of Hispanics is essential for advocacy, policy making and program development. Data used to compile this report were from the Bureau of the Census, some information is approaching 10 years old which became a limitation.

In addition out-of-date data, specific questions regarding Hispanics' experiences, such as obstacles to employment, education and feelings of acceptance from the Ohio community, are not asked in the Census. Methodological considerations are also a concern when conducting Latino research. Approaches such as pencil-and-paper questionnaires are not a culturally competent approach to obtaining data on Latinos.

By using a mix-methods design, quantitative and qualitative methods, the Economic Impact Study would increase in rigor. By incorporating focus groups and personal interviews, the Commission will obtain a better view of what Hispanics are experiencing in Ohio. The goal of this proposed study is to become a leader in Hispanic development and programming.

This research can be used as a template for other states to promote Ohio as a pioneer in advocacy, diversity awareness and public policy. By creating a reputation as an empowering entity, the State of Ohio can not only attract new businesses but workers who are dedicated to economic development, education and family values.



## INFRASTRUCTURE & TACTICAL INITIATIVES

**OLAnet:** Meetings in late June and early July have provided the Office with an opportunity to reestablish dialogue with Northlich – formerly Interactive Ink – which has been secured by OCHLA to serve as lead technology consultants for the development of the OLAnet website, database, and web content management technology tools.

After intensive launch meetings with the consultants, the Director has established 31 October 2007 as the target deadline for completion and Go-Live-Date for the full suite of OLAnet solutions.

This target date is critical, for it will enable the Director and the LCN Program Director to embark on a seven city, statewide program of training, education, and enrollment of Latino community organizations into the OLAnet system.

This timeframe is bracketed by Election Day (6 November) and Thanksgiving Day (22 November). This timeframe is critical to ensure maximum exposure before the end-of-year holidays in 2007, and also to avoid any issues with inclement weather in the winter of 2007-2008.

The Director has charged the LCN Program Director with the development of a comprehensive marketing & training program. The seven cities targeted for the initial OLAnet launch include Cleveland, Lorain, Youngstown, Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus. Each city will have two OLAnet sessions on business days – one during the lunch hour, and the other after business hours.

Training sessions are to be hosted at local libraries, or at other facilities with computer labs available.

Each training session will include an overview presentation on OLAnet and the

OCHLA Community Alliance Network model. This will be followed by a hands-on demonstration of the OLAnet technology, with local Latino community organization representatives given the opportunity to register their respective organizations into the OLAnet database, as well as the opportunity to post news and events relevant to each group's activities.

Preliminary goals include the registration of at least 50 community organizations, 50 individual events, and 50 news items. This information will drive content on the Commission's new website and calendar of events, as well as replace the outdated database which has been in use for over ten years.

The LCN Program Director will also be looking to identify local business to sponsor refreshments at each of the seven locations – as the Commission is prohibited from expending funds on food or refreshments.

**RFP Policies & Procedures:** In order to proceed with obtaining requests for proposals, creating a formal set of policies and procedures is essential to an efficient process. Included in the initial report are policies already implemented by various government agencies within the State of Ohio.

Particular guidelines included procedures regarding funding announcements, expectations for applications including the letter of intent, budget, deliverables and the applicant's own evaluation plan. Upon receipt of the application, benchmarks for the evaluation process from the review committee and announcement of their decision were also suggested.

**National Council of Latino Affairs:** On July 10 & 11, the Director participated in the National Conference of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in Chicago. The purpose of OCHLA's participation was to partner with sister



Latino Affairs commissions from Indiana and Washington State to deliver a conference workshop called “Working with State Government”.

This presented a tremendous opportunity to increase and enhance the visibility of OCHLA with the Latino community at the National level, as well as to continue the ongoing partnership with other Latino Affairs commissions from other states. For this particular session, the workshop was a product of collaboration with Amy Mendoza, Executive Director of the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, and Uriel Iñiguez, Executive Director of the Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs. All three Directors (Indiana, Washington and Ohio) had additional opportunities to meet with national-level Latino leaders, and to continue the practice of sharing ideas, cross-pollinating program concepts, and promoting the mutual use of best practices.

At this time, due to a change of leadership for the Kansas Hispanic & Latin American Affairs Commission, Director Mendoza of Indiana has stepped up in her collaboration with the Utah Latino Affairs agency to plan for a 2007 Summit of Latino Affairs Commissions in Utah this December. Additional information is forthcoming.

**Office Infrastructure:** With the beginning of the 2008 Fiscal Year, the Director began immediate implementation of the Office Infrastructure components of the Biennial Strategic Plan (formerly GROh-21). These include the acquisition of new office equipment, the reconfiguration of the OCHLA office space, and the hiring of a new Community Liaison Officer to serve as the Program Director for the Latino Community Network.

After careful study, securing various quotes from state-approved vendors, and

developing several transition plans, purchase orders were released for the acquisition of four computers, one printer, a conference table, a small work table, and chairs.

In addition, vendors were contracted to reconfigure the existing cubicles and workspace of the office, reactivate dormant phone and internet lines, and improve the electrical wiring – bringing it up to a safer standard than previously existed. In every case, vendor selection was made easy by the State Term Schedule and predetermined procedures established by the Department of Administrative Services. At this point, the Director anticipates expenditures to be at or below the Budget Plan of \$11,670.

**Community Liaison Officer:** After publicizing the Position Description for the Community Liaison Officer, the Director went through a process of screening and interviewing, with the full support, consultation, and endorsement of Commission Chair Humberto Gonzalez and Commission Member Ramona Reyes, both members of the ad-hoc OCHLA Infrastructure Committee.

The month began with an initial set of informal interviews with 14 candidates. Seven of the 14 candidates were invited to a second round, consisting of work and writing samples, which included translations and press-release development. Finally, two candidates were invited to a final round of formal interviews. On Monday, 23 July, the Director extended an offer to Ms. Lilleana Calderon Cavanaugh to begin work as Community Liaison of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs effective 6 August 2007.

## SHORT TERM PROJECTS

### **Multi-Party Agreement for Emergency**

**Death Fund:** Carol Valdez of Schoedinger Funeral Home came to the Office in May



2007 seeking assistance in establishing an Emergency Death Fund to help offset the high cost of transporting deceased family members of immigrants in the event of an untimely death. The Director has determined that this exercise would be a valuable for the following reasons:

1. With a successful arrangement, OCHLA will have helped address a critical community need.
2. An effective agreement can be used as a template to be proposed and implemented in various Latino communities state wide.
3. The exercise will prove to be a valuable one in coordinating organizations, securing assistance from other state agencies, and synthesizing parallel concerns into a singular compact between organizations in a problem-solving way.

A draft of the sample Emergency Death Fund mechanism has been prepared by the Director, to be submitted to stakeholder organizations in August. Said draft is attached to this report. To date, the Director has spent no more than 5 hours of time and effort on the development of this plan.

**2007 Biennial Audit:** As is the two-year custom, the biennial audit of OCHLA began this spring under the leadership of a new team from the Office of the Auditor of State. Of particular note, it is interesting that the Auditor has determined that our audit should cover the current fiscal year in addition to the three previous fiscal years. In the past, it was customary to only audit the two, closed, previous fiscal years.

In other words, this year the audit covers fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007. As a consequence, any and every identified concern for fiscal year 2004 – which has already been identified in the 2005 Audit –

will once again come to light, regardless of any and all remedial action which has already been taken.

It appears that the auditing team will finish the work sometime in August. However, at this time, it is now possible to anticipate some of the issues and concerns for the Commission. Of special note are the following:

- *Need for Documentation of Procedures – in previous years, and until the 2005 Audit, the Office lacked proper documentation of procedures. This issue was identified in 2005 and has since been remedied.*

*The OCHLA Policy Source Book is a “living document” which continues to evolve as the Office better documents practices, procedures, and policies pertinent to the Commission. All of these policies are in some way, shape, or form, endorsed or approved by a vote of the Board of Commissioners. In spite of this remedial action, the 2007 Audit will reiterate this concern.*

- *Procedures with Voucher Paperwork – up until the 2007 fiscal year, there has been some inadequacy with the Office procedures in reconciliation of certain figures and paperwork, especially as it pertains to segregation of duties. Up until the 2007 fiscal year, the Office has only had two full-time employees.*

*Furthermore, the paperwork under consideration will be eliminated by the new OAKS system in fiscal years 2008. All the same, the audit will remark upon this inadequacy. The Office will take all steps necessary to apply lessons learned from this critique to all new systems and procedures brought in by OAKS, and the increase in OCHLA staff.*

- *Late Payment of Invoices – auditors have identified a number of invoices which were*



subject to late payment. After clarifying some “false positives” identified by the auditors, only a handful remained. Of these, some were related to technology projects in which practice called for vendors to pre-date invoices to the beginning of the project, leading to a multi-month lag time between billing and payment.

Other invoices were paid late due to circumstances outside the control of the Office – specifically, delays in processing in other agencies such as Central Services, Administrative Services, and Budget & Management. In all cases, the Office will improve its documentation steps, especially those involving unique invoicing procedures, and those involving extra-OCHLA delays.

- *Travel Policy Compliance* – in its initial review, the auditors believed to have identified non-compliance by OCHLA with regards to state travel policies.

After demonstrating that the Office fully engages all proper practices and procedures, documentation, and complies with all proper legal and ethical exemptions when applicable, it appears that the auditors will amend their report to affirm the Commission’s proper compliance with travel policy.

- *Annual Reports* – the auditors have correctly identified a deficiency of the Commission, namely the regular submission of formal, written annual reports by the Director. The Commission may recall that the development of the 2004, 2005, and 2006 annual reports began last fall was put on hold in order to enable the Director to focus on the successful promotion of the GROh-21 proposal and defense of the Commission’s budget during the biennium budget process in the House and the Senate.

The Director will promptly resume work on these matters and has established the deadline

of 31 December for the completion of the 2006 annual report. 2005 and 2006 annual reports will follow, and the 2007 annual report will be delivered to the Commissioners on the proper, normal timeframe of March/April 2008.

Upon completion of the audit, the Office of the Auditor will send a Management Letter to the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs, and to the home address of each Commissioner. Upon receipt, the Director shall offer a formal Response to the Management Letter, clarifying any extenuating circumstances and offering planned resolution steps for any discrepancies or deficiencies in the operation of the Commission.

## DIRECTOR’S CALENDAR

### Meetings with Policy Makers –

**“Advise”:** The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with Ohio Civil Rights Commission (2 July)
- Meet with Melissa Cardenas of the Ohio Board of Regents (13 July)
- Meet with the Mayor of Lima and the City Police Chief of Lima (18 July – Lima)
- Participate in the local Ohio Civil Rights Commission Community Open Session (18 July – Lima)
- Meet with Raul Soto of the Ohio Department of Education (31 July)

**Community Outreach – “Connect”:** The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Deliver “Working with Your State Government” Workshop Presentation at the LULAC National Conference, in collaboration with Latino Affairs Directors from Indiana and Washington State (10-11 July – Chicago)
- Meet with Michael Barrera, President & CEO of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, hosted by Nationwide Insurance (12 July)



- Present to the Cleveland Hispanic Roundtable (12 July – Cleveland)
- Attend the Hispanic Community Outreach Day of Big Brothers Big Sisters at Camp Oty'Okwa (14 July – Hocking Hills)
- Meet with Mercedes Moore of the Central Ohio Latino SBDC (16 July)
- Attend special recognition event for Henry Guzmán, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, hosted by the Cleveland Hispanic Roundtable (16 July – Cleveland)
- Meet with Victor Mora of The Ohio State University (18 July)
- Meet with community members (24 July – Lorain)
- Participate & serve as Master of Ceremonies at the annual LULAC Dinner (25 July – Dayton)
- Meet with Joel Diaz of the Wexner Center for the Arts (31 July)

## August 2007

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### Latino Community Meeting of 1

**September 2007:** On Wednesday, 29 August 2007, the Office of the Governor contacted the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs requesting assistance in its outreach efforts to Latino community organizations after an immigration raid the day before. Details of this request, and the response of the Director and the Office may be found in a special Director's Report to the Office of the Governor on the Latino Community Meeting of 1 September 2007. Commissioner Simms-Howell was involved in the meeting.

#### Immigration Enforcement Legislation of

**2007:** As reported in the Director's Report of July 2007, under the title "Ohio Immigrant Legislative Initiatives", the Office has confirmation that on 11 September 2007, Rep. Courtney Combs will introduce anti-immigrant legislation. If available, the Director will include a

copy of said legislation with this report.

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

OED - Public Safety & Homeland Security: Beginning with a request from the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) to help enhance the agency's diversity outreach efforts for National Preparedness Month, the Office began meetings with a statewide group of agencies and departments to discuss special activities and events for Ohio's Preparedness Month in September 2007. Under the leadership of the Office's Latino Community Network, the following steps have been taken to ensure that ODPS' planned Diversity Week activities in Lucas County would successfully reach the local Latino community:

- *Meetings and teleconferences with Tom Barnhizer from Emergency Management in Lucas County and Tina O Grady (ODPS). The goal is to develop a strong relationship with Tom and lead/support and mentor Lucas County EMA to work with local Latino leaders/organizations in Lucas County, so that long lasting communication and collaboration efforts will be established to go beyond this event*
- *Work to develop a model County EMA Outreach Plan to be disseminated statewide*
- *Provided Lucas County EMA and the Emergency Preparedness Team with information on fourteen Latino grassroots organizations. They are working closely with La Prensa Newspaper (Rico Neller), El Tiempo Newspaper (Celso Rodriguez), and Voces Latinas TV Show (Tony Rios) for media coverage and Roberto Torres for community networking.*



The outline of planned events in Lucas County include:

- *Media Kick-Off Event: This event will*

include government, agencies and community representatives to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness. Date: 17 September 2007. Time: TBA.

- *Poster Contest: The goal is to provide an avenue for interpretation of emergency preparedness from the eyes of children. I have put Tom in contact with Joe Balderas at Sophia Quintero Art & Cultural Center and Sonia Troche from Adelante to coordinate this event.*
- *Community Panel: This event will involve Latinos and other minorities. The purpose of the event would be to (1) Dialogue about the particular needs of the Latino community {ADVISE}; (2) Share how emergency community services function in this community {CONNECT}; (3) Provide brief cultural awareness to representatives {BUILD}. Date and time for the event: TBA.*
- *Voluntarios en Accion (Volunteers in Action): The above events will seek to encourage and empower Latino citizens to become an active part of the prevention process. Latinos who are interested could take advantage of existing citizen training programs for community citizen police and even medical volunteering.*



**Workforce & Economic Development - Meetings with Department of Development:**

During the month of August, the Director and various members of the OCHLA Workforce & Economic Development committee met with two offices within the Ohio Department of Development: Office of Small Business and the Office of Strategic Research. Meetings are still planned with the Workforce Training section involved with the Workforce Investment Boards across the state.

For now, the Office has determined that the Office of Strategic Research can be a

partner in developing many of the geo-demographic reports of the Commission, such as Latino Community Reports (LCR's). The Office of Strategic Research is very strong in its mastery and use of US Census Bureau data. However, the limitations of census data as they pertain to the Latino community are very well known.

Regardless this partnership opportunity is very strong as census-based information serves as a solid and credible baseline from which projections and other assumptions may be made.

The critical opportunity for the Commission will be a strategic partnership with the Office of Small Business.

Working with the WED committee members, the Director will begin identifying necessary steps and policies to craft a memorandum of understanding between the Commission and the Department of Development.

At the right time, the Director will recommend to the WED committee that a proposal go to the full Commission which will:

1. Formalize the partnership between the Commission and the Department of Development
2. Extend Commission funding to solidify the establishment of the Central Ohio Latino Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
3. Commit Commission funding to accelerate the establishment of Latino SBDC's across Ohio during the 2008-09 biennium
4. Postpone the Commission's plan to conduct an economic impact study
5. Establish a limited series of mutual goals (related to ongoing funding of Latino SBDC's) between the Commission and the Department of Development for the 2010-11 biennium budget process

Much work remains in this process, including securing commitments from the Department of Development, obtaining guidance from the Office of the Attorney General, and the process of crafting and negotiating a proper memorandum of understanding.

The Director will ask the WED committee to establish a goal of 7 December 2007 as the target date for formal ratification by the Commission of the memorandum of understanding between the Commission and the Department of Development.

## TACTICAL INITIATIVES

**Infrastructure - OLANet:** The development of OLANet continues at full-speed. The consulting firm of Northlich has provided the Office with a detailed timeframe of development and implementation. Commissioners are invited to listen in on the weekly status report conference call. They are to be held on every Monday afternoon at 3 pm beginning on 17 September 2007 until project completion at the end of October.

In order to ensure that the Commission successfully implements the OLANet system, website, database, and calendar, the Office is working diligently to conduct a total of sixteen (16) training sessions – twice a day per site – in eight different Ohio cities. The target cities are Dayton, Cincinnati, Bowling Green, Toledo, Lorain, Cleveland, Youngstown, and Columbus.

Sites are selected based upon maximizing geographic coverage and accessibility by Latino community organizations, furthering our relationship with the State Library of Ohio and public libraries across our state, and securing facilities with free (or inexpensive) internet computer laboratories accessible to those attending the OLANet training sessions.

To further maximize attendance, the Program Director of the Latino

Community Network is developing a marketing plan which will include multimedia channels, and a modest media buy in the diverse Latino newspapers across the state.

### **PPC - Latino Community Reports**

**(LCR's):** In order to strengthen our relationship with legislators with measurable Latino populations, legislative community reports are being compiled for 54 Ohio State Representatives and Senators. These short reports, individualized to each lawmaker include Latino demographic information, community meetings and organizations in their respective districts.

The information provided allows each lawmaker to quickly understand the concerns of their residents. In addition, these reports offer productive ways to interact with their constituents due to the community meeting calendar provided.

Finally, these documents also give the Commission entrée to elected officials. These reports have received positive feedback in the past and will allow us to foster new relationships and reaffirm those already established with elected officials.



## DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

### **Meetings with Policy Makers –**

**“Advise”:** The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with the Ohio Department of Development (2 August)
- Meet with Henry Guzmán, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (9 August)
- Meet with Edna Frezgi, Office of the Auditor of State (21 August)
- Meet with the Office of the Governor (29 August)
- Participate in Ohio Preparedness Month Kickoff (31 August)

**Community Outreach – “Connect”:** The

Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Meet with Mercedes Moore of the Latino SBDC (2 August)
- Meet with Ohio Hispanic Coalition & Red Cross of Central Ohio (7 August)
- Meet with Michael Beck (8 August – Cincinnati)
- Meet with Alfonso Cornejo (8 August – Cincinnati)
- Meet with Cleveland Coalition Roundtable (21 August – Cleveland)
- Meet with Cathy Falkenberg, Hispanic Chamber of Columbus (23 August)
- Meet with Mercedes Moore, Latino SBDC (29 August)

## September 2007

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

**Ohio's Emerging Diversity - Public Safety & Homeland Security:** During the week of 17 September 2007, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and the Lucas County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) kicked off the Diversity Week component of Ohio's Preparedness Month events. This coincided with the beginning of the national Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations nation wide.

After months of preparation, anticipation had built up tremendously leading up to the month of September. Hours of meetings between Commission staff members and key agencies had taken place, including many teleconferences and e-mails between state agencies, local community members, and Commissioners as well.

Regrettably, after months of preparation, the events in Lucas County were poorly attended. In spite of a Monday media kick-off press conference on 17 September, the following town hall meeting on Wednesday, 19 September, was attended by fewer than five local community

members listening to a panel of nearly a dozen panelists. Coverage was extensive, yet there were more panelists than audience members at the event.

The Office seeks feedback, support, and ideas from the Board of Commissioners. A full report is attached to the Director's Report.

At this time, the Latino Community Network is considering a couple different options. Key among these are options that involve preparing both state agencies and Latino community groups before bringing them together so that each may better understand each other. The Director plans to work with the appropriate committee to develop a plan and proposal for consideration next spring by the Commissioners.

### TACTICAL INITIATIVES

**Infrastructure - OLANet:** Please see attached OLANet report and additional materials.

**PPC - Latino Community Reports (LCR's):** Fifty-four legislative community reports are being compiled on Ohio State Representatives and Senators. These documents, as done in previous years, include Latino demographic information, community meetings and organizations in their respective districts.

This month we are collecting and analyzing statistics garnered from each house and senate district from the U.S. Census and the Levin College of Urban Affairs' Northern Ohio Data and Information Service at Cleveland State University. Information is also being obtained from local organizations on their events in each geographic area to inform elected officials.

### DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

**Meetings with Policy Makers – "Advise":** The Director participated in



meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with the Office of the Governor (4 September)
- Meet with Jose Torres, Counsel to the Governor (5 September)
- Meet with Department of Development (6 September)
- Meet with Matt Colopy, Office of the Governor (6 September)
- Meet with Julia Arbini-Carbonell, Department of Jobs & Family Services (18 September)
- Meet with Senator Niehaus (19 September)
- Meet with Representative Jim McGregor (19 September)
- Meet with Pete LuPiba, Department of Education (19 September)
- Meet with Henry Guzman, Director of Public Safety (19 September)
- Meet with Jan Haines, State Library of Ohio (20 September)

**Community Outreach – “Connect”:** The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Post-immigration raid community meeting (1 September – Cincinnati)
- Latino Community Symposium (8 September – Dayton)
- Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Gala (14 September)
- National Preparedness Month Outreach Event (19 September – Toledo)
- Attend Balet Folklorico de México (20 September)
- Meet with Joe Hallet, Columbus Dispatch (25 September)
- Meet with Rich Gandarillas, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio (27 September)
- Attend Community Ramadan Iftar Dinner (30 September)

## October 2007

### TACTICAL INITIATIVES

**Infrastructure - OLANet:** Final preparations of OLANet structure, content, materials, and training packets are under development and finalization. The Office and the Infrastructure Committee are participating in weekly conference calls with our consultants from the Northlich company.

All of the training session logistics have been finalized.

In order to drive attendance and build awareness for OLANet, the Office with the full participation and consent of the Communication Committee has been sending out press releases and conducting other interviews with members of the media and key Latino media outlets.

A full sample of the press clippings to date is included with this report.

With regards to OLANet policies, it is with the advise of counsel that the Director recommends to the Board that the Commission consider an open, flexible and permissive set of policies regarding usage of the OLANet system.

This advice does not mean that the Office will not engage in fully proactive monitoring of content BEFORE it is posted on the website. It simply means that the Commission will “test the waters” to see what kind of issues arise before developing and codifying strict policies for participating community organizations.

Hopefully this approach will also encourage maximum participation in driving website content and encouraging groups to post their news and events on the Commission’s new website.

## Director’s Calendar

### **Meetings with Policy Makers –**

**“Advise”:** The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:



- Meet with Representative Flowers (2 October)
- Meet with the Ohio National Guard (4 October)
- Meet with Kenneth Latham, Developmental Disabilities Council (11 October)
- Assist the Department of Aging with “Latino Outreach” Bus Tour insurance and health initiatives (18 October)
- Meet with the Office of the Governor (24 October)
- Meet with Henry Guzman, Director of Public Safety (24 October)
- Teleconference Meeting with Directors of Latino Affairs for eight states (30 October)
- Meet with Emerald Hernandez, Office of the Governor
- Meet with AAG Rick Jones (30 October)
- Meet with Karen Shauri, Department of Development (31 October)
- Meet with Benito Lucio, Department of Jobs & Family Services (31 October)
- Midwestlatino.com (17 October - Cincinnati)
- Meet with Elena Osarvarez, artist (23 October)
- Attend Ohio Hispanic Coalition Organization Anniversary Celebration (26 October)
- Attend Meeting of the Board of Trustees for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio (29 October)



**Community Outreach – “Connect”:** The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Attend Esperanza’s Viva La Salsa event (6 October - Cleveland)
- Meet with Hispanic community conversation table (8 October)
- Meet with Pastor Aaron Chivington (8 October)
- Meet with Victor Mora of The Ohio State University (10 October)
- Attend Latino Education Summit – pre-Convencion (11 October - Cleveland)
- Attend Repertorio Español at The Ohio State University (12 October)
- Attend Hispanic Roundtable Convencion Hispana (13 October - Cleveland)
- Attend Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs Annual Statewide Conference (15-16 October - Indianapolis)
- Meet with Michael Beck,

## November 2007

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### Immigration-related Legislation of 2007:

The Office has prepared a Special Policy Brief on Senate Bill 260. That report will be presented at the December meeting of the Commission. The report identifies some serious deficiencies with the proposed legislation, namely:

- It promises to jeopardize community policing efforts and to divert police attention, thereby endangering public safety instead of enhancing it
- The proposal is a de-facto unfunded mandate, which additionally threatens to deny much-needed funds to Ohio’s cities and counties
- There is a lack of support among the majority municipal police and sheriffs across Ohio and nationwide for proposals like SB260

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs that the Commission continue to monitor the progress of SB260 and other legislation like it, but no formal action on behalf of the Commission is recommended at this time.

Additional information and analysis can be found in the Special Policy Brief, available from the Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs, and downloadable at the Commission’s website.

## TACTICAL INITIATIVES

**Infrastructure - OLANet:** During the month of November, the Latino Community Network program of the Office conducted twelve training sessions in six cities across the state of Ohio with a goal of educating and registering at least 50 Latino community-serving organizations in the Commission's new website and OLANet Database.

The Office has exceeded the goal by 144%, with over 70 organizations registered, in spite of having to reschedule four training sessions in the cities of Toledo and Bowling Green. Some basic metrics and reporting can be found below:

Lorain: 2  
Workshop Participants: 6

Cleveland: 9  
Workshop Participants: 18

Youngstown: 5  
Workshop Participants: 13

Columbus: 27  
Workshop Participants: 32

Dayton: 11  
Workshop Participants: 12

Cincinnati: 18  
Workshop Participants: 26

TOTAL Organizations 72

## DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

**Meetings with Policy Makers – "Advise":** The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with Maria Mone, Director of the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management (1 November)
- Meet with Guadalupe Velasquez, New Americans Outreach Coordinator for the City of Columbus (1 November)

- Meet with Jarrod Weiss of the Office of State Rep. Courtney Combs (1 November)
- Meet with Jennifer Vargo of the Ohio Department of Education (6 November)
- Meet with the Honorable Vicente Fox, President of Mexico from 2000-2006 (7 November - Cincinnati)
- Meet with the Honorable Jim McGregor, Member of the Ohio House of Representatives (27 November)
- Meet with the Honorable Larry Flowers, Member of the Ohio House of Representatives (28 November)

**Community Outreach – "Connect":** The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Attend the Anniversary Awards Dinner of the Organizacion Civica y Cultural Hispana Americana (OCCHA) event (2 November - Youngstown)
- Meet with Su Casa Community Center (7 November - Cincinnati)
- Attend the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Gala event (7 November - Cincinnati)
- Conduct OLANet Training Sessions (8 November - Cincinnati)
- Conduct OLANet Training Sessions (9 November - Dayton)
- Conduct OLANet Training Sessions (14 November - Lorain)
- Conduct OLANet Training Sessions (15 November - Cleveland)
- Conduct OLANet Training Sessions (16 November - Youngstown)
- Meet with Ty Marsh, President and CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce (19 November)
- Conduct OLANet Training Sessions (26 November - Columbus)



## December 2007

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

**Soluciones Education Campaign - EDU:**

On Saturday, December 1, the Education Committee of the Board gathered with key members of the new Advisory Committee to discuss the launch of a new phase of the Soluciones campaign in 2008.

Organizations were represented including the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network (LEON), the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Board of Regents, and The Ohio State University.

After a full day of discussion, the following priorities were established, such as formalizing a statewide, standing advisory committee, strengthening partnerships between key organizations, developing recommendations for education policy, organizing a statewide conference in June 2008, and funding a pilot tutoring program for English-language instruction for primary school students.

A full copy of the meeting notes is attached to this report.

## TACTICAL INITIATIVES

**Infrastructure - OLANet:** During the month of December, the Latino Community Network program of the Office conducted three additional training sessions in three cities across northern Ohio – specifically Toledo, Bowling Green, and Lorain. Having already exceeded the November goal of 50 community organizations in the OLANet database system, the LCN program director accepted a new goal of registering over 100 organizations by year's end.

On Friday, 28 December, Program Director Cavanaugh reported 101 organizations on the “public” side of OLANet, with an additional 82 registered organizations in the system, but pending final approvals and data entry.

At the end of 2007, OLANet held information for 183 organizations across Ohio.

After the benefit of two-full months and hundreds of staff hours devoted to growing and using the database and OLANet tools, the staff have worked together to develop a “change-order” for our Northlich consultants to enhance the existing system including the following modifications:

1. *An easier-to-navigate News/Calendar webpage*
2. *Enhanced privacy tools for OLANet superusers*
3. *Automatic mailing-label production for Office use*
4. *Enhanced OLANet Administrative functions*
5. *Activating the OLANet Community Alliance Subscription system*
6. *Streamlining data entry for OLANet superusers*

This set of enhancements, known internally as OLANet version 1.02, will not change any existing features and functions of OLANet system since launch (known as version 1.0). Version 1.02 should be fully operational by the end of February 2008.

The Director and the LCN Program Director are also developing a comprehensive three-year strategic plan for OLANet to deliver to the Commission no later than March 2008. Initial plans for the document include

1. *Standardizing nomenclature and documenting processes*
2. *Establishing requirements for OLANet version 1.1 (June/July 2008)*
3. *Identifying a vision for OLANet version 2.0 (2010)*

## DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

### Meetings with Policy Makers –

**“Advise”:** The Director participated in meetings the following with Legislators, Officials & Government Agencies:

- Meet with Jose Torres, Office of the Governor (3 December)



- Meet with Matt Colopy, Office of the Governor (18 December)
- Meet with analysts Susan Ackerman & Noah Browning, Office of Budget & Management (19 December)
- Meet with Rich Bartolomei, Office of the Governor (21 December)
- Meet with Mark Levy, Director of the Board of Orthotics (21 December)
- Meet with Henry Guzmán, Director of Public Safety (27 December)

**Community Outreach – “Connect”:** The Director attended/participated in the following events:

- Meet with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus (4 December)
- Visit the Adelante community organization (5 December – Toledo)
- Meet with the Latino community coalition of Toledo (5 December - Toledo)
- Taping the “Que Hay De Nuevo” community program (10 December - Dayton)
- Meet with Tom Lianez (11 December)
- Deliver OLANet Training (12 December - Toledo)
- Deliver OLANet Training (13 December - Bowling Green)
- Deliver OLANet Training (14 December - Lorain)
- Participate in National Council on Latino Affairs teleconference (14 December)
- Meet with the Huntington Bank Community Advisory Committee (18 December)
- Meet with Jason Riveiro, LULAC Cincinnati (20 December)





## MINUTES OF THE BOARD

of the 30th Board of Commissioners ♦ October 2006 ~ September

### October 2006

Minutes of the October 17, 2006 business meeting at Riffe Building Room East B, 31st. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Commissioners

Silvia Jiménez-Hyre  
Ramona Reyes  
Simón Rodríguez  
Phillip Barbosa  
Michael G. Florez  
Humberto Gonzalez  
Richard Romero  
Mary Santiago  
V. Anthony Simms-Howell

#### Absent

None

#### Staff

Ezra C. Escudero

#### CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Reyes called the meeting to order at 1:30pm

#### CALL OF THE ROLL

There were eight commissioners present, constituting a quorum.

#### MOTION #1 – 10-2006

To approve the meeting minutes.  
Presented by Commissioner Gonzalez.  
Seconded by Santiago. Motion carried.

**MOTION #2 – 10-2006**

To move the December 8 Board meeting from Dayton to Columbus. Presented by Commissioner Romero. Seconded by Santiago. Motion carried.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTARY**

Chair Jiménez-Hyre expressed that today is the election of the new Executive Board and this may be her last meeting as chair. She thanked the board members and the Director for their cooperation and the public for their attendance. She thanked the board for giving her the opportunity to serve the constituency of the State of Ohio.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Escudero presented his report for September.

**MOTION #3 – 10-2006** – To accept the Director's report for September. Presented by Commissioner Romero. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Director Escudero presented as an Addendum to his report, the Director's Goals for 2007.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Executive**

Chair Jiménez-Hyre informed that the committee met today at 9:00 a.m. They reviewed minor changes into the Director's newly developed evaluation. There are two additions to the evaluation: DHO is part of the Ohio Revised Code charged to the Commission and including the annual report. She also informed there was a discussion about developing different kind of evaluation that will be pursued in the future.

**Finance**

Commissioner Simms-Howell informed that the committee met this morning at 8:00 a.m. and discussed the appropriate way to present the Finance Report. Asked the new Chair to prepare a draft, together with the Director to be presented to the full board at the next meeting. Chair Gonzalez agreed.

Ad-Hoc Committee on a Response to House Bill 654, Illegal Act, sponsored by Rep. Bill Seitz, District 30, Cincinnati.

Commissioner Barbosa presented and Commissioner Reyes read the Resolution in opposition of House Bill No. 654 and Senate Bill No. 368, Illegal Alien Enforcement Act.

**MOTION #4 – 10-2006**

To accept Resolution in Opposition of the House Bill No. 654 Illegal Alien Enforcement Act and Senate Bill No. 368 by the Commission. Resolution #1 of October 17, 2006. Presented by Commissioner Gonzalez. Seconded by Simms-Howell. As per roll call by show of hands, the motion was carried.

Director Escudero informed that the Resolution will be sent to the media and to the commission mailing list recipients.

**OLD BUSINESS****Election of OCHLA Officers for 2006-2007**

Chair Jiménez-Hyre asked the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Commissioner Simms-Howell, to proceed with the election of the new Executive Board.

Chair Jiménez-Hyre called for a five minute recess for the process of the elections.

Chair Jiménez-Hyre called back the meeting after the recess.

The new 2006-2007 Executive Board members are:

- Humberto Gonzalez – Chair
- Richard Romero – Vice Chair
- Michael G. Florez – Secretary

**Naming of Standing Committee Chairs**

Chair Jiménez-Hyre suggested that this item be tabled until the next meeting in order for the new Chair to name the committee chairs

**Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards**

Commissioner Rodriguez informed that



this year's gala was a success at the Renaissance Hotel in Columbus, being the first time the event was a gala instead of the yearly luncheon. That the committee has a draft for the timetable of the events that can be used by the next Committee chair, when appointed by the new Chair of the Board.

INVITED GUESTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #5 – 10-2006  
To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Chair Jiménez-Hyre announced that the meeting for November was cancelled.

Commissioner Simms-Howell informed that the Civil Rights Commission has hired bilingual investigators to assist the community. He also informed that he attended the Hispanic Awareness month event that was held on July 16 at the offices of the commission.

Commissioner Reyes reported that the Third annual Columbus Hispanic Scholarship Walk-A-Thon last Saturday at COSI was a success. Also, that the Ohio State University has a new production studios at COSI and offered to do a portion of the Columbus Section of Soluciones.

MOTION #6 – 10-2006  
To go into Executive session. Presented by Commissioner Rodríguez. Seconded by Simms-Howell. Motion carried.

Chair Jiménez-Hyre asked for the call of the roll to go into Executive Session. After the roll call, the Chair announced a five minute break.

ADJOURNMENT  
There was no motion to adjourn the meeting.



## December 2007

Minutes of the December 8, 2006 meeting at Riffe Building, Room West B and C 31st Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners

V. Anthony Simms-Howell  
Mary Santiago  
Ramona Reyes  
Michael G. Florez  
Chris Rodriguez  
Richard Romero

#### Absent

Simon Rodriguez - Excused  
Phillip R. Barbosa - Excused  
Humberto Gonzalez - Excused

#### Staff

Ezra C. Escudero

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### CALL OF THE ROLL

There were six commissioners present constituting a quorum. Leonard Hubert from the Office of the Governor sworn in newly appointed Commissioner Chris Rodriguez.

Vice Chair Romero, as Acting Chair today, acknowledged Mr. Leonard Hubert for his support to the Commission through all this time and asked a standing ovation for him. Round of applause.

### MOTION #1 – 12-2006

To approve the October meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Santiago. Motion carried.

### VICE CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Commissioner Romero thanked everybody for attending and expressed that the commission did a great job this year for the betterment of the Latino community.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his reports

for October and November 2006.

#### MOTION #2 - 12-2006

To accept the Director's reports. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Romero informed that the new committee chairs are:

- Communications – Ramona Reyes
- DHO – Mary Santiago
- Education – Chris Rodriguez
- Finance - Anthony Simms-Howell

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Executive

Commissioner Romero informed that the committee met this morning and talked about the History of OCHLA, purpose and building programs to help the Latino community.

##### Finance

Commissioner Simms-Howell gave the financial report.

##### Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

Commissioner Santiago informed that the date of the DHO is Friday, April 20, 2007.

##### Communications

Commissioner Reyes asked for assistance from Commissioner Santiago.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### 2007 Meetings Calendar

Director Escudero presented the proposed 2007 meetings calendar.

#### MOTION #3 - 12-2006

To approve the 2007 calendar through June 15, 2007. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Romero. Motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Ad-Hoc Bylaws Committee

Director Escudero informed that the commission has received a request from the Attorney General's office to review the bylaws since they have not been review since 1984. Director Escudero informed that Chair Gonzalez has appointed

Commissioner Florez to chair this committee.

##### Annual Report

Director Escudero informed that he is working on the 2006 Annual Report to be submitted to the board for approval. Then he will continue working on the reports for 2005 and 2004.

#### MOTION #4 - 12-2006

To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Chris Rodriguez. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Reyes looks forward to the good 2007.

Leonard Hubert from the Office of Governor Taft announced that this is his last meeting. He expressed his appreciation for all the Commission does.

Director Escudero announced that the new Budget is going to be presented to the new administration in ninety days.

#### ADJOURNMENT

#### MOTION #5 - 12-2006

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Chris Rodriguez. Motion carried.

Commissioner Romero wished Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

## February 2007

Minutes of the February 16, 2007 meeting at Riffe Building, Room West B and C, 31st. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Commissioners

V. Anthony Simms-Howell  
Mary Santiago



Daniel Porras  
Michael G. Florez  
Chris Rodriguez  
Richard Romero  
Simon Rodriguez  
Phillip R. Barbosa  
Humberto Gonzalez  
Blanche Aviles Casey

Absent

Ramona Reyes

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero

CALL TO ORDER

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

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were ten commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 - 2-2007

To approve the December meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Romero. Seconded by Santiago. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Chair Gonzalez expressed that the Commission is in a crossroad, more critical that when it was created. He informed that the Director, some board members and himself have been engaged in meeting with stakeholders in the General Assembly, the Senate and the Governor's office. He expresses that they must define the Commission's mission and growth in order to support the State of Ohio and the community. He asked the board members to take this into consideration as they moved into the Retreat this evening and tomorrow, to prepare to put together a tangible plan of action for the commission survival in the future.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his report for December 2006.

MOTION #2 - 2-2007

To accept the Director's December report.

Presented by Commission Porras. Seconded by Commissioner Romero, with the addendum suggestion made by Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

Director Escudero presented his report for January 2007.

MOTION #3 - 2-2007

To accept the Director's January report. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Commissioner Simms-Howell gave the financial report.

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

Commissioner Santiago informed that the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards will be on April 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Columbus. There are twelve awardees this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Governmental Procedures Ad-Hoc Committee

Vice Chair Florez informed that he met with the Attorney General representative and she made some corrections to the Rules and Procedures of the Commission. The will work on the recommendations tomorrow at the retreat to bring them to the board for vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Santiago presented the list of nominees to the board for approval.

MOTION #4 - 2-2007

To approve the nominees for Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan and Nuestra Familia Awards as presented by Commissioners Santiago and Simms-Howell. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Nominees for Ohio Foreign Language Advisory Council

Director Escudero informed that the Commission was invited to nominate two individuals to serve on the Ohio Foreign Language Advisory Council. The



Commission will submit to the Department of Education the following names:

- Victor Mora from The Ohio State University
- Rosemary Payne, teacher from Dublin City Schools
- Humberto Gonzalez, Chair of OCHLA.

#### New Committee Structure

This will be discussed during the retreat.

#### MOTION #5 - 2-2007

To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Romero informed that Commissioner Santiago and himself have been working together for the Spanish Leadership Conference, to be held on April 20 at the Lorain County Community College. This conference has plenty of workshops, and food and dancing.

#### ADJOURNMENT

#### MOTION #6 - 2-2007

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Barbosa. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

## April 2007

Minutes of the April 20, 2007 meeting at Riffe Building, Room West B and C 31st. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Commissioners

V. Anthony Simms-Howell  
Mary Santiago  
Daniel Porras  
Phillip R. Barbosa  
Ramona Reyes  
Humberto Gonzalez  
Richard Romero  
Simon Rodriguez

#### Absent

Chris Rodriguez - Excused  
Michael G. Florez - Excused  
Blanche Aviles Casey - Excused

#### Staff

Ezra C. Escudero

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### CALL OF THE ROLL

There were eight commissioners present constituting a quorum.

#### MOTION #1 - 4-2007

To approve the February 16 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Simon Rodriguez. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

#### CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

No commentary.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero forgoes the presentation of the February and March reports. The board members will receive the reports by email to be approved in the June meeting. He distributed the Financial Worksheet.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Executive

Chair Gonzalez informed that he would give all the information he has in the new business section when he talks about the new committee's structure.

##### Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards

Commissioner Santiago informed that tonight from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. is the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Gala at The Renaissance Hotel.

Commissioner Romero asked for a round of applause for Commissioner Santiago, Chair of the DHO committee, for the excellent job in putting together the event. Round of applause.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None



NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2008 & 2009 Budget Plan

Director Escudero presented the Budget Executive Proposal for years 2008 and 2009. This document was emailed to all board members and is available today for the public.

MOTION #2 - 4-2007

To approve the Budget Executive Proposal for years 2008-2009. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

New Committee Structure

MOTION #3 - 4-2007

To accept the new proposed Committee Structure. Presented by Commissioner Porras. Seconded by Santiago. Motion carried.

Proposed 2007 Meeting Calendar

MOTION #4 - 4-2007

To approve the Proposed 2007 Meeting Calendar with the exception presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell of changing the August 17 meeting from Cincinnati to Dayton. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

INVITED GUESTS –

Chair Gonzalez introduced invited guests Mr. Bob Doyle and Mr. Richard S. Bitonte from Strategic Government Initiatives.

Mr. Doyle introduced Mr. Richard Hempel and Mr. Robert Gebbie of Natural Bridge Group, LLC, who presented: “Intro to Edu-Net 24 and Latino Crossroads”. Special Presentation by Officer Lisa Ickes of the Columbus Division of Police regarding minority recruitment. She informed the Division of Police is having a booth at the Festival Latino in June 15-16 with information and details for interested persons. Posters were distributed.

Special presentation by Dawn Miller of Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Literature was distributed.

Special presentation by Amy Mendoza,

Executive Director of the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. Director Mendoza also distributed a brochure with information about the Commission in Indiana. Applause.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #5 - 4-2007

To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Simms-Howell informed that he and Mr. Escudero visited the Cincinnati Immersion School.

Director Escudero invited everyone to view the Commission website to see the pictures about this visit.

Commissioner Reyes announced that Nationwide is bringing the President of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in June. Date and place to be announced.

She informed also about two events for Cinco de Mayo, one in downtown Columbus by El Centro Mexicano and the other in the West Side by the Michoacano population.

Commissioner Barbosa announced that the Ohio Republican Hispanic Assembly will have an all-state forum on immigration in Columbus. Details to be announced. Also, that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will held its Gala on September 15 at the Columbus Renaissance.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #6 - 4-2007

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Barbosa. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



## June 2007

Minutes of the June 15, 2007 meeting at Riffe Building, Room South B 31st. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners

Chris Rodriguez  
Mary Santiago  
Daniel Porras  
Simon Rodriguez  
Humberto Gonzalez  
Ramona Reyes  
Blanche Aviles Casey

#### Absent

Michael G. Florez - Excused  
Phillip R. Barbosa - Excused  
Richard Romero - Excused  
V. Anthony Simms-Howell - Excused

#### Staff

Ezra C. Escudero

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### CALL OF THE ROLL

There were seven commissioners present constituting a quorum.

### MOTION #1 - 6-2007

To approve the April 20 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

### CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Chair Gonzalez expressed that today is an emergency day for commissioners including him that needs to leave early. He will proceed with the presentation from the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

### INVITED GUESTS

Chair Gonzalez presented Ms. Tina O'Grady from the Department of Public Safety. In the name of the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Henry Guzman, Ms. O'Grady thanked the Commission for this opportunity. She gave her presentation and answered questions

from Board members.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his April Director's Report. Copies of the April and May reports were distributed to all board members and were available for the public.

MOTION #2 - 6-2007 - To approve the April Directors Report. Presented by Commissioner Rodriguez. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

Director Escudero presented his May Director's Report.

MOTION #3 - 6-2007 - To approve the May Directors Report. Presented by Commissioner Rodriguez. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Gala  
Commissioner Santiago thanked the Governor for attending this year's Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Gala. This was the first time since 1990 that the Governor attended this event.



Chair Gonzalez excused himself and left. Commissioner Blanche Aviles Casey filled-in for the Chair and introduced herself.

### Executive and Finance

Since Chair Gonzalez and Commissioner Simms-Howell are not present, Director presented his Financial Worksheet.

### Ohio's Emerging Diversity

No report

### Education

Commissioner Chris Rodriguez that he and the Director will be in Dayton next June 22nd. to meet and tour The Life Enrichment Center. After the meeting he will present a report.

### Workforce & Economic Development

Commissioner Porras informed that the committee met for preliminary discussions and to sketch a time line.

OLD BUSINESS  
None

Richard Romero  
V. Anthony Simms-Howell

NEW BUSINESS  
Director Escudero made a presentation, a plan that is a work in progress, with recommendations to the different committees.

Absent  
Chris Rodriguez – Excused  
Simon Rodriguez – Excused  
Mary Santiago – Excused

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Staff  
Ezra C. Escudero  
Susan De Luca  
Lilleana Cavanaugh

MOTION #4 - 6-2007 – To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Santiago. Motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER  
Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Commissioner Reyes announced that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is having a Media Alertness Seminar on June 28 at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. She announced also that the Latino Festival is already taking place this weekend.

CALL OF THE ROLL  
There were eight commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 – 8-2007  
To approve the June 15 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Barbosa. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aviles Casey, as acting Chair, announced that the Executive Session has been postponed.

CHAIR’S COMMENTARY  
Chair Gonzalez informed that some ethnic groups in the United States do not have the same assistance to deal with certain illnesses in the community. That it would be a good thing to register for bone marrow transplant, since the test is simple. He informed that the African-American community is a group facing critical need.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5 -6-2007  
To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Chris Rodriguez. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT  
Director Escudero presented his July Director’s Report.

## August 2007

Minutes of the August 24, 2007 meeting at the Life Enrichment Center, 425 North Findlay Street, Dayton.

Chair Gonzalez asked Commissioner Simms-Howell to set up a process on how the new budget is to be controlled, send it to him, in order to be presented to the board at the next meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners  
Blanche Aviles Casey  
Phillip R. Barbosa  
Michael G. Florez  
Humberto Gonzalez  
Daniel Porras  
Ramona Reyes

MOTION #2 - 8-2007  
To approve the July Director’s Report. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Commissioner Romero expressed his



concerns regarding the sponsorship from the Commission to different organizations. He recommended supporting the events through the Commission means of communications. Also that the Director or Board members can support the events by purchasing tickets. Chair Gonzalez postponed this discussion for the new business session.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance

No additional report.

### Communications Committee

Commissioner Reyes informed for the benefit of the new board members that they have a Communication Policy in place. New members can request from the office copy of this policy. The policy establishes that on the Chair of the Board and the Director can speak to the media. Board members should call the office about any request by the media in their respective areas.

Porras wanted to know the position of the Commission on immigration.

Director Escudero explained that the Commission has no talking point on immigration; that this is a federal issue and as a state agency, the Commission has no comment and had declined many interviews because immigration is outside the purview of the agency.

### Ohio's Emerging Diversity

No report.

### Education

Chair Gonzalez reported that he attended the last meeting of the Language Resource Program for the State of Ohio. That he is happy to inform that some of the recommendations from the Commission's Education Report have been implemented by the Department of Education. There is a new process for professional coming from Latin America to become teachers without having to go to The Ohio State University for three years.

The report is not completed yet. When ready, he will present to the board.

### Workforce & Economic Development

Commissioner Romero informed that they met with the Department of Development and they shared census data and ideas. He informed also that they met with Michelle from the Small Business Development Center Program and there is an opportunity to establish small business development centers to service the Spanish-speaking business community.

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero gave a living Resolution to the commission's host today, the Life Enrichment Center. Round of applause.

Chair Gonzalez thanked the Life Enrichment Center for hosting this meeting.

### MOTION #3 - 8-2007

To recognize the Life Enrichment Center. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Director Escudero reminded that would be a nice gesture to make a minor contribution to the center for hosting the lunch.

Director Escudero presented to the Board a draft of the Resolution in Support of Convención Hispana 2007. He prepared the draft for consideration of the Board, to recognize the work that the Hispanic Roundtable in Cleveland has done. There is no compromise, only conversations, as to make this event statewide with the support of the Commission.

Chair Gonzalez expressed that the community statewide should be informed of the changes in the Commission.

Chair Gonzalez explained that what the Commission is trying to do is to buy a



marketing piece, like buying a table and put a display with information.

Chair Gonzalez suggested that a sub-committee be created to address this issue and that they will present their report to the full Board at the September meeting.

MOTION #4 - 8-2007

To create a sub-committee to address the new marketing and outreach to the community. Presented by Commissioner Porras. Seconded by Commissioner Aviles. Motion carried.

The members are: Commissioners Romero, Reyes and Aviles Casey.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #5 - 8-2007

To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

Michael Beck invited attendees to the LULAC Gala Dinner on September 4 at the University of Cincinnati. Commissioner Simms-Howell will be honored with the Community Award. Round of applause.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Aviles Casey announced three events in Dayton during the Hispanic Awareness Month: Hispanic Heritage Festival (date not at hand) and on September 22 the Ballet Folklórico de Veracruz will be presenting at the Victoria Theater and Rigodón con Son at the Second Street Market.

Commissioner Barbosa announced that on September 14, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will celebrate their annual Gala at The Columbus Renaissance and the keynote speaker will be Governor Ted Strickland.

Commissioner Romero announced that on October 24 the Multi Cultural Business

Center together with the Urban League is putting together a Diversity Business Expo.

Director asked Board members to submit all events for Hispanic Heritage Month to the Community Liaison, who is putting together a statewide calendar of events.

Commissioner Barbosa announced that the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce would celebrate their Gala on November 7.

MOTION #6 -8-2007

To go into Executive Session to discuss personnel actions for the Director. Presented by Commissioner Romero. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Out of Executive Session, the following motion was presented:

MOTION #7 -8-2007

That the Executive Director salary be increased retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year to \$70,000.00 and in six months, provided the Executive Director meets certain criteria, the amount of \$5,000.00 will be added to his basic salary. Presented by Commissioner Florez.

Seconded by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Motion carried. As per roll call and vote, they went into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #8 -8-2007

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



# September 2007

Minutes of the September 14, 2007 meeting at Riffe Building, Room West B and C 31st. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

## ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Chris Rodriguez  
 Mary Santiago  
 Blanche Aviles Casey  
 Ramona Reyes  
 Michael G. Florez  
 Simon Rodriguez  
 Humberto Gonzalez  
 Phillip R. Barbosa  
 Richard Romero  
 V. Anthony Simms-Howell

Absent

Daniel Porras - Excused

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero  
 Lilleana Cavanaugh  
 Susan De Luca

## CALL TO ORDER

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

## CALL OF THE ROLL

There were ten commissioners present constituting a quorum.

## MOTION #1 - 9-2007

To approve the August 24 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Santiago. Motion carried.

## CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

No commentary.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his August Director's Report.

## MOTION #2 - 9-2007

To approve August Director's Report. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

Director Escudero presented a Special Report to the Office of the Governor related to the Hamilton/Butler County Latino community meeting on September 1st. after the immigration raid.

MOTION #3 - 9-2007 - To approve the Special Report. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Reyes. Motion carried.

Director Escudero reported on a letter received from Senator Tom Niehaus in reference to the meeting in Cincinnati. He also stated that the Commission has no stand on immigration, since this is a Federal issue and the presence of the Office of Latino Affairs at the meeting was to support other Government agencies and Organizations in a humanitarian effort.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication

Commissioner Reyes informed that the committee is preparing a report that will be presented to the Board at the next meeting on how to get information to the general public about the Commission in different areas. Also to establish talking points to promote the Olanet to the communities. The Commissioners will have the opportunity to talk about it in the regions through newspapers or radio. She also informed that Director Escudero would ask all the Board members to submit information related to local media.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Commissioner Simon Rodriguez informed that this morning, Director Escudero, Commissioner Santiago and himself met with Richard Bitonte and from Strategic Government Planning. They are a fund raising organization.

Workforce & Economic Development

Commissioner Romero informed that the committee has met with various departments inside the Department of Development and talked about supporting Hispanic businesses.

Chair Gonzalez expressed that by the end of the year they will have the criteria on how the Commission will fund projects.

Director Escudero informed that they have a couple of different criteria planning to be established: one is a generic criteria for



publishing, evaluating and awarding RP's coming from the office. A separate facet, and a unique Memorandum of Understanding may come out because of the work of the Workforce and Economic Development Committee with the Department of Development, as the Commission looks to fund the SBDC It will be a two-step process.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Resolution in Recognition of the Life Enrichment Center of Dayton  
Director Escudero read the Resolution.

**MOTION #4 - 9-2007**

To approve the Resolution for the Life Enrichment Center of Dayton, Ohio. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

**Proposal from the Organization Support Ad-Hoc Committee**

Commissioner Romero informed that the committee decided to wait for the Attorney General's office position on this matter.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Nomination of Officers for 2007-08**

The following Board members were nominated:

- Chair - Richard Romero and Humberto Gonzalez
- Vice Chair - Richard Romero, Blanche Aviles Casey, and Ramona Reyes
- Secretary - Michael G. Florez

Chair Gonzalez informed that next month these positions would be submitted for election and the 2007-08 Executive Board will be in place.

Chairman Gonzalez brought to discussion the pending bill in the House of Representatives.

Director Escudero informed that the full text of the bill was brought to the attention of the Commission on

Wednesday. That he will work with his staff to provide a preliminary analysis to the full board and will provide legal analysis from different policy groups. He also informed that there is not a strong sense of urgency in the House at this time for this bill. This issued will be discussed at the October 19 Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

**MOTION #5 - 9-2007**

To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Barbosa invited everyone to the Chamber of Commerce Gala this evening at 6:00 p.m. at The Renaissance.

Commissioner Reyes invited to the presentation of Ballet Folklórico de México on September 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Palace Theater. She informed that CAPA is offering some free tickets to low income Latino families interested in attend. Please refer to her for these tickets.

She also informed that today is the launching of a new Hispanic newspaper coming to Columbus at Westland Mall and that TV Azteca is also coming to Columbus.

**ADJOURNMENT**

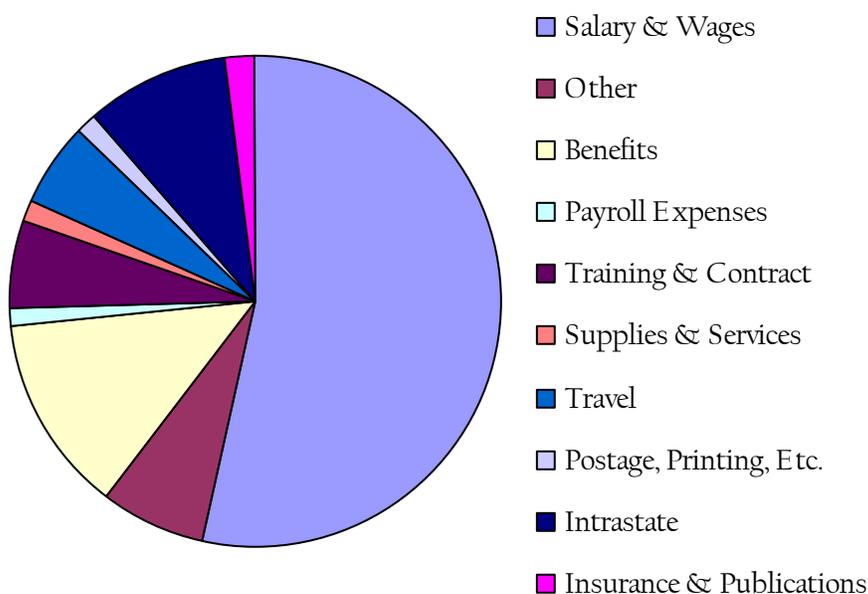
**MOTION #6 - 9-2007**

To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Reyes. Seconded by Chair Gonzalez. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

Fiscal Year 2007 of the State of Ohio ♦ July 2006 ~ June 2007



Line Item 100 - Personal Services	Total
Salary & Wages	\$97,175
Other Compensation	\$12,239
Employer-Paid Benefits	\$23,957
Payroll-Based Expenses	\$1,939
Training & Contract Work	\$10,570
	<b>\$145,880</b>

Line Item 200 - Maintenance	Total
Supplies & Services	\$2,620
Travel	\$10,139
Postage, Printing, Etc.	\$2,350
Intra State Services, CSA, Fiscal, HR, Etc.	\$17,195
Insurance and Publications	\$3,597
	<b>\$35,901</b>

