



Minutes of the January 18, 2008 business meeting at Room South A, 31<sup>st</sup>. Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners

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

#### Staff

Ezra C. Escudero  
Lilleana Cavanaugh  
Susan De Luca  
Dalinah Algarin-Cora  
Guest attendance list  
Attached

### ABSENT

Simon Rodriguez- Excused

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### CALL OF THE ROLL

There were ten commissioners present constituting a quorum.

### MOTION #1 - 01-2008

To approve the December 2007 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Aviles Casey. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

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### CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Chair Romero congratulate Director Escudero and Community Liaison Cavanaugh for the OLANet project. He informed that the retreat will be on March 8 and the board meeting on March 7.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero presented his report for December. Copy is attached as Exhibit A. In addition, copy of House bill 409 is attached as Exhibit B.

MOTION #2 - 01-2008 - To approve the Director's Report. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Executive

Chair Romero informed that the Executive Committee did not meet but will schedule a meeting for February.

#### Finance

Commissioner Aviles Casey presented the Financial Report. Copy attached as Exhibit C.

MOTION #3 - 01-2008 - To accept the Financial Report. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

#### Communications

Commissioner Reyes informed that she met with Director Escudero and with Mrs. Cavanaugh to create a communications plan. A draft will be sent via email to the board. She also informed that they created a press release for the DHO, which was sent to the local media.

#### Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Commissioner Santiago informed that the committee did not meet today, but that they have an informal meeting with the Director.

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Director Escudero informed that the committee is working on one of the most important initiatives for this calendar year, called the grassroots capacity building initiative. The initiative has three primary components.

The first will take place in March and April this year. They will travel around the state and visit eight communities offering training on grant writing, legislative advocacy and issues specific training, inviting a panel of experts on each specific area.

In May they will invite the community organizations that participated in that training to attend the Legislative visit day on May 6, where they will have the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they learned during the program.

In June the commission will award mini grants to the participants in the training program. The amount of \$80,000.00 has been budgeted for this purpose.

The final component is a statewide challenge grant opportunity for the next fiscal year with the same team of consultants that the commission is working with.

### Education

Commissioner Gonzalez informed: NEED SOME HELP HERE TO COMPLETE HIS COMMENTARY.

Chair Romero informed that he has accepted a new position with the Mayor of Lorain.

Chair Romero informed that a group of twenty-one mayors met with the Governor on Wednesday to talk about issues on education and Columbus was represented by Commissioner Gonzalez.

### Workforce & Economic Development

Director Escudero presented to the board the proposal for a project internally called Project OPEN. Copy of this proposal is attached as Exhibit D.

MOTION #4 - 01-2008 - To follow through and start Project OPEN. Presented by Commissioner Barbosa. Seconded by Commissioner Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Memorandum of Collaboration

Director Escudero explained that this memorandum is not necessarily a binding contract and that the commission has no financial obligations, is a statement of partnership, a declaration that we are working together with sister organizations through the United States and with the Leadership Institute. He informed that there will be a meeting in Chicago on February 13-14 and he would like to present this memorandum.

Chair Romero commented that he attended one of these meetings in Chicago with Director Escudero and our Commission was highlighted. The Director presented the Gro-21 plan and they were the stars. He highly recommends this collaboration.

MOTION #5 - 01-2008 - To move forward with the Memorandum of Collaboration with the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute. Presented by Commissioner Gonzalez. Seconded by Commissioner Aviles Casey. Motion carried.

Commissioner Santiago expressed her interest in receiving again the monthly Commissions books.

Chair Romero informed that he met with the Director to talk about this issue and that any commissioner interested in receiving the book can contact him or the Director.

Chair Florez expressed that one of the alternatives to the hard copy of these books is having this book in the website, in digital format which is a cost saving measure.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Escudero gave a verbal update on House Bill 409 that would require that the commercial driver's license test would be only in English. Copy of this bill is attached as Exhibit E.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

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MOTION #6 - 01-2008 - To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Romero informed that the next Board meeting is February 8 in Columbus.

Commissioner Simms-Howell informed that he attended meetings with the FBI in Cincinnati, LULAC, Su Casa Hispanic Ministry with the new Director, the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Porrás reported on [NEED HELP HERE TOO. UNABLE TO LISTEN HIS COMMENTARY](#)

Commissioner Santiago informed about the Leadership conference in Lorain. Additional information is available in the Commission website.

Commissioner Aviles Casey reported that the Wright State University has a very low Latino involvement and that the committee is meeting to organize a Latino Outreach event.

Commissioner Reyes reported that she met with the Chamber of Commerce last week and there is a possible collaboration from them for the DHO, also and having a job fair the same day. She informed that the plans for the Hispanic Heritage month has begun and there is plan to prepare a whole calendar of events. She invited board members to submit any information or events from their community, ads, etc. Also that she is on the advisory board of CAPA, one honoree at last year's DHO, and they have announced their Hispanic Series. For more information, please visit their website at [capa.org](http://capa.org).

Commissioner Barbosa informed that the Ohio Hispanics Chambers of Commerce in partnership with Nationwide Insurance will be conducting four recruitment seminars in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo and Columbus. More information will follow.

### ADJOURNMENT

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MOTION #7 - 01-2008 - To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Gonzalez . Seconded by Commissioner ?????? Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Richard Romero, Chair

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Michael G. Florez, Secretary

## ADDENDUM TO MINUTES

January 18, 2008

### MOTIONS CARRIED

Motion #1 - 01-2008	To approve the December, 2007 minutes
Motion #2 - 01-2008	To approve the Director's Report
Motion #3 - 01-2008	To accept the financial report
Motion #4 - 01-2008	To follow through and start Project OPEN
Motion #5 - 01-2008	To move forward with the Memorandum of Collaboration with the United States Leadership Institute
Motion #6 - 01-2008	To accept public commentary
Motion #7 - 01-2008	To adjourn the meeting

