



Minutes of the September 9, 2008 Board meeting at Room 1932, 19th. Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Blanche Aviles Casey
Mary Santiago
Richard Romero
V. Anthony Simms-Howell

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh

Guest attendance list

Attached

ABSENT

Chris Rodriguez - Excused
Michael G. Florez - Excused
Humberto Gonzalez - Excused
Simon Rodriguez - Excused
Lupe Williams - Excused
Phillip R. Barbosa - Excused
Baldemar Velasquez - Excused

CALL TO ORDER

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

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were four commissioners present.

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY - Chair Romero reminded that from September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage month and he encouraged everybody, every department, elected official and organization that deals with the Latino

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community to take that month to learn about the Latino community contribution to the country.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Director Escudero presented his August report. Copy is attached as Exhibit A.

In response to Commissioner Aviles Casey question, Director Escudero explained that on August 12 the documents for Project Open were executed. That is a requirement that the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Business Connection, the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus and the Centro

Empresarial Latino to have a representative on the advisory committee at the office on economic development. The purpose of this committee is to help the Hispanic Chamber and the Small Business Development Center (the Latino SBDC) and guide them as they move forward in executing the project OPEN initiatives, as they grow as organizations and to be sure that the Commission investment on resources in this project are well administrated. That the Commission has the Ohio Business Connection working for and with us the fiscal agency that monitors the day-to-day operation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Romero informed that he is changing the order of the agenda to continue with workforce and economic development discussions.

Workforce & Economic Development - Chair Romero informed that Commissioner Barbosa, as Chair of this committee, is sending letters to all county commissioners. He also expressed his concern, as Chair of the Commission, about the lot of money that is being sending back to the Federal Government under the Workforce Investment Act. That is a major concern for himself and for the Latino community in Ohio. That money is supposed to be to businesses that need training themselves. That is why he thinks a communication piece is so important, since the money is distributed by the counties.

Director Escudero informed that they have received limited responses to the letters. That the Public Policy Director is working on some research and that by the December meeting they will present some recommendations to the Board on what areas of workforce development present the best opportunities for engagement.

Chair Romero expressed that the Latino population should have representation on the boards in Lorain, Cincinnati, Dayton, Youngstown, and Cleveland.

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Commissioner Simms-Howell expressed that any of these issues should be set aside to be discussed at the next meeting, when they can be approved.

Education - Director Escudero reported that in October they would have a statewide road show, taking the programs of the Commission out to different communities. As per instructions from the Board, the office is organizing education mini conferences throughout the state. On today's agenda, there is the list with eight locations and dates, starting with Columbus on October 8.

The main dynamic of these meetings will be conversations and presentations back and forth and will end around four o'clock. The office is publicizing the meetings as brown bag meetings, trying to encourage people to bring their lunches, so it can be start with the noon time hour. One of the recommendations that the office has received is that perhaps local Commissioners for their local areas try to secure an event sponsor that can provide a light lunch or refreshments.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity - No report.

Executive - Chair Romero informed that the committee did not meet due to lack of quorum and that he wants that their next committee meeting be set at 9:00 am, and that the other committees will meet after that.

Finance - Commissioner Aviles Casey presented the Financial Report. Copy is attached as **Exhibit B**.

Chair Romero suggested to the Director and the Staff that he would like to see that a press release is sent out before the Hispanic Heritage Month with the new census information about the Latino community in Ohio. Also to add this information to the OLANet.

Chair Romero informed that, due to lack of quorum, they cannot go ahead with the nominations for the Executive Board for next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Public introduced themselves.

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Commissioner Aviles Casey announced that Tony Ortiz, one of the 2008 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans had been appointed as the Hispanic Outreach Coordinator for Wright State University and he is also the new LULAC President.

Director Escudero informed that he will be attending the Mexican Independence Day celebration in Detroit on Monday, September 15.

He also informed that he and Lilly would be sending a list of all activities to the board members.

Chair Romero informed that the Mexican Mutual in Lorain will have its Hispanic Heritage month celebration with various activities. Also that the movie "Soy Boricua Pa Que tu lo Sepas" will be showing at the Palace Theatre. Is a very informative movie, narrated by actor Jimmy Smits.

Commissioner Simms-Howell informed that he attended the Baptist Convention in Cincinnati.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Romero adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Richard Romero, Chair

Mary Santiago, Vice Chair