



**MINUTES OF THE BOARD
27 MARCH 2009**

Riffe Center Room 1932, 19th. Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus

Attendance

Commissioners - Present

Michael G. Florez
Andres E. Gonzalez
Richard Romero
Mary Santiago
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Baldemar Velasquez
Lupe Williams

Commissioners - Absent

Blanche Aviles Casey
Humberto Gonzalez

Staff - Present

Ezra C. Escudero
Florentina Staigers
Lilleana Cavanaugh

Call to Order

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

Call of the Roll

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There were six commissioners present constituting a quorum.

Motion 1 - 03-2009 - To approve the Minutes for February 20, 2009. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

Chair's Commentary

Chair Romero thanked Tina Staigers for defending before the Legislature HB35. He expressed that she was very professional and focused and wants his commentary in the minutes. He asked for a round of applause. Round of applause.

He expressed that since the Commission does not have large amounts of money to do marketing that one of the most effective ways of marketing is that when Commissioners are invited to a public meeting among leaders or organizations or events introduce themselves to organizers and let them know of their presence, not only as individuals but also as a Commissioner. This way the Commission presence is acknowledge. That it is a very inexpensive way to let them know that the Commission is out there working in the community.

Chair Romero mentioned that we are getting closer to Hispanic Heritage Month. He would like that Commissioners ask all the different non-profit organizations and community organizations about events in their respective areas. It is an opportunity for the Commission to acknowledge the accomplishments and achievements that the Latino community had made. He said that he wants to start collecting that information and suggested to his fellow Commissioners to send emails to everybody to take note and find what events will be held on their communities.

Directors' Reports

Director Escudero distributed copies and presented the February 2009 report. Attached as **Exhibit A**.

Director Escudero informed that good profiles are coming up soon for the Hispanic Profiles Campaign.

He also informed that they are still working some OLANet issues in the system administration and he wants to inform the Board, since it is not on the report. He informed that the Commission is in the process of receiving proposals from different teams that work closely with the development of the system. The company that developed the system is no longer in existence. He informed that the Commission is in the process of a system re-build for OLANet, working with a couple of companies and some other friends. He will have more details about this at the May meeting.

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Chair Romero requested that the reports be compiled in a package and send to the majority and minority leaders at the House of Representative and the Senate.

Motion 2 - 03-2009 - To accept the February 2009 Directors' report. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Andres E. Gonzalez. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Executive

Chair Romero informed that the Executive Committee met this morning and talked about a new process of how they are going to do the meetings. The committee decided that from now on the Board meetings will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and the hearings, where public is invited to talk about issues and share information affecting the Latino community, will be at 1:30 p.m.

He informed that they discussed the retreat and there is an assignment for that will be given to everybody, regarding on how the Board is presently doing things, and what are the most important items they are addressing.

He informed that the assignment would be to look over all of the important topics and issues and give feedback to the Director. He also encouraged the other two Directors of the Commission, Tina and Lilly, to offer their feedback. After gathering all the feedback, they will be summarized to make some recommendations.

Finance

Chair Romero informed that Commissioner Aviles Casey is excused and she will be able to continue attending the meetings after May.

He asked Director Escudero to present the Financial Report.

Director Escudero presented the Financial Report. Attached as **Exhibit B**.

There was no motion to accept the Financial Report.

Communications

Chair Romero informed that, at the Retreat they appointed Commissioner Baldemar Velasquez as the new Communications Chair. They also suggested that Tina Staigers works with Commissioner Velasquez to watch as the House bills come out.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity

Commissioner Santiago informed that the nominations forms for the DHO have been distributed. She also informed that this year the event will be held at the University Plaza Hotel and the contract has been signed. The information will be available on the Web. She asked that the "Save the Date" packages be sent out next week.

Community Liaison, Lilleana Cavanaugh informed that the Latino Leadership Council meeting would take place on Monday, May 18 followed by the Ohio Latino Affairs Legislative Visit Day on Tuesday, May 19. The purpose of this council meeting is to bring together the directors of Latino agencies that are providing social services; and to form a capacity building of the organizations and provide the opportunity of all of them to come together probably for the first time. She informed also that the office is inviting 14 executive directors from organizations around the state. That they will provide a forum where they can share some of their experiences they are having right now with different communities, how are they dealing with the challenges that are being presented and what steps can be taken forward for working together.

Director Escudero informed that the model they are using is very similar that the one they are using with the Hispanic Chambers and Business Associations and they the goal is to have a self-standing independent partner that can bring together the collective influence and resources of the social service agencies that we can partner with and advocate with different issues as they arrive. This is fully supported by those statutory mandates that fall into the build category.

Director Escudero informed that this is a small group of 14 organizations for the entire state. The criteria for that group is grassroots and Latino community organizations that provide social services. He explained that they are not inviting chambers of commerce, community councils or cultural organizations because the focus is to work with these groups to help increase their capacity

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to deliver additional social services in the communities they are located. In order to make sure we have a cohesive and unify message, he

humble ask the Commissioners, please do not unilaterally invite organizations to attend. Please check with office first and determine together whether an organization fits the criteria. He explained that this is on a tight budget and focus, that if we broaden the group anymore, the specific objectives of that meeting will be lost because the group will be too diffuse to be zero in their specifics needs and their capacity to serve.

Chair Romero expressed that he applauds the Director and Lilly for taking on this initiative. He also thanked and commended Lilly for her work with the Latino organizations.

Commissioner Santiago informed that they will have the Legislative Visit Day and that Tina will develop the curriculum for the morning.

Education

Commissioner Andres E. Gonzalez expressed informed that Director Escudero, Lilly and Tina went to his office in Cleveland to meet and talk about the Soluciones campaign in March 5. They decided to move forward with the campaign in order to present it to the full Board next month for their review and acceptance.

He informed that on March 16 Director Escudero and he participated in a conference call with Dr. Raul Soto of the Department of Education, who was able to give them an overview of the evidence base model proposed under Bill 1. That they were very appreciative of the \$8.2 billion dollars that will be allocated to the State of Ohio and that hopefully we will be able to capitalize at the Commission, work together and align the Commission education mission with the Governor's overall mission. He informed that as a result from this conversation, they will be able to meet with the Superintendent of Education on May 18 at 1:30 p.m. Director Escudero and Chair Romero will be in attendance.

Commissioner Florez asked Commissioner Andrés E González if there would be a Part II as a continuation to the Education Report done by the Commission. Commissioner Gonzalez responded that it has been reviewed and has become a template and the basis that the Spring Board will be using.

Director Escudero informed that the following events are in the month of May:

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May 18 - First summit of the Council on Latino Social Services agencies

May 18 - Meeting the Superintendent of the Department of Education

May 19 - Legislative Visit Day

May 20 - OCHLA Board meeting

Chair Romero expressed that he wants input from the Commissioners and the Director if the Census issue should continue to be under the Workforce and Economic Development Committee or a new committee should be created to work on this.

Commissioners Florez, Velasquez, Simms-Howell, Andres Gonzalez and Director Escudero expressed their opinions.

Commissioner Williams expressed that she considers that immigration should be the top priority for the Latino Affairs Commission. That she believes that immigrants undocumented or not should have an organization that stand up for them and they can go to without fears. Also, that in all documentation of the Commission the word immigration should be included. She also thinks that Immigration is keeping the Commission to move forward.

Chair Romero asked the board members if they are comfortable in creating a task for to deal with immigration.

Commissioner Florez expressed that he is comfortable with the structure and a little uncomfortable on making immigration the issue.

The rest of the board members expressed that they are comfortable with it.

Chair Romero appointed Commissioners Baldemar Velasquez and Lupe Williams as chairs of the newly created task force to deal with immigration issues.

Workforce & Economic Development

Director Escudero informed that Project OPEN is moving forward and they have completed their second quarterly meetings with the SBBC and the Hispanic Chambers. That he has been working with Commissioner Humberto Gonzalez

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setting up additional meetings with the Department of Development. He informed that tomorrow they are hosting an event with the Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Senate Bill 35

Policy Liaison, Tina Staigers gave a verbal update on Senate Bill 35.

Update on the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Summit in Chicago

Director Escudero informed that they were able to participate in the forum as a courtesy of the Hispanic Leadership Institute. They have been inviting Latino Affairs commissions from different states for five years now. There are new steps in the direction of formalize the directors group, adding more structure and more meetings. There will be email communications as they develop some documents and potential statements of information. He will offer full details of the summit on the Directors' report for the month of March.

Biennium Budget

Director Escudero informed that the House continues to work on the budget and that the Commission lines items in the budget are still moving through nicely. That they are anticipating an early May date for the final testimony before the Senate Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS -

None

Public Commentary

Motion 3 - 03-2009 - To accept public commentary. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Andres Gonzalez. Motion carried.

Public introduced themselves.

Director Escudero informed that as part of the Lorain Leadership Conference they are hosting organizing a youth leadership component on Saturday, April

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25. The agenda is finalized. The objective is that at the end of the workshop have the youth participants to present to the entire group their thoughts and priorities in the areas of education, community life and the policy environment.

Director Escudero explained that since the conference is less than a month away, the agenda for 2009 is close. Since this is a pilot conference, they are looking for input for ideas to improve the program for 2010.

Commissioner Santiago gave the website of the Lorain Conference for people interested in getting more information. The website is www.chiplorain.org

Announcements

Commissioner Simms-Howell informed that there is a new Latino radio station in Cincinnati.

Adjournment

Motion 4 - 03-2009 - To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Santiago. Seconded by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Motion carried.

Chair Romero adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Richard Romero, Chair

Michael G. Florez, Secretary

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES

March 27, 2009

MOTIONS CARRIED

Motion #1 - 03-2009	To approve the February 20, 2009 minutes.
Motion #2 - 03-2009	To accept the February 2009 Directors' Reports.
Motion #3 - 03-2009	To adjourn the meeting