

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

28 October 2009

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

### Attendance

#### Commissioners - Present

Michael G. Florez  
Richard Romero  
Mary Santiago  
V. Anthony Simms-Howell  
Lupe Williams  
Andres E. Gonzalez - Will be arriving late

#### Commissioners - Absent

Blanche Aviles Casey  
Baldemar Velasquez

#### Staff - Present

Ezra C. Escudero  
Florentina Staigers  
Lilleana Cavanaugh  
Lair Marin

### Call to Order

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

### Call of the Roll

There are five commissioners present, therefore no vote can take place until Commissioner Gonzalez arrives.

### Chair's Report and Commentary

Chair Romero gave a summary of the Executive Committee meeting that took place earlier in the morning.

Chair Romero gives floor to Executive Director Escudero for the Director's report.



Chair Florez suggests that since we do not have quorum for voting and the Director Report requires a vote that they should go to the committee reports first. Chair Romero agrees, asks if there are no objections and seeing there are none agrees to go directly to committee reports.

### Executive

Chair Romero confirms that he already discussed in his report.

### Distinguished Ohioans Awards Gala

Chair Romero asks Commissioner Santiago if she has any items planned for next year's event or discussed how this last one went. Chair Romero believes that everything went well.

Commissioner Santiago states that the staff did a wonderful job. Partnership was somewhat OK, but would like Director Escudero to give his comment and she will finish it off at the end. She would also like Community Liaison Cavanaugh's as her co-chair to comment and Office Manager Marin-Marcum who also did a lot as well to remark.

Chair Romero wants these to reflect on the minutes for reference on next years on what worked and what did not. Community Liaison Cavanaugh's perceived from the community and those outside our inner circle that it was a good idea to bring the commission and OHCC together for this event. There was a positive acceptance from the general public. From the organizational perspective, dealing with Gus Hoyas and the leadership was OK. We were able to establish a rapport with them as we did a very good job working with Gus Hoyas in order to get the principles and idea. The main challenge we had was dealing with the logistical support.

The event itself went well. Some of the feedback was that it lacked some of the cultural aspects that people have come to expect. Normally we would have a mariachi, or a musical group or something that would be more symbolic of the Latino culture and we did not have that. Although, we did have the art exhibit with Raquel Ortiz and that was very well accepted. The highlight of the event was the ability of Commissioner Santiago to obtain Senator Sherrod Brown as our keynote speaker. As far as organization and logistics in dealing with the different offices in the Governor's Offices, the Mayor's Office, as well as Senator Brown's office, she thinks we did an excellent job. They were very grateful with us for the professionalism that we showed all along the way. We created very good relationships with all those offices. Overall, the event was a success, there is still a lot of learning to take place on redesigning the rules and how best we can do this for the benefit of the entire community and how we face the next event. It gave an important message within the community and that is "Juntos", "Unidos". We need to do more together and that was the first one that really brought it home and made people realized that we can do a very good job together.

Director Escudero agrees with everything Community Liaison Cavanaugh stated that everyone did a very good job. There was a lot of spirit working together, everyone was supportive of the groups bringing together a joint event.



Chair Romero agrees with Community Liaison Cavanaugh's comment that we need to continue to add the flavor of the culture by incorporating some of the music and dance which makes it unique and makes our awards banquet different to others.

Chair Romero opens the floor for any other comments from the commissioners. No answer. Chair Romero opens the floor to Commissioner Simms for Finance Report.

### Finance Committee

Commissioner Simms presented the Financial Report. Commissioner Florez asks if we are in line with the budget and Commissioner Simms confirmed that yes we are in line.

Chair Romero addresses Director Escudero and asks him if there is a biannual report that we are constantly working on. Director Escudero replies that there is no report per say that they are waiting for. All the fiscal information for the agency is in OAKS and right now, we are spending according to planned. We are on budget, payroll is absolutely on target. Other expenditures are actually below. We are following a very conservative expending.

Office Manager Marin gives Travel Expense update to the Board.

Motion #1 - 10-2009 - To approve the Minutes for August 2009. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez. Motion carried.

Motion #2 - 08-2009 - Commissioner Florez motions to accept the Director's Report. Seconded by Commissioner Simms. Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Project Open

Director Escudero presents a historical summary and documentation of Project Open regarding how decisions were made and the status. Handouts of all the documentation was circulated to all commissioners. Director Escudero states that in the next meeting he would like to invite out partners and ask for a report on the process. Discussion and questions takes place.

Discussion and questions takes place. Elections of Officers 2009-1010

Commissioner Simms nominates Commissioner Mary Santiago for President. Commissioner Santiago.

Commissioner Simms nominates Commissioner Andres Gonzalez for Vice President. Commissioner Gonzalez accepts.

Commissioner Simms nominates Commissioner Michael Florez for Secretary. Commissioner Florez accepts.

Discussion and questions takes place.



Motion #3 -10-2009 - Commissioner Romero motions to accept all nominations. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried.

### Election of Officers for 2009-10

As per individual roll call, the new Executive Board for 2009-10 was constituted as follows by the majority vote:

Chair - Mary Santiago  
Vice Chair - Andres Gonzalez  
Secretary - Michael G. Florez

Motion #4 - 10-2009 - To establish that the majority voted for all the positions. Presented by Commissioner Tony Simms. Seconded by Chair Romero. Motion carried.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### BMV Vehicle Registration Issue

Director Escudero and Policy Liaison Staigers present an informal report on the issue. Director Escudero explains the situation and states that the main objective is to bring it to the Boards attention to seek their input, feedback and guidance. Policy Liaison Staigers adds that what needs to be determined is what role we will be playing because as one of our mandates to connect with the Latino Community they are looking for guidance on the issue.

#### Education

Commissioner Gonzales gives an update. Director Escudero adds that as of yesterday the staff has met with over 27 legislatures regarding our education project and has been very well received. In addition, Chairman Cates from the Senate Education Committee has invited us to present to them as a whole in session and he invites Commissioner Gonzales to give the presentation. Commissioner Gonzales accepts.

#### H1N1 Pandemic Initiative

Community Liaison Cavanaugh presented the report and updates. She is meeting regularly with the agencies. OLANet is the main communication resource to communicate with the community leaders and organization regarding the measure with the pandemic. The key things to know is that we work very closely with the Ohio Community Council, another state agency in charge of coordinating the work of the Ohio Citizen corps and the Ohio medical reserve force and you will find that information in this report. The emergency operation center will be issuing updates she will be copying the commissioner in weekly basis or more if needed. We are doing a good job in coordinating efforts not only with the community council but also with the Department of Health and some of the other entities that are involved in this project. This gives us a great opportunity to create those linkages with other state agencies and make them see the value of working through us to access Latinos across the State.



## Census 2010 Initiative and Council of Latino Social Services Agencies

Director Escudero gives an update on the status and connects it with the next item on the agenda, which is the Council of Latino Social Services Agencies event, taking place in December. Basically the three main things that is in our strategic plan for the Census engagement are: 1) disseminating information to our Commissioner and through OLANet, 2) raising and executing an agenda Latina road show in March of 2010 to do that last minute community push for community organizations 3) Is our Council of Latino Social Services Agencies event that he'll talk about next. We are bringing representatives of sixteen Latino social services agencies from around the state here to Columbus for two days. One of the key components in the agenda will be about the Census. One the components of the Census 2010 Ruben Herrera who is a consultant with the Census 2010 here with us. If I may ask the Board permission to ask Ruben to share some thoughts about the 2010 Census. Permission is granted.

Mr. Ruben Herrera presented his work on his project called "Cuenten Conmigo Ohio" (Count on me Ohio) that is a private funding project that is looking to make sure that we have a complete count in particularly three mayor hard to count areas, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus in that order. Discussion and questions takes place.

Director Escudero adds that as per our mandates, the work that we are going to be doing is to enlist those key sixteen social services agencies around Ohio and engaging a tight collaborative effort with them to be our trusted messengers. Community Liaison Cavanaugh adds that we are making sure that every time we go out to our community meetings Policy Liaison Staigers makes sure to take the Census material and information. We are a catalyst by making sure that any Latino organization that is interested becomes part of the Census. We want to create those connections directly between communities and the Census.

## Council of Latino Social Services Agencies

Director Escudero explains that based on the model that we had last year with the Hispanic Chambers of Business Associations we finally have the funding for the similar meeting for establishing Council of Latino Social Services Agencies. Our two sponsors are SGI and Checksmart, they have each provided funding of \$2,000, with these resources, we are able to invite the Executive Directors of the sixteen keystone non-profit social services agencies to Columbus. The invitation has gone out for Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>. Funding is available to cover event expenses. This is just what we did with the Hispanic Chambers and this is the original thing we had back in May.

## Next Board Meetings in November and December

**Motion #5 -10-2009** To move the December meeting to December 4<sup>th</sup>. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Tony Simms-Howell. Motion carried.

November meeting will take place on November 24<sup>th</sup>.  
December meeting will take place on December 4<sup>th</sup>

**Motion #6 -10-2009** - Commissioner Florez motions that the Public be recognized. Commissioner Santiago seconds. Motion carried.

Public introduces themselves.



**Motion #7 - 10-2009** - Chair Florez motions to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Gonzalez seconds. Vote is passed and motion carried.

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

**Motion #8 - 10-2009** - To go back to Public Session. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Tony Simms-Howell. Motion carried.

Motion to consider: Accept Director Ezra Escudero's request to be terminated as a full time employee and to be hired as a consultant to complete Project Open, including any other needed items (to be mutually agreed by Director Escudero and the Board) and subject to approval of OBM and the Attorney General's Office. It is noted that we have approval from DAS, through John Cunningham, who spoke with Commissioner Florez.

As a second part to this motion, to name Lilleana Cavanaugh Interim Director for this period of time, commencing at the end of the paid period immediately after Director Ezra Escudero's departure. This action is contingent and subject to approval of OBM and the Attorney General's Office.

Chair Romero assigns the new Chair Santiago along with Commissioner Florez to conduct all negotiations with Director Escudero.

Chair Santiago accepts and board moves to motion and voting.

**Motion #9 - 10-2009**

- First Part: To terminate Director Ezra Escudero Ezra and consider hiring him back as Consultant subject to the approval of OBM and the Attorney General.

- Second Part: To name Community Liaison Lilleana Cavanaugh as interim Director commencing at the end of the next paid period. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried.

Commissioner Simms-Howell would like to congratulate Commissioner Santiago as the new Chair and Commissioner Gonzalez as the new vice chair.

**Adjournment**

**Motion #10 - 10-2009** To adjourns the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Florez. Seconded by Commissioner Simms. Motion carried.

Chair Romero adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

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Mary Santiago, Chair

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Michael G. Florez, Secretary



**ADDENDUM TO MINUTES**  
**October 28, 2009**  
**Motions Carried**

Motion #1 - 10-2009	To approve the August 11, 2009 minutes.
Motion #2 - 10-2009	To accept the Directors' Report.
Motion #3 - 10-2009	To accept all nominations.
Motion #4 - 10-2009	To establish that the majority voted for all the positions.
Motion #5 -10-2009	To move the December meeting to December 4 <sup>th</sup> .
Motion #6 - 10-2009	To accept public commentary.
Motion #7 - 10-2009	To go into Executive Session.
Motion #8- 10-2009	To go back to Public Session.
Motion #9- 10-2009	First Part: To terminate Director Ezra Escudero and consider hiring him back as Consultant subject to the approval of OBM and the Attorney General. Second Part: To name Community Liaison Lilleana Cavanaugh as interim Director commencing at the end of the next paid period.
Motion #10 - 10-2009	To adjourn the meeting.

