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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
HISPANIC LATINO COMMISSION OF MICHIGAN

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission Meeting
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center – 219 S. Harrison Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48824
October 7, 2016 – 2:00pm-4:00pm
Meeting Minutes No. 307

Commissioners Present:

Noel Garcia, Chairperson
Jesse Venegas, Vice Chair
Martha Gonzalez-Cortes
Esperanza Cantu

Anthony Rubio
Gilberto Guevara
Sonya Hernandez
J. Antonio Lopez

Monica Reyes
Ivonne M. Soler
Juan Marinez
Bing Goei, Ex-Officio

Staff Present:

Felipe Lopez Sustaita, Executive Director, Justine Foy, Acting Secretary

Guests: Shelly Edgerton (LARA), Nancy Short (LARA), Kevin Ray (LARA)

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chairperson Noel Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:08pm. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.
- 2) **Introductions** of new Commissioners were made.

MOTION: Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Commissioner Gilberto Guevara seconded to accept the absences of Commissioners Osvaldo Rivera, Jeremiah Hernandez, Carlos Sanchez, and Kelsey V. Switzer. Motion was carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Commissioner Juan Marinez seconded to approve the agenda. Motion was carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Commissioner Jesse Venegas seconded to approve the minutes from the June 24th meeting at Cristo Rey Community Center in Lansing. No changes were made and the motion was carried.

- 3) **Executive Reports:** Chairman Noel Garcia – provided the written Executive report to the Commissioners present. He spoke about the Secretary position that is still open for discussion. He stressed the need to fill this position, and would like for this position description to include a Spanish speaker/bilingual background requirement. Commissioner Jesse Venegas spoke about how important it is to have someone who can communicate with callers who are reaching out to the Commission for help. Chairperson Garcia also spoke about how happy everyone is to have a full commission line up, and welcomed the new commissioners. At the executive meeting, they spoke about the reception that is being held this evening, the new commissioners, and what is to come.

Noel Garcia, Jr., Chair
Jesse Venegas, Vice Chair
Jeremiah Hernandez, Secretary
Sonya Hernandez, Trustee
Esperanza Cantu

Martha Gonzalez-Cortes
Gilberto Guevara
Jose A. Lopez
Juan Marinez
Monica Reyes

Osvaldo Rivera
Anthony Rubio
Carlos Sanchez
Ivonne M. Soler
Kelsey V. Switzer

Shelly Edgerton, Director of LARA, welcomed all of the new commissioners to LARA and the HLCOM. She spoke about the new ED, Felipe Lopez Sustaita and how he has been such a positive addition to not only the commission but to LARA, and said what a great job he is doing.

Felipe Lopez Sustaita – The new Executive Director told a little about himself, and his background. He spoke about how much traveling he has been doing, presented a few graphs of just how much traveling he has done, over 4,000 miles. He has gone to meet with all of the commissioners in their cities and did tours of their communities. Talked about how he is already getting such a great response from the communities. He told the commissioners about the Backpack Fundraiser they have been working on, over 500 backpacks were donated by Case Credit Union. These backpacks are being given out to the community, to help those families that are less fortunate, and may not be able to afford the school supplies that their children need to be successful in school. He then talked briefly about the Scholarship and the shift that it has made. The scholarship was before, given to high school students getting ready to graduate and head to college. Now the scholarship is given to students that are currently enrolled in college. The commission plans to continue in years to come with this type of scholarship. Commissioner Marinez and Commissioner Venegas suggested to possibly put this scholarship information about who received the money and where the scholarships were given, to show more transparency for the commission. Felipe also suggested that we host a graduation in spring for everyone who received the scholarship to come together with their families and the commission.

4) **Committee Reports:**

- a) **Economic:** Commissioner Jesse Venegas said that the economic survey did go out, but that they have received very limited responses. He also mentioned that he may be leaving this committee, and the strategic committee will be reevaluating this committee, possibly rolling it into another committee.
- b) **Civic Engagement:** Commissioner Juan Marinez submitted a report to the commission. He spoke about growth rates in cities and townships. Recommended that we continue to work towards gathering commissioners from all around the state, based on where the growth rates are. He plans to work with Felipe about gathering more data.
- c) **Finance Report:** Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes reported on behalf of the Finance Committee (Monica Reyes, Martha Gonzalez-Cortes, and Jesse Venegas). The finance committee was not able to meet due to end of fiscal year. Felipe and Colleen Pero met and talked about the commission's budget, things were moved, so items could be zeroed out. Just a reminder that in the new fiscal year all books will be housed in LARA and the transfer is taking place. Commissioner Gonzalez-Cortes spoke about the grant funding moving forward (250,000) and wants to ensure that we continue to stay in contact with DHHS. Felipe ensured that he spoke with Karen (DHHS) and that the commission did receive the grant.
- d) **Ethnic Commissions Joint Legislative Committee:** Ex-Officio Bing Goei stated that the Joint/Legislative Committee met on Sept. 28th in Troy. Susan Reed from Michigan Immigrant Rights Center highlighted concerns with bills HB5940 and HB5941 and finds great potential in commissions working together towards legislative advocacy. Aamina Ahmed, the new Executive director from APIA Vote was also present and stressed the importance of being honest and transparent about the tensions amongst the ethnic communities and suggests collaboration between commissions to reduce tensions. MAPAAC Commissioner Toshiki Masaki presented MAPAAC's Legislative Engagement PowerPoint, which briefly highlights MAPAAC's legislative initiatives. Commissioner Marinez mentioned the Town halls that the other commissions have put together, and that we could possibly think about arranging something similar and how the commission can be proactive in the community.

5) **Old Business: No New Updates.**

6) **New Business:**

a) **House Bills 5940 and 5941:** The House Bills were briefly spoken about. Commissioner Venegas said he was invited to the introduction of this Bill but was not able to attend. Representative Chang from Detroit and Representative Harvey Santana are in support. This bill revolves around drivers licenses around the State of Michigan, relative to status. All commissioners need to look over the bills and prepare. Need to think about this effects education or how does this effect civic engagement?

b) **Consideration of a retreat:** This item was tabled. Chairperson Noel Garcia said it would be discussed at the next strategic meeting.

7) **Public Comment:** There were no public members present.

8) **Announcements:**

a) Next Meeting: November 4, 2016, 10:00am-12pm, Detroit Hispanic Development Corp.

9) **Adjournment**

MOTION: Chairperson Noel Garcia adjourned the meeting at 4:04pm. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Commissioner Juan Marinez seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Noel Garcia, Jr., Chairperson Date

Jeremiah Hernandez, Secretary Date