



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

DR. AGUSTIN V. ARBULU
DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission Meeting
Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, 1204 Grandville SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan**

**February 3, 2016, 12:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes No. 303**

Commissioners Present:

Gil Guevara	Armando Hernandez	Sonya Hernandez
Jeremiah Hernandez	Carlos Sanchez	Noel Garcia
Oswaldo Rivera	Martha Gonzalez-Cortes	Jesse Venegas
Monica Reyes	Norma Huizar	Bing Goei, Ex-officio
Juan Marinez (on speaker – not counted towards quorum and cannot vote)		

Staff Present:

Victoria Garcia, Executive Assistant

MDCR Staff:

Director Agustin Arbulu, Deputy Director Colleen Pero

Guests: LARA Director Mike Zimmer, Roberto Torres, Stacy Stout, Jorge Gonzales, Omar Cuevas, Angie Morales, Chuy Morales, Richard Ortega, Frank Coronado, Francisco Vega, Audra Fuentes, Teresa Almonza, Erick Picardo, Lupe Ramos-Montigny, SanJuana Olivares

1) Call to Order

Chairperson Gil Guevara called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

2) Welcoming Remarks:

Mr. Roberto Torres, Director of Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, welcomed the Commission to Grand Rapids and to the Center.

3) MOTION: It was moved and seconded to accept the absences of Commissioners Juan Marinez and Anthony Rubio. Motion passed.

4) MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of 1) Special Announcement by LARA Director Mike Zimmer and 2) New Business, C. Staff Subcommittee. Motion Passed

5) MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of September 30, 2015 and October 9, 2015. Motion Passed.

6) Election of Officers: Commissioners Carlos Sanchez and Monica Reyes conducted the election. Commissioner Jesse Venegas requested to be added to the ballot as a candidate for Vice-Chairman and Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez requested to be added as a candidate for Secretary.

Chairperson

Nomination: Noel Garcia

Vote: 9 – 2 Abstained, **Noel Garcia**

Secretary

Nomination: Jeremiah Hernandez

Vote: 10 – 1 Abstained, **Jeremiah Hernandez**

Vice-Chairperson

Nomination: Juan Marinez and Jesse Venegas

Vote: 4 – 7, **Jesse Venegas**

Trustee

Nomination: Sonya Hernandez

Vote: 7 – 1 – 3 Abstained, **Sonya Hernandez**

At this time, the new Executive Committee took over the meeting.

7) Announcement of Executive Order 2016-3 by LARA Director Mike Zimmer:

Director Zimmer stated that the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission of Middle Eastern American Affairs, and the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission will be transferred by Executive Order 2016-3 by Governor Snyder from the Department of Civil Rights to the Dept. of Licensing and

Regulatory Affairs. This executive order will be effective in 60 days (March 26.) The reorganization will help streamline human resources and budgetary functions within each commission.

Director Zimmer stated he will work with the Commission in getting a new Executive Director hired.

He also spoke on the Flint Water Crisis and stated this is a unifying opportunity to help and get involved. He thanks Commissioner Armando Hernandez for all his hard work with the Genesee County Hispanic Collaborative but reminded everyone there is still so much to do.

8) Executive Reports: None

9) Committee Reports:

- a) *Economic Business Survey:* Commissioner Venegas reported the Committee is still working on a survey to send to the Hispanic Chambers to gather information on Michigan businesses and their needs, struggles, etc. The survey has been drafted and will be mailed out soon. A preliminary report will be provided at the April meeting.
- b) *Boards/Commission Vacancies:* Commissioner Armando Hernandez reported the Committee has recently made revisions in their process and will be scheduling a meeting with the Governor's appointment office to determine their process of appointments to boards/commissions. After discussion, it was decided that a goal of 40 referrals for appointments be made for this year.
- c) *Finance Report – 2016 Budget Approval:* Commissioners Armando Hernandez and Martha Gonzalez-Cortes reported on behalf of the Finance Committee (Armando Hernandez, Martha Gonzalez-Cortes, and Jesse Venegas). Commissioner Gonzalez-Cortes stated that per her discussion with Deputy Pero, it was advised that the Commission should strike noting the conferences and amounts from the budget as it would lock the Commission in for these expenditures. Also, a few of the conference has already occurred.

MOTION: Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes moved to amend the 2016 budget as presented to move \$2000 from miscellaneous to travel and vehicle services for a total of \$2500 in the budget line, as well as to strike listing the events (maintain the funds) listed under out of state conference travel. Motion passed.

10) Old Business:

- a) *Mental Health Grantee Update:* Vicky Garcia reported that the Dept. of Civil Rights, HLCOM Staff and the three selected mental health providers met on Dec. 3, 2015 to sign the Memorandum of Agreements, review reporting requirements and forms. All agencies are up to date with quarterly reports and invoices, per the schedule given.
- b) *2015 Hispanic Heritage Month Financial Report:* Deputy Director reviewed the report with Commissioners and answered questions. She also advised the funds that were being held in two outside banks have been turned over to the state of Michigan and turned back into the HLC budget line item and will transfer with the Commission to LARA. She did recommend a policy be created for future handling and processing of funds for events, as well as for scholarship funding. She also added that Vicky will be sending the student scholarship recipients a letter on how to access scholarships upon graduation. There was discussion on other partners involved.
MOTION: Commissioner Rivera moved for the Executive Committee to begin work on identifying partners for the 2016 Hispanic Heritage Month celebration and to begin initial planning such as securing the venue, etc. Discussion included reviewing the history of partners involved and new partners for future events, as well as a better understanding of the 2015 HHM Financial Report. Motion passed.
- c) *Meeting Participation/Voting by Telephone:* Deputy Director Pero advised Commissioners that they may participate by conference call; however, their participation does not count toward quorum and they are they unable to vote.

11) New Business:

- a) 2016 Draft Meeting Schedule: Amendments to the proposed schedule.

MOTION: Commissioner Rivera moved to approve the meeting schedule, as amended. Motion passed.

2016 Meeting Schedule: April 8 – Flint, May 6 – Bay City, June 9-10 – Lake Shore (city TBD), September 23 – Lansing, November 3-4 – Detroit.

- b) 2015 Annual Report Draft –
MOTION: Commissioner Rivera moved to table the approval of the annual report until the April meeting. Discussion included researching the Chavez Commission. Motion passed.
 - c) Staffing Subcommittee: A committee created to assist with the review and selection of the executive director for the office. Chairman Garcia selected the following commissioners to work on this committee: 1) Sonia Hernandez, 2) Carlos Sanchez, 3) Juan Marinez, 4) Monica Reyes, 5) Norma Huizar, 6) Gil Guevara
- 12) Adjournment
MOTION: A motion to adjourn was made at 2:51p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Noel Garcia, Jr., Chairperson Date

Jeremiah Hernandez, Secretary Date