



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

MIKE ZIMMER  
DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission Meeting**  
**Woodside Church – 1509 E Court St. Flint, MI 48503**  
**April 8, 2016**  
**Meeting Minutes No. 304**

**Commissioners Present:**

Noel Garcia  
Jeremiah Hernandez  
Sonya Hernandez  
Gilberto Guevara

Armando Hernandez  
Carlos Sanchez  
Martha Gonzalez-Cortes  
Juan Marinez

Anthony Rubio  
Monica Reyes  
Bing Goei, Ex-Offio

**Staff Present:**

Victoria Garcia, Executive Assistant

**Guests:** LARA Director Mike Zimmer, Justine Foy (LARA), Nancy Short (LARA), Miriam J. Ramos, Rudy Flores, Santos Serueno, Victoria Arteaga, Mary Bishop, Dale Flores Freeman, Allan Taylor, Bobby DeLeow, Andrea Lopez, Marie Villegas, Shawntae Harris, Tanya Baker, Amanda Hernandez, Ralph Areicano, Raul Garcia, Cheryl Partlo, Natan Fragoso, Pedro Berlanga, Patricia Baird, Antonia Connie Molieva, Marcy Garcia, Rosa Morales, Ray Curtin, Claudia High, Steve Branch, Enrique Rodriguez, Lisa Olin, Alfonso and Amelia Trevino.

1) **Call to Order**

Chairperson Noel Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

2) **Welcoming Remarks:**

Chairperson, Noel Garcia welcomed everyone to Flint, MI and to the Woodside Church. Thanked SanJuana Olivares for allowing the Commission to host the meeting.

**MOTION: Commissioner Armando Hernandez moved and Commissioner Gil Guevara seconded to accept the absences of Commissioners Osvaldo Rivera, Norma Huizar, and Jesse Venegas. Motion was carried.**

**MOTION: Commissioner Carlos Sanchez moved and Commissioner Armando Hernandez seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of 1) New Business, C. Bill DPS resolution. Motion was carried.**

**MOTION: Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes moved to amend the minutes from February 3, 2016. Section 9C-MOTION: should be corrected to read: “from Conference Travel” to “from Miscellaneous”. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Commissioner Armando Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

3) **Public Comment:**

- Marie Villegas, from Mexican American Council, Cinco De Mayo event in Saginaw on May 14, 2016 10:00am-2:00pm.
- Patricia Baird from Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, spoke about “Fair Housing” Month.
- Raul Garcia from Guadalupe Church, Mexican Council on Sunday in Flint, and on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, they will be helping residents with ID and Passports.

- Rafael Areicano from Hispanic Technical Center of Flint, on April 18<sup>th</sup>, a Cartoonist from U of M Flint at 6:00pm.
  - Victoria Arteaga from Guadalupe Catholic Parish, helping with Immigration Services.
  - Dale Freeman from Inter-agency Migrant Services, spoke about SB 501, minimum wage law affecting hand harvesters and daycare.
  - Mr. Branch, from City of Flint on behalf of the Mayor welcomed everyone and asked if anyone had any information regarding contact with the Hispanic/Latino Community of Flint, to please get in contact with the city.
- 4) **Executive Reports:** Chairman Noel Garcia – provided the written Executive report to the Commissioners present. He then spoke about SB 501, and the testimony report. He also talked briefly on the draft VETO letter being drafted to send to the Governor regarding SB 501. Commissioner Monica Reyes spoke about her meeting with Senator Horn and stated that he was very responsive to the VETO letter, but would like to place on hold for further review. The posting for Executive Director Applications are due on 4/8/16 at 5:00pm. A Secretary position will also be posted soon. Chairman Noel Garcia Introduced Nancy Short as Commission Liaison from LARA.
- 5) **Committee Reports:**
- a) **Economic/State Hispanic Business Grant:** Commissioner Sanchez reported on behalf of Commissioner Venegas: He started off with questions that were brought up such as: “What can the State of Michigan do for the Hispanic/Latino businesses? Another business survey will be deployed, April 15<sup>th</sup> and will be open for two weeks. There should be a preliminary report available at the next commission meeting. He also announced that the MMSDC sent an MOU recommending a partnership with the commission, there is no financial commitment, just a matter of working with them for the benefit of Hispanic/Latino businesses.
- MOTION: Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Commissioner Armando Hernandez seconded to accept Partnership with MMSDC. Motion was carried.**
- b) **Civic Engagement – Statewide Board/Commission Vacancies:** Commissioner Juan Marinez reported that Commissioner Monica Reyes and himself are going to collaborate to identify potential appointees, as well as identify which boards and commissions are most important.
- c) **Finance Report – 2016 Budget Approval:** Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes reported on behalf of the Finance Committee (Armando Hernandez, Martha Gonzalez-Cortes, and Jesse Venegas). Commissioner Gonzalez-Cortes stated that is it necessary for the committee to meet between now and the next commission meeting. Spoke about the transition to LARA, and what the commission may owe such as scholarships etc. She also spoke about staffing, and new leadership.
- d) **Hiring Sub-Committee for the Executive Director:** Commissioner Monica Reyes stated that the job description has been developed and the posting did go out. The committee hopes to have a recommendation by the June meeting. Deadline is April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes, suggested that at least 1 or 2 questions during the interview be asked and answered in Spanish, so the commission can have a sense of the candidates fluency.
- 6) **Old Business:**
- a) **Mental Health Grantee Update:** The quarterly report is due next Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, LARA has assigned Shay Gaffey as interim until the Hispanic/Lation Commission Secretary position is filled. All three entities within the grantee, were notified to send their monthly invoices to Ms. Gaffey.
- b) **2015 Hispanic Heritage Month Financial Report:** Commissioners reviewed report. Chairperson Noel Garcia expressed his concerns on the event planning and stated that a committee needs to be created.

**MOTION: Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Monica Reyes seconded to accept a sub-committee for Hispanic Heritage Month. Motion was carried. Members of Sub-Committee: Monica Reyes, Juan Martinez, Sonya Hernandez (Co-Chairs)**

- c) 2015 Annual Report Draft: 2015 tabled from last meeting. Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes recommended a motion to move forward.

**MOTION: Commissioner Carlos Sanchez moved and Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez seconded to approve the 2015 Annual Report. Motion was carried.**

7) **New Business:**

- a) Senate Bill 501 Testimony: A draft letter has been created to send to the Governor asking to VETO SB 501. Commissioner Monica Reyes reported on meeting with Senator Horn, and she stated that there were some concerns brought to attention as far as how the bill was introduced, business reasons, and the potential for racial profiling and lack of law enforcement training. Senator Horn was receptive to change. He will be taking them to his committee. Commissioner Reyes requested we wait at least a week or until we get updated amendments from Senator Horn. If all falls through, then by all means move forward to send VETO letter. Director Bing Goei also stated that it would be the best interest to wait on sending the letter until amendments were made.

**MOTION: Commissioner BLANK moved and Commissioner BLANK seconded to wait on sending the VETO letter until Senator Horns amendments are determined, and if not satisfactory, then to move ahead with sending letter. Motion was carried.**

- b) "Head of Joaquin" project: Chairperson Garcia provided dates for the showing. April 21- Lansing, April 22 – Holland, April 23 – Detroit, April 25 – Grand Rapids.  
c) Resolution Request/Commission: Return to Excellence schools in Detroit, looking for support. It was expressed from several Commissioners that additional information is needed, and more time is needed to review. All agreed to table this topic until the next meeting.

8) **Announcements:**

Commissioner Armando Hernandez thanked Hispanic/Latino Commission for coming to Flint  
Commissioner Carlos Sanchez invited the Hispanic/Latino Commission to Sabor Latino fundraiser dinner on 5/12/16 at 5:00pm.  
Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes mentioned MDCR Town hall meeting on 4/28/16 at Riverfront Banquet Center from 2:30pm-8:00pm

9) **Adjournment**

**MOTION: Chairperson Noel Garcia adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm. Motion was carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Noel Garcia, Jr., Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Jeremiah Hernandez, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date