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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
Horizons Conference Center – 6200 State Street Saginaw, MI 48603
May 6, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes No. 305

Commissioners Present:

Noel Garcia
Jeremiah Hernandez
Osvaldo Rivera
Gilberto Guevara

Anthony Rubio
Carlos Sanchez
Martha Gonzalez-Cortes
Juan Marinez

Monica Reyes
Bing Goei, Ex-Officio

Staff Present:

Justine Foy, Acting Secretary and Nancy Short, Commission Liaison

Guests: Frank Waters (LARA-OPLA), Justine Foy (LARA), Nancy Short (LARA), Kevin Ray (LARA), State Senator Ken Horn, Debbie Vasquez, Marie Villegas, AnnaMaria Flores, Andrea Lopez, Daniel Soza, Gilbert Flores, Ann Flores, Leo Romo, Rebecca Sanchez, Sara Lamblin, Rosa Morales, Dale Freeman, Heather Galleges, Alvaro Martin del Campo, Veronica Horn, Lt. Miguel Gomez, Under Sheriff Phil Mart, Sheriff William Federspeil, Andrea Sanchez, Leona Flores.

1) **Call to Order**

Chairperson Noel Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

2) **Welcoming Remarks:**

Chairperson, Noel Garcia welcomed everyone to Saginaw, MI and to the Horizons Conference Center. Thanked Gil Guevara and Monica Reyes hosting the meeting. Also thanked Team One Credit Union for hosting as well.

MOTION: Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes moved and Commissioner Ozzie Rivera seconded to accept the absences of Commissioners Sonya Hernandez, Armando Hernandez and Jesse Venegas. Motion was carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez moved and Commissioner Monica Reyes seconded to approve the agenda. Motion was carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Monica Reyes moved to accept the minutes from April 8, 2016. Commissioner Ozzie Riveria seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

4) **Special Presentation:**

Frank Waters from LARA, the Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs gave a small presentation to the commission on political process. He spoke about the steps and procedures of the legislative process. The commission asked for Frank Waters to be present in light of the recent SB 501 bill. All commission members want to make sure they have a good understanding on how these types of bills move and have an overall understanding of the process.

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

Martha Gonzalez-Cortes
Gilberto Guevara
Juan Marinez

Monica Reyes
Osvaldo Rivera
Anthony Rubio
Carlos Sanchez

5) **Public Comment:**

- Marie Villegas, from Mexican American Council, Cinco De Mayo event in Saginaw on May 14, 2016 10:00am-2:00pm.
- Debbie Vasquez, President of Great Lakes Bay Region Hispanic Business Owners Association, spoke about the business survey they are working on with one, Dr. Martinez. It collects data so Hispanic business owners are able to receive federal dollars.
- Rebecca Sanchez, Teacher with Saginaw Schools, suggested that the commission look into later start times in hopes for more community participation, since so many people work and are not able to attend early morning meetings.
- Rosa Morales, National Association of Hispanic Journalists, spoke about their mission and how they want to empower Hispanic journalists. They are constantly on the lookout for new members.
- Daniel Soza, Neighborhood house, invited everyone today at 4pm to Saginaw Cinco De Mayo celebration. 3145 Russel St. everyone is welcome.
- Albert Flores, Commissioner of Boy Scouts of America, spoke about how they are looking for more minority leaders, and wants to encourage the community to join the Boy Scouts of America.
- Jose Strickland, Martial Arts Connection, announced their 7th annual Cinco De May 5k this Sunday at noon.
- Bill Federspiel, Sheriff of Saginaw County, welcomed everyone to Saginaw, assured them that the sheriff's office is open for assistance and wants to hear the concerns.
- Lee Romo, retired teacher from Saginaw and minority leader in Saginaw, Gay/Lesbian Minorities, wants commission to be aware of the gay/lesbian minorities within the community and to help work with them.
- Dale Freeman from Inter-agency Migrant Services, spoke about SB 501, minimum wage law affecting hand harvesters and daycare.

- 4) **Executive Reports:** Chairman Noel Garcia – provided the written Executive report to the Commissioners present. He then spoke about the Secretary position and how it had been closed. A decision will be made by next week. He announced that there is now 3 commissioner positions open, since Norma and Jesse resigned. Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes expressed her concerns about how the commission lacks healthcare experience and that it may be an asset to have. On April 20th there was a Chairpersons meeting held in Lansing, and during that meeting it was suggested that a joint legislative committee be created. Commissioners Juan Marinez, Martha Gonzalez-Cortes and Ozzie Rivera all volunteered.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilberto Guevera moved and Commissioner Carlos Sanchez seconded to accept the 3 commissioners to be a part of the Joint Legislative Committee. Motion was carried.

Nancy Short then spoke to the commissioners about bios, deadlines etc. She handed out the handbooks for LARA's department policies and procedures. She also introduced Kevin Ray from LARA, who is going to be the communications personnel during Tanya's absence.

5) **Committee Reports:**

- a) Economic: Commissioner Sanchez stated that the business survey is not out yet, as there is not enough information. They are looking into collaborating with other organizations to see how theirs was rolled out.
- b) Civic Engagement – Statewide Board/Commission Vacancies: Commissioner Juan Marinez reported that Commissioner Monica Reyes and himself have received 5 resumes that are being reviewed. They are going to map out where they are located. They are looking to have commissioners from other areas that are not already represented in the commission. Also with result of the town hall meeting in Flint, Commission Marinez stated that he is going to submit the minutes to the rest of the commission for review. They received some great feedback.

- 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 it is necessary for the committee to meet between now and the next commission meeting. The budget is going to remain at the Civil Rights. Today is the day that all expenses are going to be posted.
- d) Hiring Sub-Committee for the Executive Director: Commissioner Monica Reyes stated that there were 16 resumes submitted, they were ranked and were able to narrow them down to 8. Goal is to present the new Executive Director at the June 9th meeting at Lakeshore. Bing will be the LARA representative for those interviews. Commissioner Reyes also wanted to notify everyone that due to budget there will be limitations as far as salary. Reyes will also be working with Nancy Short to notify the candidates that were not chosen, so there is no confusion.
- e) Hispanic Heritage Month Sub-Committee: Event is going to be hosted in Lansing on September 23, 2016. They are working towards booking a speaker and will notify the commission when more decisions have been made.

6) **Old Business:**

- a) SB501 – Veto Letter: Frank Waters from LARA advised commissioners on his hesitation to send the veto letter. He mentioned that a better strategy would be sending a letter stating that the commission is opposed to the language of the current bill. He said it would be better to wait and see what the final language is, before sending a letter to urge the Governor to veto.

MOTION: Commissioner Monica Reyes moved and Commissioner Ozzie Rivera seconded to approve that at the time the bill is released and if it is still in the form that the commission objects to, the chair has authorization to send veto letter. Motion was carried.

Senator Horn then spoke to the commission suggesting and supporting the strategy that Frank Waters mentioned; sending a letter that says they strongly oppose the language of the letter.

MOTION: Commissioner Monica Reyes moved and Commissioner Ozzie Rivera seconded a draft opposition letter opposing the language of SB 501. Asking OPLA and LARA to assist with wording of the letter. Motion was carried.

- b) Partnership with MMSDC: Commissioner Carlos Sanchez said he will report at the next meeting.
- c) Return to Excellence Schools in Detroit: Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez reported on reaching out to State Representative Harvey Santana, he stated that it solved financial but not educational needs. Also said that the Mayor is supportive as well. Commissioner Monica Reyes suggested that this topic be tabled once again, so the commission can do more research and become more familiar with the topic. Commissioner Ozzie Rivera asked if there could be something written up, that states what action the commission needs to take.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlos Sanchez moved and Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez seconded to table the discussion on Return to Excellence schools in Detroit, until the next meeting. Motion was carried.

7) **New Business:**

- a) Ethnic Commission Legislation Committee: A motion was moved previously under Executive Reports.

8) **Announcements:**

Ex-Officio Bing Goei mentioned the proposed date for the annual reception of Commissions in 2017. September 14 was agreed, to be the best date for the HLCOM.

Next meeting is June 9-10, 2016, Oceana Hispanic Center, Hart, MI. Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes mentioned that the 1st day for Migrant workers will of course be weather dependent, but the actual commission meeting is June 10th.

9) **Adjournment**

MOTION: Chairperson Noel Garcia adjourned the meeting at 12:20pm. Commissioner Anthony Rubio moved and Commissioner Ozzie Rivera seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Noel Garcia, Jr., Chairperson Date

Jeremiah Hernandez, Secretary Date