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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
Cristo Rey Community Center 1717 N High Street, Lansing, MI
June 24, 2016 10:00am – 12:00pm
Meeting Minutes No. 306**

Commissioners Present:

Noel Garcia

Jeremiah Hernandez

Martha Gonzalez-Cortes

Carlos Sanchez

Anthony Rubio

Gilberto Guevara

Sonya Hernandez

Monica Reyes

Bing Goei, Ex-Officio

Staff Present:

Justine Foy, Acting Secretary

Guests: Shelly Edgerton (LARA), Justine Foy (LARA), Kevin Ray (LARA), Tom Thornburg, Lucy Benz-Rogers, M.J. Garcia, Dale Freeman, Oscar Gestoda, Mariah Gomez-Gaurie

1) **Call to Order**

Chairperson Noel Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

2) **Welcoming Remarks:**

Chairperson, Noel Garcia welcomed everyone to Lansing, MI and to the Cristo Rey Community Center. Thanked Joe Garcia, Executive Director for Cristo Rey, for hosting the meeting. Joe Garcia welcomed everyone and talked briefly about Cristo Rey and what they do for the community.

MOTION: Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez seconded to accept the absences of Commissioners Osvaldo Rivera, Juan Marinez and Jesse Venegas. Motion was carried.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Monica Reyes moved to amend the minutes from May 6, 2016. Section 7, Public Comment, MOTION: should be corrected to "Jose Stricker" not "Strickland." Commissioner Jeremiah Hernandez moved to accept the minutes from May 6, 2016. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion was carried

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

- 4) **Special Presentation:**
Tom Thornburg, Pro-Managing Attorney for Farmworker Legal Services, located in Kalamazoo. He introduced Lucy Benz-Rogers. He spoke briefly about what Farmworker Legal Services does throughout the state of Michigan. He stated that they are federally funded and have been working with Farmworkers in the state for 20 years. They hire/reach out year round, and are open to any type of issues/discussions/concerns. Lucy Benz-Rogers began her PowerPoint presentation on State Minimum Wage (PowerPoint can be found in meeting packet)
- 5) **Public Comment:**
- M.J. Garcia expressed his concerns about how the middle initial is not always stated on criminal reports. He would like for the Commission to look into labor employment laws that could help with this.
 - Dale Freeman from Inter-agency Migrant Services, spoke about 3 presentations that they are working on: E-Learning Capabilities, Online classes, and Migrant Farmworker Housing (For all sorts of employers). He then spoke about the H2A Program and the agricultural issues they face. WEA plans for an outreach.
- 4) **Executive Reports:** Chairman Noel Garcia – provided the written Executive report to the Commissioners present. He spoke about how the new secretary had resigned effective June 10, 2016. On June 13, 2016 Chairman had a conference call meeting with Director Bing Goei, Director Shelly Edgerton and Chief Deputy Director Allan Pohl regarding the open position. Shelly Edgerton expressed that once the new Executive Director is in, we can see how he wants to address filling the position. He then moved on to commissioner vacancies. Commissioner Armando Hernandez resigned his position effective May 12, 2016. Interested candidates should be forwarded to Chairman Garcia, and then he will forward them on to where they need to apply. The Governor's Office, specifically Brian Breslin, advised the Chairman that they have been receiving applications and are committed to filling the vacancies as soon as possible. Executive Committee met, most of order of business was that of preparing for the then scheduled Hart meeting that was rescheduled for today's meeting. Monica Reyes gave a detailed report on the Executive Director selection process.
- 5) **Committee Reports:**
- a) **Economic:** Commissioner Sanchez stated that the business survey went out about a month ago. They received 2 responses, they will analyze those by the next meeting.
 - b) **Civic Engagement – Statewide Board/Commission Vacancies:** Commissioner Martha Gonzalez-Cortes reported on behalf of Commissioner Venegas. Commissioner Gonzalez-Cortes spoke about identifying the best candidates for the current vacancies.
 - 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 Civil Rights was going to continue with the financials until the end of the fiscal year, and then LARA will take over. Commissioner spoke about the NCLR conference in Orlando and who will be attending and who can travel. Commissioner Sanchez is already attending.
 - d) **Hiring Sub-Committee for the Executive Director:** Commissioner Monica Reyes talked about the selection that was made for the Executive Director, Dr. Lopez-Sustaita. Everyone was given copies of his resume. The background check has been completed. Commission vote will be held under New Business. Commissioner Reyes thanked everyone who served on the hiring committee.
 - 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 once the ED starts.
 - f) **Ethnic Commissions Joint Legislative Committee:** Ex-Officio Bing Goei stated that MAPAAC just met and are waiting on the meeting minutes. They have 4 individuals that are very interested in being a part of the committee. This will be addressed again in the fall.

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

7) **New Business:**

MOTION: Chairman Noel Garcia moved to take final action on appointing the new Executive Director, Dr. Felipe Lopez-Sustaita. All were in favor. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Commissioner Carlos Sanchez seconded the approval. Motion was carried.

A press release will be released today at 1pm, on the appointment of Dr. Felipe Lopez-Sustaita as Executive Director. That will also be available to view on the Commissions website.

b) September Commission Meeting, possible location change: Chairman Garcia asked the commission if they should go back to Hart. All agreed that it is important to do the migrant visits that is done every year. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez suggested early October and said she would look into locations.

8) **Adjournment**

MOTION: Chairperson Noel Garcia adjourned the meeting at 12:04pm. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved and Commissioner Carlos Sanchez seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Noel Garcia, Jr., Chairperson Date

Jeremiah Hernandez, Secretary Date