



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

**Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan,
Michigan Library & Historical Center
Lansing, MI
April 5, 2024
Meeting Minutes No. 351**

Commissioners Present

Dr. Jesse Bernal, Chair	Juan Rodriguez	
Consuela Barber-Lopez, Vice Chair	Vanessa Guerra	
Florenso Hernandez, Treasurer	Jose Sanchez III	
Abril Valdes-Siewert, Secretary		
Angelita Valdez		
Juan Rodriguez		

Staff Present:

Mika Mcaskill (Commissions Administrative Manager)
Alexander Sahouri (CEMEAA Administrator)

Guests:

Senator Stephanie Chang (Virtually)
Tonya Jeter (Virtually)

1) Call to Order:

Chair Jesse Bernal called the meeting to order at 3:20PM.

2) Roll Call:

Chair Jesse Bernal complete the Roll Call. Dr. Jesse Bernal, Consuela Barber-Lopez, Abril Valdes-Siewert, Florenso Hernandez, Jose Sanchez III, Angelita Valdez, Aurora Saucedo, Juan Rodriguez, Vanessa Guerra

3) Acknowledgement of Commissioner Absences:

Commissioners Elias Gutierrez, Vanessa Guerra, Anthony Rubio, Sonya Hernandez, Monteze Morales were not present.

4) Approval of Agenda:

An amendment to the agenda to welcome Senator Chang and have her participate at the beginning of the meeting was called by Chair Bernal. Secretary Valdes-Siewert seconded the motion. The motion to amend the agenda was approved.

Senator Chang provided updates on the curriculum bill. The House and Senate have been working on legislation that would require the teaching of Asian American History, Latino History, Indigenous History, and Chaldean History in schools. This is a multiracial effort. She highlighted the importance of young people learning about other cultures in an accurate way. She will send the draft to commissioners for feedback.

5) Approval of Minutes from March 15, 2024 :

Jesse Bernal, Chair
Consuela Barber-Lopez, Vice Chair
Florenso Hernandez, Treasurer
Abril Valdes Siewert, Secretary
Sonya Hernandez

Vanessa Guerra
Anthony Rubio
Elias Gutierrez
Juan Rodriguez
Jose Sanchez, III

Monteze Morales
Angelita Valdez
Aurora Saucedo

MOTION: Motion for the approval of the minutes was made by Chair Bernal, supported by commissioner Juan Rodriguez, seconded by commissioner Vanessa Guerra. The motion was passed unanimously.

6) Executive Director Report:

Chair Bernal informed the commission that Executive Director Dr. Isabel Montemayor-Vazquez is on maternity leave. Mika McAskill, the Commission's Administrative Manager, will take her place in the meantime.

7) Report from Office of Global Michigan:

Mika McAskill provided the report. She thanked the commissioners who participated in the Annual Hispanic Latino Statewide Graduation ceremony. She informed the commission about Arab American Heritage Month and Asian American Heritage Month (May). She invited commissioners to join the events and celebrations for other commissions.

- CEMEAA Advocacy Day on April 30
- All Commissions Convening on April 30 and May 1
- Latino Legislative Advocacy Day and MAPAAC Legislative Day on May 9
- MIRC Education Summit on June 1

Events:

Chair Bernal shared details about the Inaugural Latine Summit, scheduled for June 21 at the GR campus of GVSU. GVSU will serve as the primary sponsor of the summit. There will be a pre-event on Thursday, June 20, at City Built Brewery.

Vice chair Barbe Lopez highlighted the importance of the Summit, which will serve as a platform for organizations to come together and find solutions for the Hispanic Latino population. Topics will include education, health, arts, development, culture, and history. A heatmap for Latine organizations is in process.

8) Chair's Report

Chair Bernal reiterated the importance of attending the All Commissions Convening.

Next Commission Meeting: June 7, Traverse City

Retreat: August 16 and 17, Muskegon

Chair Bernal informed that nominations for the EC positions will take place at the October commission meeting, with elections to follow in November. New officers will take their positions in December 2024 and will serve for a three-year term.

Vice chair Barber Lopez requested a list of people registered to become commissioners. Mika McAskill will ask the EOG for the data.

Chair Bernal informed that there will be four vacancies by December 2024.

9) Committee Reports

- a. Operations SIG- (Commissioner Juan Rodriguez)
 - HLCOM needs assessment/ethnic community survey to collect information about interest in listening sessions, major issues impacting Latinx across the state, and familiarity with commission objectives.
- b. Legislative Advocacy SIG- (Commissioner Vanessa Guerra and Secretary Valdes-Siewert)

Latino Legislative Advocacy Day-Working with MiPoder and the office of Senator Mary Cavanagh, there will be an advocacy training component tied to the legislative agenda presented, engagement with legislators, presentations by Hispanic caucus to advocacy leaders.

c. Outreach and Engagement- (Commissioner Jose Sanchez)

Commissioner Sanchez shared that the graduation ceremony will take place today after the meeting. They are happy to have the Lt. Governor serve as the keynote speaker.

d. Finance Report- (Commissioner Florenio Hernandez, Treasurer)

No official changes to the budget since the last meeting nor has there been a new budget to actual shared from LEO Finance since the last meeting. Vice chair Barber-Lopez requested to ask for sponsors for the 50th anniversary of the Commission next year to have a bigger budget. Chair Bernal will plan with the EC the best way to do it.

9) Public Comment

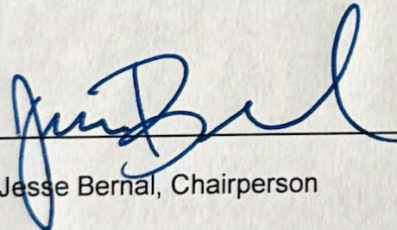
Limited to 2-3 minutes. Public comments will be received but will not be acted upon by the Commission. They will respond if requested via email in 2-3 business days.

10) Announcements:

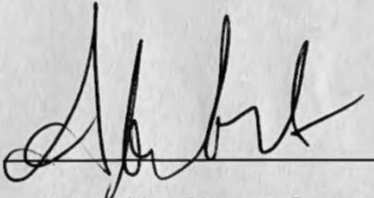
- Mika McAskill announced the upcoming creation of logos for the Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Council and the LGBTQ+ Commission, as well as an updated HLCOM logo for the 50th anniversary.
- Vice chair Barbe Lopez expressed her recognition of the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant for their work and planning for the graduation ceremony.
- Treasurer Hernandez thanked the Executive Director for the tribute to be delivered to Monica Ramirez, the keynote speaker of the Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta Conference.
- Next Commission meeting scheduled for June 7, in Traverse City.

11) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm

Respectfully submitted,



6-7-2024
 Date
 Jesse Bernal, Chairperson



6/7/2024
 Date
 Abril Valdes Siewert, Secretary