



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Burien Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2010

Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Ty Cordova, AnaMaria Diaz-Martinez, Juan A. Garcia, Lillian Ortiz-Self, Rosalba Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Ernest Radillo, and Teresita Torres.

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez, Alicia Luna, and Intern Nahyeli Men

Chair Ortiz-Self called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Roll Call was taken - Commissioners Mireles and Villafán not present; Commissioner Mireles excused, Commissioner Villafán not excused.

Chair Ortiz-Self went over the agenda and asked who required interpretation. Commissioner Cordova went over the meeting protocol for the panel members.

Host Commissioner Portillo-Salazar welcomed the community of Burien, key guests, attendees, panel participants and introduced Burien Mayor Joan McGilton.

Mayor McGilton welcomed the Commission and shared the following:

- Burien has a large Hispanic community; 44,000
- She welcomes Hispanic businesses; very interested in adding others
- Has various documents in Spanish; utility relief applications, park and trail maps, part of their Newsletter is in Spanish (published four times a year), city radio announcements are broadcasted in Spanish during emergencies, etc.
- Proud of the group that does the Hispanic market on Sundays; culturally relevant and aids in the integration of the community
- City funds CONSEJO Counseling and also very involved with New Futures; wants to be culturally appropriate with her community

Host Commissioner Portillo-Salazar made introductions of the panel:

- Jenn Ramirez Robson, Management Analyst for the City Manager's Office
- K. Scott Kimmerer, Burien Chief of Police
- Vicky Schiantarelli, Office of Minority & Women Business Enterprises
- Mario Paredes, New Futures Executive Director
- Damon Hunter, Highline School Principal

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- Alexis Oliver, Governor's Policy Office

Commissioners introduced themselves and shared the areas that they represent as well as where they are based. CHA staff and intern were also introduced.

CHA Official Business

Approval of Yakima Public Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Cordova made a motion to approve the Yakima public meeting minutes; Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion.

A vote was called to approve the minutes; Ayes were unanimous. **The motion carried.**

CHA Presentation

Director Iñiguez CHA's work

- CHA's Mandate and role
- WA State distribution of Latino population by county
- Projected growth of minority school-age population in Washington State
- WA State Hispanic Teacher to Student ratio
- Hispanic Student Graduation Rates & Highline School District's Hispanic Student's Proficiency Exam rates
- King County Felony Convictions and State Juvenile Recidivism rates
- The importance of establishing relationships in the community and involvement in the Legislative process

Director Iñiguez also stated that Hispanics are no longer just in the agricultural arena; they have migrated into all the other sectors. He added that "we" are the future workforce for WA State and that it's imperative that we get a good education.

Panel Presentations

Jenn Ramirez Robson, City Manager's Office shared the following:

- Has worked with the City of Burien for 13 years; over the years she has formed relationships with the Hispanic community
- Burien has numerous cultural differences and a myriad of languages
- The city provides an interpreter line for all city employees

Damon Hunter, Highline High School Principal shared the following:

- Principal of Highline High School for only three months
- Believes that all students have the potential to reach their goals
- He is committed and passionate on relationships that are focused on a task
- Looks forward to a continued dialogue with Hispanic students and CHA

Vicky Schiantarelli, OMWBE shared the following:

- Area of responsibility is agency support and supplier certification; Offices are in Seattle and Olympia
- Works with women and minority start-up businesses that want to do contracting with the state, need financing, and or need help

- Also provides technical assistance to state agencies to encourage and assist in doing business with minority businesses; L&I does 25% contracting with minorities

Alexis Oliver, Governor's Policy Office shared the following:

- She is an Executive Policy Advisor; she provides support to the CHA
- There will be budget cuts mainly across the board cuts; huge issues and concerns with the 9 Million revenue shortfall
- 5.7 million gap to cover for 2011-2013; little discretion in the reductions
- There is a call for the community for ideas

K. Scott Kimerer, Burien Chief of Police shared the following:

- Welcomed the CHA; shared that Burien thrives on the community that they have
- They try their best to reach out as best that they can to the very diverse community; they embrace and welcome all
- Very important to build relationships in order to build trust in the community; they're constantly striving to build bridges and relationships
- The diversity in the community creates an energizing and positive environment

Mario Paredes, New Futures Executive Director

- New Futures provides cradle to college services; prepares kids for 1st grade and provides academic support and mentorships for high schools
- Serves all kids; 70% of the kids they serve are Hispanic
- Have a myriad of serious challenges - one of the biggest at present is the driver license issue; it does not allow newly arrived immigrants/refugees to obtain a license due to the inability to proof residency
- New Futures has been in existence for 17 years; in Burien you actually see partnerships and commitments

Public Comments

Franco Cantor, Wells Fargo Bank shared the following:

- Helps Hispanics with banking services such as setting up financial accounts
- Available for comments and questions

Antoinette Angulo, SeaMar Community Health Centers shared the following:

- Her efforts are in eradication of Diabetes, Hypertension, Edemia, and health disparities
- Other efforts are in promoting safe green spaces

Carlos Jimenez, former member of the UAC Council shared the following:

- Thanked the Commission for selecting Burien for the public meeting
- Stated that there were many school activities; therefore not a full room
- Asked what they as a community could do to build a bridge between the Hispanic kids and the Burien Police Department; he's worked tremendously to achieve this but has yet to succeed

Hugo Garcia, Resident of Burien and White Center shared the following:

- Working in partnership with Plaza Bank and victims of domestic violence

- Concerned on how the Department of Licensing's proof of residency issue will affect the community particularly victims of domestic violence

Dr. Julian Perez, SeaMar Doctor shared the following:

- SeaMar Burien Clinic opened four years ago; we provide child care, urgent care, obstetrics, etc.; clinic has grown immensely
- They support the low-income and the undocumented with; WIC, maternal support services, casework, etc.
- The clinic welcomes people from all over the world and they deal with 20 different languages; funding is on the chopping block
- Community organizations such as SeaMar, New Futures, and CONSEJO depend on these funds

Tony Gomez, KCTC v-Me shared the following:

- He's an educator who works closely with the Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Refreshing presence in the level of unity
- Essential that we support and advocate for the Commission; it its vital for the well being of our community

Paulina Lopez, South Park community member shared the following:

- Has spent most of her time in Burien and is civically engaged; however feels that more civic engagement training is needed
- We come from different countries and are unaware of the importance in being civically engaged; newly arrived immigrants need to be informed
- Would like to talk to CHA more in-depth about civic engagement; thanked the CHA for the great WA Hispanic/Latino Assessment report

George Patero, CONSEJO boardmember shared the following:

- City of Burien embraces diversity; asked that we advocate for funding of human services
- Real estate issues and many housing market problems; rampant abuse of our community
- CHA and the state of WA need to create stricter regulations/laws so that people are not victims of fraud

Francisca Joshua, community member shared the following:

- Works as a bilingual translator for the Social Security Department; also volunteers in the city of Renton
- We are here because we want to be involved; nice to get CHA notifications

Sandra Najera, Department of Licensing employee shared the following:

- There is a process in place to obtain a driver license; utility bills do serve as proof of residency
- Once proof of residency documents are presented they get scanned and reviewed to insure they are valid; if valid the license is issued
- For minors, parents need to present an affidavit that says they are residents; parents also need to proof that they are indeed the parents
- In regards to victims of domestic violence; address will not be included in their issued license

Jose Garcia, WSU employee shared the following:

- Congratulated CHA for the fine work they have been doing in the past five years
- WSU putting on presentations on the importance of education in Skagit County; they will done in both English and Spanish
- Informed attendees of upcoming small business forums in Edmonds; would like to see the city of Burien do the same
- WSU has offices in every county of the state; asked all to please use them

Victor Chacon, DSHS Senior Director of Diversity shared the following:

- He's the conduit to the biggest government agency; DSHS
- His mission will be to build relationships with organizations such as CONSEJO; will have an ear to the ground for the concerns that they may have
- Aware of the many cuts that will happen in our communities; need shared governance with philanthropy to offset the major cuts especially in the Hispanic communities
- Shared his office phone number: 206-902-79999

Alexia Iñiguez, community member shared the following:

- Volunteers with the Latino Civic Alliance; political involvement
- Invited the community of Burien to join the Latino Civic Alliance on March 4, 2011 in Olympia for Hispanic/Latino Legislative Day

Maria Carillo, community member shared the following:

- Shared the importance of banning tobacco in our communities of color
- Our folks are being targeted; we need healthy communities for all

Flor Alarcon, community member shared the following:

- A big difference in the attendance of the public meeting compared to the past
- STAND for Children impacts policy and children are their priority
- Education has to happen not just at schools but with parents as well; empowering our communities is critical
- We know the statistics; African Americans and Hispanics are hit the hardest therefore we need to partner together and work on this effort
- We need to elect officials that are passionate about education and share knowledge between professionals so that we can impact our people

Randy Nunez, Campaña Quetzal board member shared the following:

- Works for the Kent School District; they have undocumented students in their schools and is looking for opportunities for the kids that are doing incredibly well but due to their status cannot go to college
- HB1079 help some kids but they unfortunately cannot get jobs; they're working under the table
- Need to find ways in which policy can help them

Lisa Heaton, Labor & Industries Spanish Language Communications Manager shared the following:

- Working on improving their outreach efforts

- Looking forward to working with CHA; interagency collaboration particularly with the eminent and ongoing budget cuts; can certainly build on each other strengths

Jose Rios, Media Communications shared the following:

- Recognized CHA's wonderful efforts; especially in education, health, housing, safety, etc.
- Special focus should be on teachers and schools; which are of great importance
- Need to motivate parents; campaigns for parent engagement are needed; mass media outreach works in influencing parents
- Every week Uriel and Alicia in collaboration with other state agencies inform us on the work they are carrying out which is very useful and beneficial
- The new Census numbers will be out very soon; what will be out new expectations?

Julio Amador, DSHS employee shared the following:

- Thanked the CHA for the hard work that they do
- Child ID Kit event in Redmond will include an FBI bullet proof vest; encouraged all to attend event
- Domestic violence is a big issue in our communities

Beto Yarce, WA CASH in Burien, shared the following:

- WA CASH provides training for folks interested in starting a business
- Would like this program duplicated in other cities, counties, and other states

Questions/Comments from the Commissioners to the Panel Members

What can you do to improve the relationship with the Hispanic community?

Chief Kimmerer responded as follows:

- Need to know what problems exist and what we're doing wrong that is creating the distrust
- Finding connections and trusted leaders/advocates that we can go to if we have concerns/issues or if we need to communicate something that is hard to communicate
- Jorge Madrazo contacted us regarding the issue of working with ICE; the perception was **not** what we were doing
- As per direction from the City Council, we are not enforcing immigration; dispelling the rumor was of utmost importance
- We want every ethnic group to feel safe in our community; building relationships with folks like Madrazo is of importance so that we can tell them our priorities and issues; Jennifer is our outreach person

Jennifer added that they do take the concerns very seriously and that they deal with them; inclusive our Council members support us and the community.

Q: We are concerned with human services and how the cuts are going to impact us; so what can you tell us?

Alexis Oliver responded as follows:

- Undocumented and refugee programs are funded by the State and not federal dollars; this state has been generous in providing those human services
- In tough times these programs are going to suffer; the CHIP program gets some state funding
- Basic Health, emergency medical services, cancer and dialysis, levy equalization, and State Need Grant programs are also going to suffer
- We need to find innovative ways where we can collaborate with the private sector, organizations, etc.; so that in these tough times they can provide services
- Governor's Budget - by constitutional mandate, the Governor has to provide a balanced budget within the existing resources; there will be very drastic cuts
- Quite dire; there will be no optimal medical services, hearing aids, etc.
- We do have great partnerships with health centers and agencies and we are here to hear your concerns

C: SeaMar provides a very important service so by cutting their funding we will not have a healthy society; healthy families are of utmost importance. America's Promise also says that healthy families are critical.

Ms. Oliver repeated the Governor's Budget mandate and restated that cuts will be all over not just in health and human services. Domestic violence services will also see cuts; all due to the revenue shortfall and taxes.

Mr. Hunter stated that we already face a challenge in finding dynamic and creative ways to make kids succeed; very interesting to hear the eminent cuts.

Q: CHA feels very committed to an equitable education; how does Highline feel about desegregating the data?

Mr. Hunter responded as follows:

- Instructional practices are important; pedagogy understand what the kids need; big barriers why students are not achieving
- Really need to focus on relationships that will help our students
- Teacher and staff effectiveness; how it crosses over in culture

C: Mr. Paredes, collaboration with other organizations, talk a little bit more of your partnership.

Mr. Paredes responded as follows:

- Collaborate with over sixty organizations; it takes time and effort to educate all on what you do and how we can work together
- Our refugees and immigrants need more than one agency to meet their needs
- We partner with law enforcement; students and law enforcement partners so that students know that it takes to work in that field; not everything takes money to get it done

C: In tough times we need to collaborate with all so that our communities benefit. I encourage further collaboration; parent involvement is a key component and CHA is working at increasing this. There isn't a one size fits all on the training and informing.

Mr. Paredes shared the following:

- There is a state conference call with the Governor's Chief of Staff on Mondays; during the calls folks raise issues that they are facing
- Driver licenses is an issue; out of state folks are coming to Washington to obtain their driver licenses; due to this prevalent fraud new regulations came out in November which only apply to new applicants
- The challenge is if you are a victim of domestic violence and in a transitional housing program you can only provide a PO Box address
- Another challenge is when more than one Hispanic family lives under one roof; how does one provide proof of residency
- Have been working with the Governor's office and they have been very helpful
- On the Education arena
 - ◊ CECSI drastically failing youth Highline one of the identified school districts
 - ◊ Will send information to CHA; OSPI and school districts are involved
 - ◊ Seattle and the Gates Foundation has launched a 10 year plan

Ms. Oliver shared the conference call info and other comments:

- Next conference call is Monday, December 6th; the number is 323-843-0075 and the passcode is 757557
- Reiterated that civic engagement is vitally important and that it works well when citizens are engaged
- Our strength is when you are all intimately involved

Chair Ortiz-Self mentioned that CHA is the conduit with the Governor and that we are available statewide. She added that folks can sign-up as subscribers on our website; very effective way to collaborate.

Q: What does residency really mean?

Mr. Paredes response:

- Residency refers to state residence and not legal status
- Department of Licensing should partner with Univision or local radio station to talk about policy changes; not much info in Spanish via the Spanish media
- Fear is one of our biggest challenges

Mr. Hunter's final comments:

- They have started home visits with the intent of helping kids and parents
- Our everyday interaction is where it starts; we need to strengthen this

Ms. Ramirez-Robson final comments:

- Faith based groups are providing meals to transform Burien
- We talk about "them" as a collective body but some are isolated
- Community members that have connected have establish community gardens to sustain Burien; so critical
- City does a visioning process that looks out 20-30 years at things like what will our buildings look like; what businesses do we want in the future; do we need more playgrounds?; etc.
- Communities need to get out and know each other

C: Commissioner Cordova stated that Tennessee implemented E-verify and Arizona's Law; we need to insure that decisions are not being made in a vacuum and that we reach out to our community.

Ms. Oliver's final comments:

- Can we do better? Yes, we can do better with communication and being a better partner
- We are also modeling what we want to see in the community; the Governor and her policy office planted on public grounds to grow food
- Government is not just one way

Other Business

Chair Ortiz-Self acknowledged Commissioner Portillo-Salazar for her efforts and the impact she has made in the King County communities.

Commissioner Portillo-Salazar state that she is leaving but the slogan "once a Commissioner always a Commissioner" is clear in her mind.

Chair Ortiz-Self thanked all the Leaders for their commitment and concern for their communities, the great panelists that gave up their Friday evening to be part of the CHA public meeting, the community for attending the meeting, and for allowing CHA to hear their concerns and issues. She extended a special invite to all to the Hispanic Legislative Day on March 4, 2011 in Olympia.

Adjournment of Meeting

Commissioner Cordova made a motion to adjourn the meeting: Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion.

A vote was called to adjourn the meeting; Ayes were unanimous. **The motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM