



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Quincy
Study Session Minutes
August 19, 2006

I. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 8:34 AM by Chair Lopez Morton

II. Roll Call. Commissioners present: Rubén Baca, Félix L. Negrón, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, Gabriel Portugal, Rebecca Villareal, and Yvonne Lopez Morton.

Staff Present: Uriel Iñiguez, Alicia Luna, Mike Britt, & Caitlin Simmons

III. Evaluation of Public Meeting

The following observations were voiced by Commissioners and staff

- Labor and Industries needs to do more outreach regarding worker rights
- Additional outreach for farmers regarding their rights
- L&I should provide a pocket calendar to farmworkers so that they can log work hours, dates, employer names, etc.
- Guest speakers should only be given ten minutes so as not to lose the audience
- Staff should convey to speakers that their presentations need to be concise and at the audience level (They can set-up tables with handouts and refer the audience to their table for additional information)
- Panel is a great way of presenting (Set the panel at Commissioners table and have the community ask the questions versus having speakers make presentations)
- Continue getting input from Community to determine what is the best time and date for the public meetings
- Quincy would like to have CHA come back to their community
- Officers in Uniform make the audience uncomfortable
- Have the community provide a place for the children so as not to disrupt the meeting
- Consistency in roll call and acknowledgements both at the beginning and at the end of the meeting

Action Items from Evaluation of Public Meeting

- 1) Director will remind Veronica to send L&I's proposed plan to address the many issues that workers still face
- 2) Commissioner Villareal will draft a thank you letter to Veronica that will include the calendar request for farmworkers
- 3) Executive Assistant will order ten more interpreter receivers and ear sets

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- 4) Commissioner Portillo Salazar will draft a generic letter for the media that will be used to thank the city for hosting CHA's public meeting, list the main issues/concerns, acknowledge that we will return, and list contact information for both the Commissioners and Staff office
- 5) Chair will call the Chief of Police to learn what will motivate him to attend our public meetings
- 6) Executive Assistant will add the following to the agenda: roll call, acknowledgement of VIP's, and acknowledgement of hosting parties
- 7) Executive Assistant will send draft meeting agendas to all Commissioners for input (Input will be provided directly to the Chair who will finalize agenda prior to returning to the Executive Assistant)

IV. Commissioner Reports – Reports were received via the old template process and via the new database. Great job Félix, Lourdes, and Ruben for using the new process!

Commissioner Portugal

- ❖ DSHS Closure of the Pasco Community Service Office (CSO) – Directors of both the Kennewick and Pasco CSO are communicating that it will be a positive action for all; however, not sure which is in the best interest for all

Director Iñiguez stated that what's important is that the change results in a process that is inclusive of all. The letter to Governor Gregoire will outline all the issues of concern.

Commissioner Negrón

- ❖ Joined an Aberdeen non-profit, Latino Network, and had a dialogue with the Aberdeen School Superintendent regarding an alleged teacher discrimination complaint

Action Item: Executive Assistant will send copy of 2005 letter regarding Aberdeen teacher complaint

Commissioner Portillo Salazar

- ❖ Working with City of Bellevue, US Dept of Justice and other local agencies in addressing recent crime rise in the area.

Commissioner Baca

- ❖ Young Readers Club, a Whatcom Hispanic organization is partnering with Barnes and Nobel to offer a summer program for migrant kids that includes story time and a \$20 gift certificate for each child to purchase a book(s) of their choice

Commissioner Lopez Morton

- ❖ Language Access summit in collaboration with various Spokane representatives in the near future and there is a new Spokane Chief of Police, Ann Kirkpatrick.

V. Director's Report

- ❖ Budget: The good news is that we have \$5000 left in our operating budget and \$19,000 in savings; (We can use some of these funds for a one time expense such as a retreat)
- ❖ Budget for 2007-2009 Biennium- We have prepared Decision Packages requesting 1.5 FTE's, funds for translation of the 2006 Annual Report and

- Newsletter, funds for printing of the Annual Report and Newsletter, funds for Database enhancements, and additional funds for travel
- ❖ Total donations received in 2005 were \$1200; Money Tree has offered to donate \$1500 for the printing of the 2006 Annual Report
 - ❖ CAA is the lead in next years Ethnic Commission Legislative Day Reception
 - ❖ CHA website will be completed next week and staff will be trained on the new software program
 - ❖ Database enhancements are being done and should be up and running soon
 - ❖ New Commissioner Map reflects the new areas of responsibility for Commissioner Portugal and Chacon
 - ❖ Upcoming Diversity Business Summit that is being sponsored by all the ethnic Commissions and OMWBE will be at the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle on November 9, 2006 - Additional information to follow
 - ❖ Asked to testify before the Educational Board in Yakima; will share the speech and ask that you provide input (speech came from the research that was done by Nissa Iversen, PLU summer intern and will be included in the 2006 Annual Report)
 - ❖ Department of Employment Security has a new Executive Director, Ignacio Marquez; partnering with him on Farmworker employment issues
 - ❖ Partnering with Ana Landa from Columbia Legal Services on Immigration Access in Banking
 - ❖ Involved in the AG Planning Committee for the upcoming Consumer Awareness Summit
 - ❖ Continue to work with the city of Mattawa; City Hall has hired two bilingual staff and the flea market hours have been extended (Michele Besso from NW Justice Project has concerns regarding the new hires)
 - ❖ Mattawa's 911 language access issue; will me meeting with the federal agency in regards to this issue and the education issue

Comments regarding Director's report

- ❖ Per Commissioners say no to Money Trees \$1500 offer
- ❖ Commissioner Portugal requested that the population totals be placed on the Commissioner map
- ❖ Commissioner Villareal requested that Mason county be assigned to her
- ❖ Volunteers need to know that they are appreciated; give them challenging tasks; have them join the public meetings and let folks know that they are official volunteers

Action Items

- 1) Director will call Money Tree and advice them that we will not accept donation
- 2) Mike will send current list of Hispanic Chambers to all Commissioners
- 3) Commissioners will provide (within two weeks) input to Director on where and when to hold the retreat
- 4) Director to follow-up with Manny regarding the Mattawa traffic signal issue
- 5) Mike will add population totals on Commissioner Map and reassign Mason County to Commissioner Villareal

Mike Britt trained the Commissioners on the correct process for entering Commissioner Reports into the CHA database. Of vital importance was the contact information for those who had received advice from CHA.

Action Items

- 1) Ask IT if we will be able to view Commissioners reports after deleting their log-in ID and password
- 2) Ask IT to correct the spelling o Commissioner Report (missing an “s”)
- 3) Ask IT how to handle duplicate contacts

VI. Executive Assistant Report

- ❖ Reminded Commissioners to send in articles by August 30th for the Fall Newsletter
- ❖ Need Commissioners contact lists in excel format by September 1st
- ❖ Need updated bio’s for the 2006 Annual Report
- ❖ Need Education, Economic Development and Executive Committees input for the 2006 Annual Report
- ❖ Reminder to please make a copy of your receipts prior to sending to the staff office just in case they get lost in the mail

GUESTS

Oscar Cerda and Antonio Ginatta from the Governor’s office

Commissioner Baca asked Oscar Cerda and Antonio Ginatta to enlighten the Commission on their roles and responsibilities and how CHA’s role correlated with the Governor’s administration. He also asked Mr. Cerda and Mr. Ginatta how could they assist and partner with CHA so that we could better engage with the community and remain current on events/happenings that impact Hispanics. He added that relationships are stronger when all work together.

Mr. Ginatta informed the Commission that he had numerous responsibilities that included Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, Pensions, Purchasing, etc. He said, “How is the process handled with minority type issues”? it depends on time and their knowledge and involvement in the event/happening.

He stated that the recent Vicente Fox visit for example was not in their control. The Mexican Consulate had the lead on the planning and execution of the Yakima trip and the Boeing Field festivity. Sea Mar had the lead on the breakfast festivity; the Hispanic Chamber had the lead on the luncheon festivity; and Phyllis Kenney and Grupo Mexico had the lead on the dinner festivity.

Commissioner Baca stated that it is important for the Commission to be informed and prepared to address issues that the Governor is working on particularly if they impact Hispanics

Mr. Ginatta acknowledged and stated that the Policy Shop gets the information to the Governor; therefore, he will go to both the Press Shop and the Policy Shop to ensure that the Commission is kept informed and in the loop.

Mr. Cerda informed the Commission that as Deputy Press Secretary he originally was only responsible for Katrina issues. Communication and outreach for External Relations has three offices; Spokane, Vancouver, and Seattle.

Oscar's area of responsibility is east of the Cascades, Yakima and the Tri-Cities. He places articles in small weekly newspapers and mentions the work of the Commission whenever possible. He is also responsible for creating an ethnic master calendar of all ethnic events that the Governor can and should attend.

Mr. Cerda and Mr. Ginatta's suggestions to the Commission are: be surrogate speakers when the Governor cannot attend significant Hispanic functions; send all Hispanic events to Mr. Cerda (don't send a year ahead); and acknowledge each other at events.

Mr. Ginatta asked that the Commission send him an "FYI" on any HOT issue that they are working on.

Christobal Gonzalez, GMC Training Institute, gave an overview of GMC Training Institute. It is a private vocational training institute that offers quality, innovative and accessible skill training ranging from basic education to obtaining a commercial truck drivers' license and other occupational training.

Mr. Gonzalez requested that CHA consider endorsing their upcoming October 7, 2006 U.S. Residency & Citizenship Conference in Yakima. He added that a fee was associated with the conference; however, it was realistic and much information would be provided. It did not involve deceit or fraud.

Commissioners had a lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of endorsing the conference. They felt that this service was greatly needed; however, they needed more information/examine more closely for credibility before making a decision.

Action Item: Commissioners will follow-up on the endorsement

Readout of Personnel Committee

Commissioner Portugal and Commissioner Negrón, members of the Personnel Committee compiled a report of both the Yakima and Vancouver candidates. The Wenatchee Commissioner vacancy unfortunately has not received sufficient candidates; therefore, it was tabled for later.

The Commissioners and Staff had a lengthy discussion regarding the qualifications and background of the candidates and after thorough examination the following recommendations (in order of preference) were made:

- ❖ Yakima Vacancy: 1. Ninfa Gutierrez; 2. Antonieta Wilson; 3. Mary O'Brien
- ❖ Vancouver: 1. Rosalba De La Rosa Pitkin; 2. José Luís Díaz

Teresita Torres was not considered due to the fact that she lives in Olympia and very remote from the designated area of the Vancouver Commissioner vacant position.

Commissioner Tim Lopez has missed two meetings and has not been responding to emails or telephone calls. Vice-Chair Portugal will address this personnel issue via a telephone call and a letter that will be sent by Thursday, August 24, 2006.

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The Commissioners agreed that a letter would not be sent to the Governor; however, Chair Lopez Morton will send a letter to Commissioners with a cc to Fred Olson recapping his and her July 20th phone discussion regarding the integration of the Commission and the Governors administration i.e. Vicente Fox visit, lack of recognition of CHA, etc.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 PM