



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS**  
*COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS*

Sunnyside  
Study Session Minutes  
October 19th, 2007

**I. Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

**II. Roll Call.** Commissioners present: Víctor Chacón, Jorge Chacón, Ty Córdova, Henry Cruz, Ninfa Gutiérrez, Félix L. Negrón, Rosalba D. Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, and Gabriel Portugal.

**Staff Present:** Uriel Iñiguez, Alicia Luna

**III. Strategic Plan**

Reviewed Strategic Plan and the following changes were made:

- Goal 1 - Action Plan – Item 1: Change Deadline date to December 1, 2007
- Goal 1 – Action Plan – Item 2: Change verbiage to say :10 cluster of schools that are mostly Hispanic populated” and change Deadline date to January 1, 2008
- Goal 1 – Action Plan – Item 3: Change Deadline date to December 1, 2007 and change to “All” instead of “Lourdes”
- Goal 1 – Action Plan – Item 4: Change Deadline date to February 1, 2008 and “Uriel” versus “Morton”
- Goal 1 – Action Plan – Item 5: Change to “all” versus “Morton”

Chair Portillo Salazar suggested that we pick three successful school districts and compare them with the 10 schools that are densely populated with Hispanics.

Commissioner Cordóva will check into the America’s Promise Drop-out Summit and share with the Commission.

Commissioner Cordóva also suggested that the Education Committee come up with the questions for the focus group and have them record the data. Do we have an exit interview?

**IV. CHA Committees**

Justice and Equity Committee Members

- Ty Cordóva
- Henry Cruz
- Ninfa Gutiérrez
- Lourdes Portillo Salazar

Conference calls: Lourdes will follow up with group and give information to staff.

210 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Suite 301A PO Box 40924 Olympia, WA 98504-0924  
Toll-Free: (800) 443-0294 Olympia: (360) 725-5661 Fax: (360) 360-586-  
9501

[www.cha.wa.gov](http://www.cha.wa.gov) [hispanic@cha.wa.gov](mailto:hispanic@cha.wa.gov)

Personnel Committee Members

- Victor Chacón
- Ty Cordóva
- Félix L. Negrón
- Rosalba Pitkin

Executive Committee Members

- Victor Chacón
- Ty Cordóva
- Félix L. Negrón
- Rosalba Pitkin
- Lourdes Portillo Salazar
- Uriel Iñiguez

Conference calls will be every other Monday beginning November 5, 2007 from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

Education Committee Members

- Victor Chacón
- Jorge Chacón
- Félix L. Negrón
- Rosalba Pitkin
- Lourdes Portillo Salazar
- Gabriel Portugal

Conference calls to be established by Education Chair.

## V. Guest Speakers

Marty Brown, Legislative Director shared the following;

- Citizen Commissions are spread all over the state
- Advance notice is recommended when setting up a 10-15 appointment with Legislators; harder to get an appointment this session since it is only 60 days
- After Session make sure you get a ½ hour appointment; meet with your Legislators and establish relationships
- Localize the issues that the Commission is working on; better to educate them before or after the session
- During the session let them know the bills you are supporting; this is “seal the deal” time
- Priorities need to line up or be on the Governor’s radar

Commissioner Cordóva asked, “How do you get past the screeners?”

Mr. Brown’s response: The best thing to do is look at your calendar and set up appointments now, the sooner the better. Key Committee members should be the ones meeting with the Legislators.

Commissioner V. Chacón asked, “Is there a method to lobby regarding social justice and education; what perks up their ears?”

Mr. Brown's response: Legislators are struggling to find solutions to Education. If you have suggestions or programs that are successful let them know; that is what they are looking for. Language is very important and they love anything that is benefits free.

Commissioner Cruz asked: What is the best means when trying to reach out for the first time with a Legislator?

Mr. Brown's response: Just go out and meet with them; in your District. Have coffee with them; personal relationships are most important. Introduce yourself at events that they happen to be attending.

Final words by Mr. Brown: Give Legislators a heads up via a telephone call and follow it with a letter. Mr. Brown's contact information is:

[Marty.Brown@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Marty.Brown@gov.wa.gov)

360-902-0390

Peter Antolin, OFM Director shared the following:

- Supplemental Budgets
- Technical Needs
- Unanticipated Costs

Matt Fairbank, Executive Director, Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties shared the following:

- Spanish speaking parents are not aware of the L&I and DSHS services or employment laws
- Purpose of their meeting was to share information of what is available; such as Barrios Unidos, Police Department, and the School District
- 90+ folks including teens and kids attended; bulk of Sunnyside's population is Latino
- Hispanic kids have been left out; local towns have taken the lead and started addressing gang activity
- Hopes to do additional meetings in the surrounding areas; mostly information sharing

## **VI. Public Meeting Planning**

Commissioners went over meeting logistics.

Study session adjourned at 4:30 PM



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Yakima  
Study Session Minutes  
October 20th, 2007

**I. Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

**II. Roll Call.** Commissioners present: Jorge Chacón, Ty Córdova, Henry Cruz, Ninfa Gutiérrez, Rosalba D. Pitkin, Lourdes Portillo Salazar, and Gabriel Portugal.

**Staff Present:** Uriel Iñiguez, Alicia Luna

**III. Review of Public Meeting**

The following comments were made:

- Commissioner Córdova felt that as Sergeant at Arms he should have addressed the constituent that was out of line
- Commissioner Portugal stated that per “Roberts Rules” we need to let the public provide their feedback
- Failed to ask the audience which language was best to conduct the meeting;
- Commission needs to draft a statement to assist Ninfa with community questions
- Press Release regarding what happened at meeting along with Chief Radder’s commitment; Commissioners Cruz and Córdova will draft the PR

**Action Items**

- Review the Sunnyside Council meeting minutes for all information regarding the Gang Ordinance
- Chair Portillo Salazar and Commissioner Gutiérrez will follow-up with Mr. Kunkler to address the question that he evaded (What has the City and School District done to build a relationship with the Hispanic community?)
- Chair Portillo Salazar and Commissioner Gutiérrez will also organize meeting with Mr. Kunkler, Dr. Cole, and Chief Radder; three separate meetings

**IV. Fundraising, Volunteers, and Writing Proposals**

Commissioners are interested in obtaining assistance with fundraising efforts as well as writing proposals.

**Action Items:**

- Alicia will schedule a meeting with Director, Commissioner Córdova, and Rechele from State Farm to discuss AmeriCorps
- Commissioner Córdova will send information on fundraising to CHA staff office

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- Commissioner Cordóva will arrange for someone that can share information on grant writing, fundraising, community engagement and development, at our next study session
- Commissioner Cruz will provide a possible funding source to CHA Staff

#### **V. Vancouver Public Meeting**

The following comments were made regarding the Vancouver public meeting

- Public meeting will be held at Clark College
- Invitee list is completed and letters to panel members have been sent out
- Mexican Consulates from Washington and Oregon will be invited to the Study Session and the public meeting
- Mark Brenman, WA State Human Rights Commission will be a panel member
- Education, Human Rights and EEO are the topics for the meeting

#### **VI. Guests**

**Sam Granato, Yakima Chief of Police** shared the following information:

- Hispanic Leaders of Yakima are not building bridges
- Diplomacy is the way to win the war; we lose credibility when lashing out without substance
- Civil service process sometimes a hindrance in the hiring of out of state police officers
- Stringent laws for violent criminal gang members is needed
- Joe Salinas and Gabe Morales, gang experts doing a good job of bridging the community and the city
- Strong family values is what keeps kids in school
- Explorer Program; Latino kids do not quality due to drug usage
- TRIP Center in Corpus Christy doing a good job with the drop-out rate
- PAL program is another great program for kids
- 62% of monies from traffic fines are sent to the state which should stay in the community

**Neil McClure, Mayor Pro Temp** shared the following:

- Against the ordinance; unconstitutional, loitering is very broad need to narrow it down
- Yakima drafted an ordinance but it was tabled; adopted Sunnyside's verbatim
- Yakima population: 35 % Hispanic and 50% are Hispanic youth
- We need funding for intervention and prevention; funding for the schools to provide police officers
- Need to reach the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Hispanics and get them involved in city roles
- After school programs and activities for kids are much needed
- School should start at 9:30 AM and get out at 4:30 PM
- Voter guidelines/information is needed

#### **Action Items:**

- Director will ask Whitman College to do a study of Yakima similar to Sunnyside's
- Chief Granato will check into CHA presenting at WASPC November Conference

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM