



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

Walla Walla  
Study Session Minutes  
August 10th, 2007

**I. Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM by Vice Chair Portugal.

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

**Staff Present:** Uriel Iñiguez, Alicia Luna, and volunteer Patty Fernandez

Vice Chair Portugal suggested the following changes to the Study Session agenda:

- Move elections to end of meeting
- Eliminate the break

Commissioner Gutiérrez made a motion to move elections to the end of the meeting and eliminate the break; Commissioner Portillo Salazar seconded the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor; the motion carried.

Commissioner Portillo Salazar stated that she would like to see the Commissioner reports reinstated.

Commissioner V. Chacón moved to approve the modified agenda; Commissioner Gutiérrez seconded the motion. Voter was taken with all in favor; the motion carried.

**III. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner V. Chacón

- Met with Joey August from La Casa Cultural de Walla Walla; a multicultural resource whose goal is to provide opportunity and education between businesses and multicultural communities (a small business start-up for Latino businesses)
- Plans for development of a Latino Cultural Leadership Center to help Latino kids be successful with the WASL

Commissioner J. Chacón

- Wenatchee very isolated!
- CAFÉ (Community for Advancement of Family Education) through the support of Centro Latino was instrumental in getting permanent housing approved
- Temporary housing was voted down, however, still in the legal process
- Schools have no bilingual staff to assist ELL parents

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Commissioner Gutiérrez

- Padres Lideres, a family group is organizing in Sunnyside
- No prior announcement of recent Yakima “gangs” meeting; at least not via the Hispanic media
- No interpreter was provided during the Yakima gang meeting

Commissioner Cordova

- Youth Violence on the rise; working on building a coalition with Sheriff's Department and Hope Center in Tacoma
- Reminder regarding the various Hispanic celebrations throughout the state

Commissioner Portillo Salazar

- Bellevue Police Department reactivated Accountability Board; Latino board members are Lorena Gonzalez (Latino Bar Association) and Roberto Maestas (El Centro de la Raza)
- Home Depot moving “day laborers” meeting site to inside of building
- New Vice Principal in Bellevue School District; speaks Spanish
- Interlake School previous “ghetto” school is now highly ranked in scholastic achievement
- Patricia Garduño Morales is the new Consul of Mexico

Commissioner Portugal

- Met with UGN regarding the McArthur Grant
- Attended Gang meeting; National Council of La Raza representative was in attendance
- Philadelphia after hours center is a gang prevention model that is being considered; possible tour of this facility on April 19
- Minutemen issue in Kennewick is one of great concern

Commissioner Negrón

- ICE is surveying the Grays Harbor area
- Working with WSU Aberdeen extension office on immersion program

Commissioner Pitkin

- Attended City Council Candidate Forum in Vancouver; little knowledge and awareness of Hispanic communities
- Attended Black Entrepreneurs/LULAC meeting

Comments:

- Commissioner Gutierrez is concerned that the Sunnyside School District is not working with Hispanic parents; asked Commissioner Portillo Salazar how Bellevue School District prompted changes
- Adie Simmons from the Ombudsman Office is scheduled to come to the Sunnyside School District
- Commissioner Portillo Salazar stated that meetings and “cafesitos” (chats during coffee time) had been instrumental in getting the Bellevue School District and parents working together
- Commissioner Portillo Salazar advised Commissioner Pitkin to continue her outreach to the Hispanic community and that CHA would address the city council's lack of knowledge and awareness of the Hispanic community during our December public meeting
- Commissioner Portillo Salazar suggested CHA have a training session on dealing with difficult people/situations and on how to respond appropriately
- Commissioner Portugal stated that the Royal City mini public meeting is tentatively set for September 21, 2007; new Latino Group wants to take the lead

(Commissioners Gutierrez, J. Chacón, V. Chacón and the Director will participate in this meeting)

- Commissioner Portillo Salazar stated that the Executive Committee proposed for the newly elected Chair to run the Walla Walla public meeting; all agreed that both Vice-Chair and newly elected Chair run the meeting

#### **Action Items**

- 1) Commissioner Portillo Salazar will obtain tape from YPAC, set up a meeting with new Mexican Consulate Director and CHA, and send Mauricio's (King County Executive Office) information to Commissioner Victor Chacón
- 2) Commissioner Gutierrez will send YPAC information to CHA staff office
- 3) Commissioner Cordova will send Lakewood Hispanic Celebration PDF flyer to CHA Staff office
- 4) Director Iñiguez will look into requested training for CHA Commissioners

#### **IV. Elections**

Nominations for Chair: Lourdes Portillo Salazar; no opponents  
Commissioner Portillo Salazar was unanimously elected Chair.

Nominations for Vice Chair: Ty Cordova and Félix Negrón  
Secret ballot vote taken; Félix Negrón elected new Vice Chair

#### **Final Comments:**

- Commissioner Cruz will have the Peninsula area and Seattle Area
- Commissioner Portillo Salazar and Cordova will assist with the Peninsula

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.



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*COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS*

Walla Walla  
Study Session Minutes  
August 11, 2007

**I. Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by Chair Portillo Salazar.

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

**Staff Present:** Uriel Iñiguez, Alicia Luna, and Patty Fernandez (volunteer)

Walla Walla public meeting comments:

- Need a timekeeper
- CHA PowerPoint; too much text
- Presentation style and being prepared is of utmost importance
- Post a copy of the CHA PowerPoint with the core information on the website
- Information describing what CHA does should be available to public
- A CHA Pamphlet would be good to have
- Posters of the population map and Commissioner map should be considered
- Need to be more familiar with the election process
- Need to reduce the number of panel members
- Need to present “mode of operandi” at the beginning of the meeting
- Need to meet with panel members prior to start of meeting and go over “mode of operandi”
- Need to identify who we want at our meetings
- Should we include Legislators at our meetings?
- Need to follow up on the recommendation for Ella Hanks
- Need to become familiar with the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act

Commissioner Córdova was duly appointed Sergeant of Arms by the Chair.

**Action Items:**

- Chair Portillo Salazar will insure host Commissioner meets with panel prior to public meetings
- Commissioner V. Chacón and the Director will modify CHA PowerPoint
- Commissioners V. Chacón and Pitkin will send links to CHA office of how to fill a college application from their perspective colleges
- Executive Assistant will send Ella Hanks CHA’s local Resource Coordinator recommendation
- All Commissioners will provide additional recommendations to Ms. Hanks

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- Commissioner V. Chacón will send thank you letters to panel including the Police Officer
- Commissioner V. Chacón will send NALEO information to Jesse Briones
- Executive Assistant will send Commissioner J. Chacón SEIU contact info
- Executive Assistant will set up conference call with NALEO staff, UW, LULAC and Director; Commissioners will provide names of other leaders
- Executive Assistant will send information regarding the Victims of Violent Crimes to all Commissioners

### **III. Strategic Plan**

Strategic Plan was reviewed and the following changes were made:

- Goal 1; Action Item 3 – Change completion date to September 1, 2007
- Goal 2; Action Item 1 – Change completion date to October 20, 2007 and Combine Items 1 and 2
- Goal 3; Action Items 1, 2 & 3 – Commissioner V. Chacon will rewrite and discuss on next Education Committee conference call
- Goal 6; Action Item 1 – Change completion date to September 1, 2007
- Goal 6; Action Item 4 – Delete
- Goal 6; Action Item 5 – Change completion date to September 2007
- Goals 7, 8, 9, &10 – Close out as completed

#### **Action Items:**

- EA will set-up conference call for the Education Committee (August 22, 2007 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM)
- Education Committee members will send individual information to Commissioner V. Chacon prior to August 22 conference call
- Commissioners will review Commissioner Pitkin's survey and provide feedback
- Commissioner V. Chacon will follow-up on position letter to Dr. Bergeson

### **IV. Other CHA Business**

Chair Portillo Salazar reviewed Commissioner responsibilities including the importance of attending meetings and mutual respect amongst Commissioners.

Director Iñiguez will be doing financial literacy programs on Radio Sol, (Seattle Hispanic radio station) beginning in August.

Yakima Public meeting discussion raised the following issues:

- Need to put together a PowerPoint Presentation on Gangs that includes the recent ordinance, number of gangs, etc.
- Invite community members directly affected by gangs and gang experts
- Move the meeting to Sunnyside; more central for all
- Provide a Facilitator for the meeting

Commissioner V. Chacon moved to relocate the Yakima Public Meeting to Sunnyside. Commissioner Negrón seconded the motion; vote was taken with all in favor; motion carried.

**Action Items:**

- Commissioner V. Chacon will draft the Rules of Conduct and will send to all
- Commissioner Gutierrez will look into what Sunnyside has done so far
- Commissioner Gutierrez will also invite the Chief of Police, Superintendent of the Sunnyside School District and a gang expert to join our meeting
- Executive Assistant will set up a conference call for Justice & Equity Committee; (J&A Members: Commissioners Cordova, Cruz, Gutierrez, Portillo Salazar, and Portugal)

**V. David Warkinten, Director of Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce & Joey August, La Casa Cultural de Walla Walla**

Mr. Warkinten shared the following comments:

- Walla Walla has a 25% Hispanic population yet there are only 20 Hispanic owned businesses out of 2000
- Hispanic businesses may or may not have business plans
- Unique to Hispanics; they do not believe owning their own business is possible
- Cultural challenges; need to have Hispanic's own more than just restaurants/ corner stores
- Dual family income; older kids have to leave school to help with the family
- 40% of his JA program are Hispanic students
- Need to have more than just Hispanics in the Commission so that we can unite communities

Mr. August shared the following comments:

- La Casa Cultural's goal is to provide opportunity and education between businesses and multi-cultural communities
- It provides marketing and business consulting, translation and interpreter services, multicultural leadership and cultural/racial diversity training, and celebration of cultural events
- LLC business ownership is available to all regardless of legal status

Commissioner V. Chacon asked Mr. Warkinten how he planned on addressing the barriers facing Hispanics.

Mr. Warkinten will be inviting Hispanic business owners to a dinner on September 15<sup>th</sup> at which time they will discuss the above mentioned barriers. He stated that New Jersey and Texas Chamber of Commerce are successful due to fact that they personalize their service. The "they" and "we" mentality needs to cease.

Meeting adjourned at 12:13PM