



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

*COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS*

Pasco Community Listening Session

Executive Summary

Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Gjerde Center – Building H

Columbia Basin College

*Gloria Ochoa,*  
Chair

*Andrés Mantilla,*  
Vice Chair

*Anita Ahumada*

*Nora Coronado*

*Raquel Ferrell-  
Crowley*

*Eliseo Juárez*

*Frank Lemos*

*David Morales*

*Jose Manuel Reta*

*Daniel Villao*

*Uriel Iñiguez,*  
Executive Director

On Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> 2015, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) held a community forum in Pasco, Washington with the ACLU, Consejo Latino, Latino Civic Alliance, Latino Community Fund, Latina/o Bar Association of Washington, One America, the Northwest Immigrant's Rights Project, YES (Youth Empowered Solutions), and Benton City Pilot Project in regards to the Antonio Zambrano-Montes case. Mr. Knight Sor, who represented the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service and Sandy Mullins who attended as a representative of the Governor's Office, spoke about this matter.

Mr. Knight Sor, who is a Conciliation Specialist from the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service, spoke about assisting the community and persons in resolving conflict relating to race, color, and national origin. Mr. Sor expressed that he wanted to build trust, renew professional relationships, and to encourage cooperation with the City of Pasco.

Governor Inslee's Senior Policy advisor on Public Safety and Government Operations, Sandy Mullins, said from the moment they heard of this tragic event they have been following its development closely and watched as the process has continued to unfold. Consejo Latino, along with other organizations, requested that the Governor's Office appoint a special prosecutor from the Attorney General's office. The Governor's Office denied the request.

CHA acknowledged local authorities, whom were in attendance, wanted to listen to the city's concerns regarding management, public safety and living in the city. Since the Mr. Zambrano-Montes case is a pending civil case, some details could not be discussed during this forum.

Since the shooting of Antonio Zambrano-Montes by three members of the Pasco Police Department shortly after 5pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, Consejo Latino has been at the forefront in calling for answers and justice for the victim's family. Their mission statement is to advance the economic standing, social welfare, civic engagement, civil

The people of the State of Washington have tasked the Commission on Hispanic Affairs with advising the Governor, the Legislature, and state and local agencies on issues that affect the Hispanic community of the State.

rights, educational achievement and health of all Latinos in America and finding solutions to problems affecting the Latino community which accounts for roughly 65% of the city's population.

Latino Civic Alliance is a statewide organization that works with Consejo Latino and was there to support the Hispanic Community of Pasco.

One America, a statewide civil rights organization dedicated to immigrant and refugee communities did join the Latino/a Bar Association of Washington in asking the Governor for an independent investigation.

Shawn Sant a Franklin County Elected Prosecuting Attorney said that their role is to lead the investigation and to hear from the witnesses of the case. One of the subjects he wanted to emphasize not only in this case, but in all cases is that the prosecuting attorney must have a full perspective of the situation and wait until they receive the complete reports, after which a thorough analysis of that process may begin before a decision is made.

Police violence affects all the three cities in the Tri-City area of Washington. In less than a year the Pasco police have killed four people. It is important for people to stay involved in the community in order to bring community solutions to the forefront of discussion.

Pasco residents began to give their testimonies on conditions of living in Pasco and how this case has affected them. The community is frightened of being treated like criminals and intimidated during the process of investigation while providing witness reports and acting in a way they felt was right. Some Pasco residents discussed being threatened because they had been witnesses to situations similar to the Zambrano-Montes Case. It is difficult to be in fear the police when they are the ones designated to protect the city and its citizens. The community is concerned of to whom they can address these issues with and whom they can turn to for protection.

Local leaders, CHA, and agencies wanted to remind the community that they can receive help, advice from all of the organizations present.