

# MINUTES

## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LATIN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC AFFAIRS

Wednesday, January 29, 2007 – 2:00 P.M.

Jim Thorpe Building – Conference Room G-91  
2101 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Advance written notice of regular scheduled meetings was filed with the Secretary of State on December 11, 2006. The agenda for this meeting was posted with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). This meeting was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act, Section 301 through 314 of Title 25.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Giovanni Perry, Vice-Chair  
Nancy Galvan  
Teri Mora  
Guillermo Rojas  
Arthur Valdez  
Juanita Vasquez-Sykes

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Yolanda Charney  
Dr. Eloy Chavez  
Sebastian Lantos  
Steven Valencia

### OPM STAFF PRESENT

Brenda C. Thornton  
Linda Williamson

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### VISITORS PRESENT

Armando Pena – Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
Judy Gibbs Robinson – Reporter, The Oklahoman  
Nayeli Favila – Student, Guymon High School  
Ray Doonkeen – Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Paul Burkhardt – OSU-OKC, Hispanic Student Services

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#### **A. CALL TO ORDER.**

Giovanni Perry, Vice-Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Latin American and Hispanic Affairs, called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.

#### **B. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS, STAFF AND SPECIAL GUESTS.**

Vice-Chair Perry asked council members, staff and guests to provide self-introductions. Vice-Chair Perry welcomed everyone and thanked each for attending.

#### **C. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 30, 2006, MEETING.**

Arthur Valdez made a motion to approve the October 30, 2006, minutes as presented; Nancy Galvan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

## D. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- **Continuance of Council** – After a governor is elected or re-elected, the governor has 90 calendar days to issue a new Executive Order to continue the council. Since Governor Henry was re-elected, it is reasonable to expect that the council will be continued.
- **Council Appointments** – Members who received appointment letters with an expiration date should receive a new appointment letter corrected to read “a term expiring at the pleasure of the Governor.”
- **Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2007** – The council confirmed the schedule of meeting dates for 2007 as established at the October 30, 2006, meeting.

## E. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The council was provided with a list of all committees to use as a tool to track their progress, goals and objectives. Before entertaining committee reports, a list of all committees was reviewed, discussed, and the following actions were taken:

- **Driver License Committee** – Mr. Valdez made a motion to continue this committee with Ms. Galvan serving as the chair; Teri Mora seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Committee members: Ms. Galvan as chair, Mr. Valdez, Juanita Vasquez-Sykes, and Guillermo Rojas. Goals and Objectives: To be established by the new committee and presented to the council at the next meeting.
- **Matricula Consular Committee** – Mr. Valdez made a motion to cancel this committee; Ms. Galvan seconded. Motion carried unanimously. It was agreed that if issues were to arise with regard to using the Matricula Consular to obtain a driver license, the Driver License Committee would handle these issues.
- **Legal Translation and Interpretation** – Discussion was tabled since the chair, Sebastian Lantos, was not present.
- The **Legislative Committee** and the **Immigration Committee** – Mr. Valdez made a motion to combine these two committees; Ms. Vasquez-Sykes seconded. Motion carried unanimously. It was agreed that the Immigration Committee would be placed under the **Legislative Committee** and the new Legislative Committee would be comprised of all the members from both committees.
- **Summit Committee** – It was agreed that this committee would continue to work on the next Summit (scheduled for 2008 instead of 2007) and oversee the Summit Oversight Steering Committee.

**Summit Committee Report:** Mr. Valdez reported that based on the feedback and comments he received, he felt that the Summit was a success. The directories have been printed and are still being distributed. The Summit sub-committees are still actively working to follow-up on issues identified in the breakout sessions. There is approximately \$3,000 left that will be used as scholarship money with distribution determined by the Scholarship Committee. Vice-Chair Perry reported positive feedback from the community. Mr. Valdez stated that the community viewed the council as the voice of the community saying, “Don’t drop the ball,” and requested feedback on the activities of the council.

**Legislative Committee Report:** Ms. Vasquez-Sykes made this report noting that there were 11 immigration reform bills introduced in the Oklahoma Senate and House. She provided copies along with additional information on the impact that SB 38 (designating English as the official state language), SB 417 (relating to illegal immigration), and HB 1423 (known as the “Oklahoma English Language Act”), will have on the Hispanic community. SB 417, Section 9 repeals Section 1, Chapter 210, O.S.L. 2003, which allows students to go to college and pay in-state tuition. Concern was expressed by members and guests about the negative impact that

this could have on students. She also noted that she forwarded some of this information to several groups in Washington, D.C. Vice-Chair Perry recommended that the Legislative Committee prepare a plan of attack for this legislative session.

**F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

This item was tabled.

**G. NEW BUSINESS.**

In view of the significant impact that SB 417 will have on the Hispanic community, Ms. Vasquez-Sykes made a motion that they send a letter to every Senator regarding the repeal of Section 1, Chapter 210, O.S.L. 2003. The letter will list the council's position and any additional points that support this position; seconded by Mr. Valdez. Motion carried unanimously. It was agreed that Ms. Vasquez-Sykes and Ms. Mora would compose the letter, Vice-Chair Perry would edit and approve it, Linda Williamson would put the final copy on council letterhead, and Mr. Valdez would hand-deliver it to the Senate post office at the Capitol.

Ms. Galvan made a motion that the council send a letter to Marcelino Garcia, also known as Chelino, expressing their deepest condolences for the loss of his mother; seconded by Mr. Valdez. Motion carried unanimously.

**H. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.**

There were no comments.

**I. ADJOURNMENT.**

Vice-Chair Perry adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.