

MINUTES

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LATIN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC AFFAIRS

Monday, January 30, 2006 – 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 14, 2005. 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
Yolanda Charney
Dr. Eloy Chavez
Nancy Galvan
Guillermo Rojas
Clifford Uranga
Arthur Valdez
Steven Valencia
Juanita Vasquez-Sykes

MEMBERS ABSENT

Oscar Quiroga, Chair
Sebastian Lantos
Teri Mora

OPM STAFF PRESENT

Brenda C. Thornton
Linda Williamson

VISITORS PRESENT

Oscar B. Jackson, Jr. – Administrator of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and Cabinet Secretary of Human Resources and Administration
Shirley A. Russell – Director of Legislative Affairs, OPM
Jazmin Ortiz – Student and Representative of the Student Government Association, St. Gregory's University
Ed Romo – League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Summer L. Holleyman – Staff Writer, Capitol Network News
Judy Gibbs Robinson – Reporter, The Oklahoman

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 2:10 p.m.

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

Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Mr. Oscar B. Jackson, Jr., formally introduced Ms. Shirley Russell, OPM's new Director of Legislative Affairs, to the council. Vice-Chair Perry welcomed everyone and thanked each for attending. She extended a special welcome to new council member Mr. Steven Valencia.

C. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 24, 2005, MEETING.

Ms. Yolanda Charney recommended that the minutes of October 24, 2005, be amended to read as follows:

C. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS. (Page 2)

In 2003, the council established the Senator Keith Leftwich Outstanding Legislative Award in memory of Senator Keith Leftwich, a dear friend to the Hispanic community. This year the council presented the award to the following state leaders: Senator Bernest Cain; Senator Debbe Leftwich; Irma Chajecki, Immigration Director for Catholic Charities of Tulsa; and the Honorable William D. LaFortune, Mayor, City of Tulsa...

Mr. Art Valdez made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Ms. Nancy Galvan. The motion carried unanimously.

D. UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS.

Mr. Guillermo Rojas distributed copies of an article recently published in his newspaper that provided information on HB 2613, authored by Representative Kevin Calvey. Mr. Rojas made a motion for the council to send a letter to Rep. Calvey with copies to Governor Henry, the Speaker of the House, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate articulating the council's concerns regarding HB 2613. The motion was seconded by Ms. Galvan and carried unanimously.

E. HISPANIC/LATINO COMMUNITY LEADERS SUMMIT IN 2006.

Mr. Valdez presented and discussed the proposal prepared by the Summit Planning Committee, which contained a copy of the minutes for all committee meetings. Dr. Eloy Chavez made a motion to accept the proposal from the planning committee and for the committee to continue as proposed. Vice-Chair Perry stated that a second was not needed when the motion comes from the committee. Motion carried unanimously.

F. ESTABLISH THE CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2006.

Vice-Chair Perry opened the meeting to receive and discuss new ideas, recommendations, suggestions, etc., that the council may wish to adopt as future projects and/or activities. It was recommended that Governor Henry be invited to attend a future meeting, council members be provided business cards, and to consider joint meetings with other councils and the Human Rights Commission.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Each council member was provided copies of the letter to and response from Phil Cotten, Norman Chief of Police, in reference to the Richard Lee "Ricky" Sanchez incident. In response to a question raised at the previous meeting, Vice-Chair Perry stated that she had contacted the Civil Rights Division of the FBI in Oklahoma City and was informed by them that anyone could make a request for an investigation by the FBI. Mr. Valdez made a motion that the council make a formal written request to the FBI for them to investigate any violations of civil rights, contingent upon receipt of written permission from the family. Dr. Eloy Chavez seconded the motion. The motion passed; one member voted no.

H. NEW BUSINESS.

At the request of LULAC, Ms. Juanita Vasquez-Sykes provided some information on HB 2439, authored by Representative Rebecca Hamilton, which would limit 16 and 17-year-old students from being required to work past 11:00 p.m. on any night prior to a school day.

Mr. Clifford Uranga recommended that the council consider addressing the problem of Hispanic gangs in Oklahoma. He noted that in Oklahoma City the Hispanic gangs outnumber the black gangs.

Mr. Rojas shared an article entitled "New Hope for Immigrant Driving Permits?" that he recently published in his newspaper.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

Vice-Chair Perry adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Valdez and seconded by Ms. Vasquez-Sykes.