

MINUTES

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LATIN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 5, 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

Oscar Quiroga, Chair
Giovanni Perry, Vice-Chair
Nancy Galvan
Sebastian Lantos
Teri Mora
Guillermo Rojas
Juanita Vasquez-Sykes

MEMBERS ABSENT

Yolanda Charney
Dr. Eloy Chavez
Clifford Uranga
Arthur Valdez
Steven Valencia

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
Andrew Rice – Candidate for Oklahoma State Senate District 46
Todd Goodman – Field Director, Andrew Rice Campaign
Nancy Shelton – Tamas en Tulsa
Craig Gunsauley – Staff Writer, Capitol Network News
Judy Gibbs Robinson – Reporter, The Oklahoman

A. CALL TO ORDER.

Oscar Quiroga, Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Latin American and Hispanic Affairs, called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

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

Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Chair Quiroga welcomed everyone and thanked each for attending.

C. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 30, 2006, MEETING.

The minutes of the January 30, 2006, meeting were presented and reviewed. The motion and vote to approve, however, were tabled until a quorum was present. Later in the meeting, Ms. Nancy Galvan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Vice-Chair Giovanni Perry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

D. HISPANIC/LATINO COMMUNITY LEADERS SUMMIT IN 2006.

Mr. Art Valdez, Chair of the Summit Planning Committee, was not present; therefore, no report was submitted.

E. IMMIGRATION ISSUES.

Mr. Sebastian Lantos gave a PowerPoint presentation that had been developed by the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations (COHO) as a social marketing campaign product to be used as a tool in educating the public on immigration issues. Mr. Lantos recommended that the council make this presentation to the Oklahoma state legislators and, if not in this format, in some manner that would at least start a dialogue with the legislators.

Chair Quiroga introduced Ms. Shirley Russell, OPM's Director of Legislative Affairs, who gave an update on HB 3119 and SB 1769, bills that dealt with immigration issues and were still alive at this time. Ms. Russell also answered questions regarding the legislative process.

At the suggestion of the Chair, a committee was formed that would meet and formulate a plan for presenting the immigration information to the legislators. Mr. Lantos agreed to serve as chair with the other members being Mr. Guillermo Rojas, Ms. Teri Mora, Vice-Chair Perry, and Chair Quiroga. Vice-Chair Perry made a motion that, with the consent of the chair, this committee be given the power to proceed with making presentations to the legislature (regarding the immigration presentation that Mr. Lantos presented) and, if necessary, any press conferences or press releases on behalf of the council regarding the council's position on immigration-related bills proposed by the legislature. Mr. Rojas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Mora presented Enrolled House Resolution No. 1090 which acknowledged the Hispanic population for their contributions in diversity and presenting their heritage through folkloric ballet such as the Alma Folklórica de Oklahoma.

Mr. Rojas made a motion to send a letter to U. S. legislators John Sullivan and Dr. Tom Coburn, and Oklahoma state legislators Randy Terrell and John Nance, inviting them to the next council meeting or providing the opportunity to meet with them at a place of their choosing, to hear the council's presentation and inform them about immigration issues. Ms. Galvan seconded the motion. With Ms. Mora voting against the motion, the motion carried. This project was assigned to Chair Quiroga and Vice-Chair Perry.

Ms. Juanita Vasquez-Sykes made a motion that the council issue a press release giving the council's position on students leaving school to participate in immigration-related rallies. The statement should encourage and ask students to coordinate and communicate with adult community leaders to be heard in a productive manner. Ms. Galvan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. This project was assigned to Chair Quiroga, Vice-Chair Perry and Mr. Lantos.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Vice-Chair Perry gave an update on the status of the council's letter to the FBI requesting that they investigate the possible wrongful death of Richard Lee (Ricky) Sanchez.

G. NEW BUSINESS.

Vice-Chair Perry announced that the Oklahoma Bar Association's Law Day Committee decided that this year they would also produce their annual "Ask a Lawyer" program in Spanish when the show airs on OETA on April 27, 2006. The program will discuss immigration, drug court and family law victim's protective orders. Vice-Chair Perry is serving as a member of the panel. Free, legal advice will be given on a phone-in basis from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. The committee is hopeful that bilingual attorneys will be available.

Mr. Rojas suggested that the council hold additional meetings until the immigration issues were resolved. The council agreed that this concern could be appropriately handled by the new committee formed earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Brenda Thornton reminded the council that their next meeting would be at the new Oklahoma History Center and the meeting room must be vacated by 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Thornton announced that Mr. Jackson contacted the Attorney General's Office, made a request that they conduct a training session on the Open Meeting/Open Records Act, and is inviting the chairs of each council to attend the training. The training date and time have not been established.

Ms. Thornton additionally announced that during the regular meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian-American Affairs on Wednesday, April 26, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., that council would be having a one-hour workshop on Robert's Rules of Order and an invitation is extended to the other council chairs to attend. Mr. Rod Davidson, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian, would conduct the workshop accompanied by two additional guests that would be assisting him.

At the suggestion of Mr. Lantos, the council agreed to change the meeting time of the July 31, 2006, meeting to 1:30 p.m. to give them time to complete the meeting by 4:00 p.m.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Quiroga adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Galvan and seconded by Ms. Mora.