

MINUTES

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LATIN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC AFFAIRS

Wednesday, October 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
Dr. Eloy Chavez
Nancy Galvan
Guillermo Rojas
Arthur Valdez
Juanita Vasquez-Sykes

MEMBERS ABSENT

Yolanda Charney
Sebastian Lantos
Teri Mora
Steven Valencia

OPM STAFF PRESENT

Brenda C. Thornton
Linda Williamson

VISITORS PRESENT

Amber Theinert – 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 2:33 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 APRIL 5, 2006, AND JULY 31, 2006, MEETINGS.

Vice-Chair Perry tabled this item until a quorum was present. Later in the meeting, the minutes of April 5, 2006, and July 31, 2006, were presented and reviewed. Mr. Arthur Valdez made a motion to approve the April 5, 2006, minutes as presented; Mr. Guillermo Rojas seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Nancy Galvan made a motion to approve the July 31, 2006, minutes as presented; Mr. Valdez seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

D. ESTABLISH DATES FOR 2007 COUNCIL MEETINGS.

On a motion by Mr. Valdez and a second by Ms. Galvan, it was established that the dates for the 2007 council meetings would be Monday, January 29, April 30, July 30, and October 29. The meetings will begin at 2:00 p.m. and be held at the Office of Personnel Management.

E. HISPANIC/LATINO COMMUNITY LEADERS 2006 SUMMIT.

Mr. Valdez, Chair of the Summit Committee, gave a report on the Summit and the progress of the follow-up activities. He provided those present with two handouts: one showing the Summit structure and survey results; the other outlining the recommendations from each breakout group – Immigration, Education, Economic, and Health. Several council members commented that they had received positive comments. They then commended Mr. Valdez and all those who worked so diligently to make this Summit possible and so successful. Mr. Valdez reminded the council that this was still a work in progress and that the Summit Committee was just beginning the work needed to reach the end goal of producing a directory. Mr. Valdez gave special thanks to LULAC and its President, Ms. Juanita Vasquez-Sykes, without whom this Summit would not have been possible. It was noted that several dignitaries were in attendance including a member of the United Churches in Washington and Secretary of State Susan Savage. During the Summit, Secretary Savage expressed a desire to have the opportunity to be involved with the council and receive updates on the activities following the Summit so she could personally make a report to the Governor.

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS UPDATES.

Vice-Chair Perry reported that she attended the hearings conducted by the **Department of Labor, the Task Force on Illegal Immigration Issues (SR 125), and the Interim Study #06-48**. She felt that, basically, the information became repetitive after the first hearing. She stated that the immigration causes were helped when it was reported that services were not being given as previously alleged. She recommended that the council remain vigilant and watch future legislations and ordinances so the council could determine if these legislations and ordinances could be harmful to the Hispanic community and respond appropriately.

Mr. Rojas commented that he felt it was offensive when undocumented immigrants were referred to as “illegal aliens or illegal immigrants” and recommended that the council write a letter to the Governor. Dr. Eloy Chavez made a motion that the council write a letter to the Governor and media sources requesting that they stop using the term “illegal or illegal aliens” and that they use the correct terminology of “undocumented immigrants”. Mr. Valdez seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Valdez announced that Shirley Cox was having a debate on November 2, 2006, at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church and recommended that the Hispanic community make plans to attend in support of her efforts on behalf of the community.

Ms. Vasquez-Sykes announced that LULAC and the NAACP were holding a political forum also on November 2, 2006.

Mr. Rojas suggested that the council discuss the recent action taken by the Oologah City Council (article provide in their meeting folder). Vice-Chair Perry commented that the passage of this type of law could run afoul with federal laws and be overturned, such as the ordinance passed by the City of Altus.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

There were no items presented at this time.

H. NEW BUSINESS.

Ms. Vasquez-Sykes recommended that after the upcoming November elections the council provide each newly elected legislator and official at the Capitol with a packet of information containing a resource of valid information on immigration issues. This would give the council the opportunity to meet with them on a personal basis and start building a strong working relationship.

Ms. Vasquez-Sykes announced that LULAC was hosting a fundraiser event at Chelino's in Bricktown on Thursday, November 16, 2006. The money raised would go to benefit the OU Law Hispanic Students' Association and the LULAC scholarship fund.

Ms. Galvan stated that as a result of her radio campaign to encourage the Hispanic community to vote in the upcoming November election, several members of her radio audience had contacted her regarding the receipt of letters telling them that if they voted, they would be "turned in" to immigration. Vice-Chair Perry recommended that Ms. Galvan ask those who received these letters to provide her with a copy so the council could work to determine a source of the letters.

I. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.

There were no comments.

J. ADJOURNMENT.

Vice-Chair Perry adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.