



***HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES***

The HISPANIC LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION convened a REGULAR meeting on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. CST, in CITY OF AUSTIN PERMITTING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER – Room #1203 6310 WILHELMINA DRIVE, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

Co-Chair IVANNA NERI called the HISPANIC LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION Meeting to order at 5:54 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:

Ivanna Neri (Co-Chair)
Leonor Vargas

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

Kevin M Jackson, Jr.
Sharon Vigil
Eliza May
Dulce Castañeda

Commissioners Absent:

Amanda Afifi (Chair)
Vanessa Maldonado
Daniela Silva
Jesus Perales

Staff in Attendance:

Equity Office, Community Services Program Coordinator – Alejandra Mireles
Office of City Clerk, Business Process Specialist – Christi Vitela

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first ten speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

1. Luis Acosta started the CAP Program during before the pandemic, and created summer virtual camp that support high school and college students about how to prepare for

exams, write essays, and use professional resources. The organization is including a class on race. Luis Acosta requests additional time to be included in January's agenda.

2. Gavino Fernandez – present to speak about his support of the CAP Program; many are the first generation of college students; and in college experience with support St. Edwards to help them identify what to expect. Most of the students come from East Austin College Prep, East Side Memorial, and Akins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING on NOVEMBER 28th, 2023.

The minutes from the meeting on 11/28/2023 were approved on COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS' motion, COMMISSIONER DULCE CASTANEDA'S second on a 6-0 vote. (Absent: Commissioners Vanessa Maldonado, Amanda Afifi (Chair), Daniela Silva, and Jesus Perales)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Commissioner Leonor Vargas, presenting on [Mental Health Toolkit](#) **COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY compliments images of key/heart and asks what do families think mental health is? COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS shares that she has learned that it is spectrum and different perspectives depending on the organization or community. The majority of Spanish speakers (over 200), say, "he is sick from the head," always honoring from where the family is coming from. COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY asks, to what degree is gender identification? COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS it has not come up. The hope of the resource is that it will continue to adapt as families provide feedback. Families have asked for CAN to come back and go through section by section, in different informational sessions. COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS shares that families wish that they knew before and the wisdom from families is impactful – the conversations that the training provides. COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI asks if Commissioners are able to share the link and COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS shares that is ready to be shared. ink is available to share to anyone and anywhere. FOLLOW UP: how to request CAN and/or Commissioner Vargas to come and present.**
2. Food and community communication flyer options for Hispanic Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission's Regular February 2024 meeting (tentatively February 27th).
No concerns from Commission to move forward with the event in February.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. Discussion and possible action to write a recommendation to support ceasefire in Gaza.

COMMISSIONERS DULCE CASTANEDA and LEONOR VARGAS asked staff liaison ALEJANDRA MIRELES to email the Commission other Commissions' recommendations for a ceasefire.

No action taken.

4. Discussion and possible action to nominate community members to join the Arts & Culture Working Group.
The four community members Ana Laura de Santiago; Norma del Torro, Priscilla Cortez, and Luis Ordaz (Proyecto Teatro) are approved to join the Arts and Culture Workgroup on COMMISSIONER SHARON VIGIL's motion and COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS' second on a 6-0 vote.
5. Review and discuss the scope of all current working groups and possible action to update membership.

WORKING GROUPS/COMMITTEE UPDATES

6. Budget & Policy Priorities Workgroup – updates from the last workgroup meeting on issues related to the FY23-24 and policy matters pertaining to their assignment (Budget & Policy Priorities Workgroup Members: *Commissioners Amanda Afifi, Sharon Vigil, Jesus Perales, Dulce Castañeda, and Leonor Vargas*).
No updates at this time.
7. Language Access Workgroup – Updates on the newly formed workgroup on issues pertaining to their assignment (Language Access Workgroup Members: *Amanda Afifi, Dulce Castaneda, Vanessa Maldonado, Daniela Silva, & Hector Ordaz*).
Scheduling was attempted.
8. Public Safety & Immigrant Affairs Workgroup – Updates from the workgroup on issues pertaining to their assignment (Public Safety & Immigrant Affairs Workgroup Members: *Dulce Castaneda, Leonor Vargas, & Sharon Vigil*).
COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS shared that although the workgroup has not met, COMMISSIONER DANIELA SILVA was going to ask for an attorney to come and present to the Commission about SB4/HB4; that City Council Member Jose Velasquez and Southwest Keys may also be working on a collaboration. Commission asked staff liaison ALEJANDRA MIRELES to share an informational presentation about the rights of community members with the Commission.
9. Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) – General update and discussion on the coalition building work of the Committee. (*JIC Primary & Alternate Representatives: Amanda Afifi & Ivanna Neri*)
No major updates.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Three community member presentations: Mary Moran from On Point; Lupe Garcia from Women's Mind at Ease, Luis Acosta from CAP Program.

Boy Scouts Collaboration Presentation

City Demographer Staff Briefing

Hope Clinic

SB4/HB4 Information from an attorney

Shared upcoming learning opportunity for Spanish speaking community – Undoing Racism January 12-14th.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:05

The minutes were approved at the JANUARY 23, 2024 meeting on COMMISSIONER DANIELA SILVA's motion, COMMISSIONER DULCE CASTANEDA's second on a 8-0 vote. (ABSENT: COMMISSIONER KEVIN JACKSON; OFF DAIS: COMMISSIONER SHARON VIGIL)