



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

**DENVER LATINO COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 26, 2011**

**I. Location:**

Career Education Center  
2650 Elliot Street  
Denver, CO 80211

**II. Commissioners Present:**

Bautista, Michael	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Cadavid, Toti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Hunt, Diego	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Lopez Ramirez, Grace	<input type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Marquez-Hudson, Christine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Martinez, Michelle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Medina, Barbara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Mendoza, Johana	<input type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Ortega, Eduardo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Palacio, Mauricio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Rhoades, Meshach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Solano, Theresa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Torres, Elaine	<input type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone

Excused absences: Grace Lopez Ramirez, Johana Mendoza

Unexcused absences: Elaine Torres

**III. Staff Present:** None

**IV. Meeting Called to Order:** Michelle called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Christine asked the Commissioners to provide input on the accuracy of the March 2011 meeting minutes. She will add those changes into the minutes and will circulate for amendments and a vote.

As a follow-up to the meeting, Christine sent out an email notice to the Commission to offer amendments or to approve the March meeting minutes. Nine commissioners approved. Two were not

present at the March meeting. Two did not respond. The minutes passed.

## **VI. Presentation by Project VOYCE**

Brenda Rodriguez, Rudy Garcia and Brandon McIntosh, students at CEC, presented to the Commission regarding the work of Project VOYCE. Project VOYCE was founded 13 years ago as an organization focused on ensuring that youth voices were present at decision-making tables, particularly those related to education. Students engage in various projects, including training student leaders, research and data collection as part of its strategies. One of its projects was to inject student voice into the transformation process at Bruce Randolph, a DPS school. The students have also advocated at CEC that surveys conducted by LEAP be better suited to students. Fourteen-fifteen students at CEC currently participate in Project VOYCE. Their advice to educators: be motivational to students; don't judge a student by his/her appearance; and get students engaged in dialogue.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### **Education**

- 1) The Committee decided that the Commission needs to know what's going on within DPS. Susana Cordova, DPS Chief Academic Officer, and Tom Boasburg, DPS Superintendent, will be invited to present to the full Commission.
- 2) Barbara shared that the In-state Tuition bill (ASSET) was defeated in the House yesterday. The bill will likely be introduced again sometime in the future.
- 3) There are two finalists for the Commissioner of Education, a cabinet position selected by the State Board of Education: John Barry, Superintendent of Aurora Public Schools; and Robert Hammond, Acting Commissioner.
- 4) The Committee would like to create a forum around educational issues in the fall.

### **Public Safety**

- 1) Committee has not been able to meet this month; will meet before next meeting
- 2) The Committee would like to focus on the issue of City impoundment of cars for people who get incarcerated due to imprisonment. People are charged per day along with processing fees, making it impossible for people to afford

getting their cars out once they've paid their fines and/or completed their sentences. The committee will work on setting up a meeting with Civil Liabilities. Committee will get additional stories/citizen input before setting up this meeting.

- 3) Michelle and Barbara created a letter to the Mayor regarding Officer DeHerrera (see below).

### **Health**

- 1) The Committee has not yet met.
- 2) The Committee is considering arranging for a presentation on the recently released National Stakeholder Strategy report (part of the National Partnership to End Health Disparities)
- 3) April is National Minority Health Month. Their focus this year was working with schools and obesity reduction. President Obama urged people to pay attention to school lunches.

### **Economic Development**

- 1) Not able to meet this month; will meet before next meeting

### **Immigration**

- 1) As mentioned earlier, the ASSET Bill (Tuition Equity) was defeated
- 2) Arizona Copycat laws were defeated in committee
- 3) Nothing happening at national level on immigration reform
- 4) SB-1070 Decision came down saying the law was unconstitutional
- 5) Secure Communities: There is a bill making it mandatory for local government to participate in the program or lose tax revenues. Went to Senate hearing and was defeated.
  - a. One of the mayoral candidates, Michael Hancock, has publicly supported Secure Communities
  - b. There's still an opportunity for this Commission to take a position against Secure Communities
- 6) At one of the mayoral forums, several candidates said they'd have the Commissions play a more important role in advising the mayor on policy.

### **Nomination**

- 1) Jack Patton's nomination has been submitted for approval to the Mayor; he is an attorney at Littler Mendelsson law firm and a JAG
- 2) Magdalena Aguayo, a retired PA from Sandos Westside Family Health Center, has submitted an application. Her husband was

one of the founders of Museo de las Americas. Mauricio, Theresa and Michelle will interview her.

- 3) Michael will ask another nominee to send in his application.

### **VIII. Advisory Board Update**

Barbara will attend the next meeting in April. Mauricio is her back-up. If neither of them can attend, Theresa or Michelle will attend to represent the Latino Commission.

### **XI. Discussion of Police Terminations**

Two other police officers were recently suspended without pay for unprofessional conduct. Michelle made a motion to send a letter to Manager of Public Safety, Charles Garcia commending him for the move. Theresa seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Michelle will draft a letter and send it to Commissioners to review before sending a final to Mr. Garcia.

### **XII. Other Business/Announcements**

Michelle suggested that people attend community events related to the Commission's areas of focus and report back to the group. If the information is time-sensitive, Commissioners should send the information via email; otherwise they can report out at the next monthly meeting.

### **XI. Next Meeting**

The Commissioners agreed to have different committees host the remainder of the year's meetings. Specific locations to be determined in some cases.

- May – Education Committee, location TBD
- June – Meeting with new mayor, location TBD
- July – Public Safety at Latina Chamber
- August – Immigration Committee at Holland and Hart, LLP
- September – Health Committee at Pinnacol
- October – Economic Development at Mi Casa
- November - TBD

### **XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.