



**DENVER LATINO COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 29, 2011**

**I. Location:**

Mi Casa Resource Center  
360 Acoma Street  
Denver, CO 80212

**II. Commissioners Present:**

Bautista, Michael	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Cadavid, Toti	<input type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Hunt, Diego	<input type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Lopez Ramirez, Grace	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone
Torres, Elaine	<input type="checkbox"/> In Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Via Telephone

Excused absences: Diego Hunt, Johana Mendoza, Mauricio Palacio

Guest attendee: Jack Patten, an attorney and a veteran, is interested in joining the DLC and visited this meeting

**III. Staff Present:** Loretta Martinez, Director, Denver Office on Aging

**IV. Meeting Called to Order:** Michelle called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Michelle moved to approve the meeting minutes from December 6, 2010 with the following amendment:

Barbara Medina elected as liaison to the Advisory Board.  
Mauricio Palacio elected as alternate to Barbara.

Michael Bautista seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## VI. Planning for 2011 (Michelle):

Michelle led the group through a discussion that explored the following: "Keeping in mind the ultimate purpose of the Denver Latino Commission—to inform the Mayor of issues affecting the Latino community

- **What is our purpose?** Commissioners also discussed this question at length. Meschach Rhoades read the purpose from the Commission's website. The group agreed that in addition to informing the Mayor, it was important to provide information to the community on local and state issues that affect them. They also agreed that the Commission should sometimes be proactive and sometimes reactive in its work.
- **What are the issues that should be addressed?** The group discussed this question and ultimately decided that there are five areas of concern (although we are not limited to these) for the Commission in 2011: health, education, public safety, immigration and economic development. Within these areas, commissioners mentioned the following possible focus issues: Education – City and mayoral control of the school district; educational attainment; Public Safety – Secure Communities; should the City sign on or not? Settling lawsuits rather than resolving police/community relations; Health – health reform implementation; Immigration – Arizona-like laws and impact in Colorado; Economic Development – job growth. However, the group also agreed that commissioners need to go out to the community between now and the next meeting and gather information about these issue areas so that we can further define our focus for 2011.
- **What is the best way to inform ourselves about these issues?** The group agreed that sometimes forums are helpful, but that we should spend more time listening during the forums and less time informing. Also, we should identify existing community events/groups in which commissioners could participate or simply observe and then bring that information back to the group. We should organize our areas of focus and identify experts to come and speak to the commission on these issues throughout the year. We should also move our meetings around the community so that we can also listen to community members as part of our meetings. We should work with the

current acting mayor and the next mayor to identify the best ways to share this information and strive to meet with him at least quarterly.

- **What is the best way to organize ourselves?** We are not yet sure if working in sub-committees is the best way to organize ourselves. However, several people agreed to collect information on issue areas in preparation for our February meeting (note that some people listed below were not present at the meeting but commissioners believed they would be interested in contributing to the February conversation on the following topics):

**Education:** Barbara Medina and Michael Bautista

**Public Safety:** Michelle Martinez and Theresa Solano

**Health:** Mauricio Palacio and Johana Mendoza

**Immigration:** Meschach Rhoades and Diego Hunt

**Economic Development:** Christine Marquez-Hudson and Meschach Rhoades

The group agreed that it would benefit from a facilitated strategic planning session to identify its Goals and Objectives for 2011. Loretta Martinez said she would inquire about the possibility of using one of the City's facilitators for this meeting. Commissioners decided to use its **March 22 meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for its strategic planning session.** Members will gather information between now and then so that we can have data available for a richer discussion.

- **Who do we need in terms of membership on the DLC to address the issues above?** Commissioners were asked to think about people to nominate to the commission. Loretta reminded people about the process: people should complete an application and send it to Suzan Moore. She will then forward the application to the Commission for our review/approval. Once we approve the candidate, it's sent to the Mayor for review and approval. The process can take several months. It is an ongoing process.

## VII. Summary of Follow-Up Items

- Meschach Rhoades will schedule our next meeting on February 22 at CEC Middle College of Denver, located at 26<sup>th</sup> and Eliot. She will also arrange for lunch to be provided and

for students to speak to the commission about their issues/concerns.

- Loretta Martinez will inquire about getting a City facilitator to help with the DLC strategic planning retreat to be held on March 29 from 11:30 – 3:30 p.m. (or depending on their availability). The retreat will also likely be held at CEC.
- Members identified above will gather information for next meeting on key issues to focus on in 2011.
- Loretta Martinez will work on securing a meeting with Acting Mayor Bill Vidal.
- Elaine Torres will work with other Denver commissions on organizing a forum with all mayoral candidates.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.