



The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Meeting Minutes | April 14, 2022 | 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center

Members Present	Members Absent
Amy Arizza	Amairani Perez Chamu
Carlos Bejarano	Brandon Hendricks
Chriss Chavez	Fatima Linares
Daniel Gomez	Jessica Lozano
Mimi Martinez	Angelica Reina
Amanda Peregrina	Jordan Mazariegos
Elsie Urueta Pollock	Mark Ohensgore
Jania Rivera-Wester	Jacob Rodriguez
Andy Little	

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:04pm by Chairman Bejarano
 - b. Commissioner Rivera-Wester reads the land acknowledgement, and poem by Joy Harjo.
- II. Approval of March Meeting Minutes: <https://bit.ly/GTAHLACMAR22>**
 - a. Commissioner Bejarano calls for a motion to approve the March meeting minutes.
 - I. Commissioner Rivera-Wester makes a motion on to approve the March meeting minutes. Commissioner Peregrina seconds the motion
 - II. All present in unanimous favor
 - III. Minutes approved
- III. Guest Speaker: Alex Gavern, Managing Attorney for Immigration Legal Services at YWCA Tulsa**
 - a. Alex Gavern briefs the Commission on The YWCA’s immigration legal services efforts, programs, and initiatives.
- IV. Chair’s Report**
 - a. Commissioner Bejarano congratulates Commissioner Perez Chamu for receiving the Rising Star Award at this year's Pinnacle Awards ceremony hosted by the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women.
 - b. Commissioner Bejarano reports that he attended the quarterly chair and vice-chair meeting with the other Title V Commissions.
- V. Consideration of proposed actions in support of Latinx Representation on local School Boards and Acknowledgement of the growing Latinx population.**
 - a. Commissioner Gomez reports on recent remarks made by a Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) Board of Education member, where they questioned the legal status of another sitting TPS board member.

- b. Commissioner Gomez reports that the Immigration Committee has been monitoring the subsequent impact, and discussed potential action the Commission could take.
 1. The committee proposes that the Commission publish an open letter, which doesn't include supporting or opposing any board members. The drafted letter will be addressed to the school board as a whole, as well as the public. The letter will serve to educate the fact that TPS is comprised of a majority of Hispanic students, and the fact that representation of that population on the school board is lacking. In addition, the demographics show that Spanish-speakers make up a significant amount of TPS students and parents.
 2. Commissioner Gomez believe the letter could be used to educate and explain the school board election process. Qualification requirements to be a board member include proof of citizenship, so one school board member questioning the status of another member is unjustified. Educating the public on why it's problematic to question anyone's citizenship may also be a subject to include.
 - a. Commissioner Martinez Mimi notes that when it comes to change and asking for representation - there's always a lot of pushback.
 - b. Commissioner Chavez remarks that she was shocked when she learned about the comments and asked if there were any basis whatsoever.
 - i. Commissioner Pollok serves as an executive director at a school in Tulsa and comments that it's illegal to ask for anyone's immigration status. She describes her unique perspective as one of only 6 Latina directors in the State of Oklahoma.
 - c. Commissioner Bejarano calls for a motion to approve drafting the letter.
 - I. Commissioner Gomez makes a motion to approve
 - II. Commissioner Peregrina seconds the motion
 - III. All in unanimous favor. The plan is for a final draft of the letter to be approved prior to the commencement of the Tomas Rivera Awards at the May meeting of the Commission.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive**
 - I. No report.
- b. **Education**

- I. Commissioner Linares provided a written report to Commissioner Bejarano on the progress of the upcoming Tomas Rivera Awards.
 1. The committee received a recent donation of \$250.
 2. Tulsa Community College (TCC) & Tulsa Tech will be in attendance.
 3. The Mayor is preparing a pre-recorded video to play at the ceremony.
 4. The commission is actively searching for a photography sponsorship
 5. The Committee thanks Commissioner Chavez for her efforts in assisting with the interviews for applicants.

c. Community Advocacy

- I. Commissioner Pollock reports on the progress of the upcoming Career Fair.
 1. The committee currently has secured 10 volunteers and is looking for 7 more for the afternoon shift (12:30 pm – 4 pm).
 2. Volunteer sign up is available
 3. There are two separate flyers for attendees and potential vendors.
 - a. Commissioner Peregrina asks if there are flyers in both English and Spanish. Commissioner Pollok confirms there is and offers to disperse them today.
 - b. Commissioner Pollok reminds commissioners that the fair is free to the public, and \$100 to businesses and organizations interested in having a table.

d. Public Safety

I. Police

1. Report that Tulsa Police Department (TPD) held an event at Hicks park last weekend for the Easter celebration in partnership with safe neighborhoods.
2. TPD has seen an uptick in property crimes and expects to see it get worse in the summer.
 - a. Keep vehicles locked, close garage doors, and secure firearms.

II. Fire

1. Andy Little reports that recruitment efforts have been going well and that the department has been making efforts to improve recruitment to attract interest.
 - a. Andy reports that the Fire chief went to the city council to remove language requiring citizenship to become a

firefighter. He thanks Krystal Reyes for her efforts in the matter.

- b. The department also adjusted the age to 18 rather than 21 to apply.
- c. Andy reports that there are 25 Spanish-speaking firefighters out of the 600 employees and reminds the commission to spread awareness of recruiting.

e. Immigration

I. See item III.

f. Special Committees

- I. Commissioner Bejarano reports that the City of Tulsa's Communications department has been publicizing the job fair, and a press release is out
 - 1. He also reports that a PSA for radio is being created and will be pushed to social media soon.

VII. Old Business

a. None

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Krystal Reyes reports that the city council will be hosting a Spanish language town hall on May 14th from 2-4 pm at East Central High School. She informs the commission that there's a need for volunteer Spanish speakers to assist with interpretation efforts.
- b. Commissioner Bejarano reports that the job fair is next Saturday, April 23rd from 11 am -3 pm.
- c. Commissioner Bejarano remind the commission that the next meeting will be at the central library auditorium for the Tomas Rivera awards
 - I. Commissioner Pollok reports that the TPS Enrollment window closed in February and reports a significant increase in the Latinx community enrollment – which doubled and tripled the numbers from Commissioner Chavez makes a motion to approve
 - II. Commissioner Rivera Wester seconds the motion
- d. the past years.
- e. Commissioner Chavez reports that she is working with flourish Tulsa to recruit more engineers for the career pathways program.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Commissioner Bejarano calls for a motion to approve
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm