



Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | August 14, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Carlos Bejarano, Chriss Chavez, Jackie Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Mark Ohnesorge, Amanda Peregrina, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Gomez, Fatima Linares, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Jacob Parra, Diana Pennington

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Bejarano called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Commissioner Chavez proposed an edit to specify the education initiative mentioned—Citizen's Police Academy in Spanish—in Item IV.d.iv.
- b. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to approve June meeting minutes with one edit.
 - i. Commissioner Peregrina made a motion, Commissioner Reina seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Commissioner Chavez)
 - ii. Motion carried, June minutes approved.

III. Guest Speaker: Alejandro Garcia, Executive Director at Tulsa Global District

- a. Alejandro Garcia invited HLAC to La Fiesta de Tulsa on September 13th at Hannah Hall. This is the fourth year of the event and is rebranding this year from the Hispanic Heritage Celebration.
 - i. First time there will be a parade (Cooper Elementary to Hannah Hall).
 - 1. Tulsa Global District (TGD) is partnering with Tulsa Public Schools and will have shuttles between the two locations.
 - 2. Commissioner Chavez: Who is in the parade? Alejandro: Already have eight organizations signed up for parade equaling 500 people.
 - ii. The event will feature a festival, performers, and vendors. Almost all vendor spaces are filled but invited HLAC to table.



- iii. TGD is reaching out to diverse group of performers to expand beyond Mexican folklorico. Open to ideas from commissioners.
- iv. Will start advertising the event next week.
- v. Commission Discussion:
 - 1. HLAC will table at the event. Chairman Bejarano will take the lead and encouraged other commissioners to volunteer.
 - 2. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez asked about the parking lot capacity. Alejandro noted this is the biggest concern for the event. There is only one entrance into parking, will have traffic control and police to help with parade and traffic. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez asked if vendors are only from TGD. Alejandro said they're from all over.
 - 3. Commissioner Martinez Herrera: Do you have a link for volunteers to register?
 - a. Alejandro: Yes
 - b. Commissioner Martinez Herrera will share with COHO.
 - 4. Commissioner Peregrina asked if all the event materials are available in Spanish, and Alejandro affirmed that they are.
 - 5. Alejandro mentioned reaching out to the City to participate in the parade and is awaiting a response.
 - 6. Commissioner Martinez Herrera gave kudos to Alejandro as a one-person team and all he does to support small businesses.
- vi. Dragon Trail Ride (August 23 at 9 – 12): Placing 14 bike racks near businesses with dragon shapes throughout TGD, each painted by a local artist. The event will also offer free helmets, bike locks, safety checks, and bike tune ups.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Chairman Bejarano: Met on Aug 1 to discuss committee assignments and arranging guest speaker for September (Growing Together)
 - 1. Possible future speakers include Office of Financial Empowerment, new Director of Public Art, Municipal Court, US Attorney's Office, and YWCA Tulsa.
 - ii. HLAC has received a request to move meetings to an earlier time. Chairman Bejarano opened up discussion for commissioners to share their thoughts on meetings starting at 5:30 instead of 6.
 - 1. Several commissioners quickly shared 5:30 is better for them.
 - 2. Chairman Bejarano asked Lexi if HLAC can begin this change in September, and she confirmed they can.



3. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to move meetings from 6pm to 5:30pm.
 - a. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Martinez Herrera seconded.
 - i. Aye: 9
 - b. Motion carried, meeting time will be 5:30 starting in September.
- iii. Chairman Bejarano mentioned the Title V Commission Retreat in July. He presented on behalf of HLAC about the Tomás Rivera Awards Ceremony.
- iv. Chairman Bejarano will meet tomorrow with Kate Neary at Community Health Connection to learn about their programs.
- v. Chairman Bejarano will continue chatting with committee chairs to establish a format for their reports.
- vi. Commissioner Linares asked Chairman Bejarano to reach out to the Central Library about hosting Tomás Rivera for free in May of next year. Will update the Education Committee when he hears back.
- b. Education Committee
 - i. In Commissioner Linares's absence, Chairman Bejarano shared that the committee will meet next week.
- c. Community Advocacy Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Gonzalez will chair this committee moving forward. They haven't met yet but hope to within the next two weeks.
 - ii. Vice Chair Gonzalez provided an update on the 4th Amendment Worksites project.
 1. Resources to help customer-facing businesses think about tools and protocols in the event federal agents arrive at their business and try to conduct illegal search.
 2. Thanked Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez for being a great advisor.
 3. The toolkit is in the near-final draft stage. Aiming for a 10-page physical document to distribute to businesses.
 - a. Exploring options for printing sponsorship.
 - b. Will also create postcards to distribute at events.
 4. Summary of contents: optional training information (free, 90 minutes), checklist for leadership decision making, environment checklist, employee checklist for before, during, and after an incident
 - iii. Request for Support from HLAC:
 1. Review and identify most important parts of FAQ section in the toolkit.
 - a. Commissioner Reina volunteered to help.



2. Identifying community partners to include in the toolkit and to help raise awareness.
3. Build list of businesses to distribute packets to (Not urgent yet).

iv. Commission Discussion:

1. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez thinks the toolkit is solid, just needs more input from commissioners and committee members.
2. Chairman Bejarano: Would it be helpful to have a quick working session to finalize? Vice Chair Gonzalez will think about this. Would like to have a version ready to go out by 918 Day weekend. The toolkit will be a living document to extent.
3. Commissioner Ariza thanked Commissioner Gonzalez and emphasized how important this information is to the community.
4. Commissioner Chavez would like to present the toolkit at the Council for Safe Neighborhoods, as the topic affects safety and fear. Asked if there is a lawyer on the committee having input.
 - a. Vice Chair Gonzalez clarified that the toolkit is not legal advice, and they are not inventing anything, but taking existing resources and making them more digestible.

d. Public Safety Committee

- i. Commissioner Chavez noted that the committee includes liaisons from Tulsa Fire, Police, and EMSA as well as Commissioners Ariza and Martinez Herrera.
- ii. Completed Spanish translation for the food truck fire safety and compliance packet, this resource is now on the Fire Department's website.
- iii. Citizen Policy Academy in Spanish in October. This will be the first one ever conducted in Spanish. The application deadline is August 30, the class is limited to 30 people, and spaces are still available.
 1. Will do a brief background check and participants must be 18 years or older.
 2. Commissioner Chavez called on HLAC to promote this opportunity and fill the class to continue having opportunities for Hispanic/Latinx community like this.

iv. Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on September 20 at McCullough Park.

The event had a great turn out last year and this is an opportunity for HLAC to table. Commissioner Chavez will be present.

v. Safety Council Fair: Covers gun safety, self-defense, and cyber security.

Andy wasn't sure if the event is happening. If it is, Commissioner Chavez noted it could be an opportunity to education on fraud prevention in the Spanish-speaking community.

vi. Commissioner Chavez expressed her appreciation that Chief Larsen was at the last commission meeting. They are doing important work to promote



diversity in TPD's employment and offering awareness events such as Beyond the Badge.

vii. Riley: August is the enrollment period for EMSA Care, a benefit that ensures Tulsans don't pay out of pocket for ambulance rides if they enroll. Covers everyone who is a full-time resident in the household for \$5.45 per month. Will email link to EMSA Care page in Spanish.

viii. Commissioner Martinez Herrera: Coalition of Hispanic Organizations' Back to School Event social media comment section was disappointing, there were rumors that ICE would be at the event and COHO received hateful messages for providing the service to the community. COHO will do video soon to clarify misinformation. ICE was not present, and the event was very successful with 8,000+ people attending, even though a smaller percentage than usual (33%) self-reported as Spanish-speaking.

1. Commissioner Ariza noted that this fear is affecting other things like public schools and CAP enrollment.
2. Andy noted that the families who did attend were very engaged with police and fire depts.
3. Commissioner Peregrina added that enrollment for newcomers at Union's 9th Grade Center is way down. Also, students are dropping out and families are very afraid to take their kids to school. Need to communicate that school is safe and it's important to go, despite political messaging trying to instill fear. Schools are not asking for immigration status and there is nothing in the application that would give away this information.
 - a. Andy: Have there been conversations in school board leadership?
 - b. Commissioner Peregrina: Problem is that if the district promotes too much, we become a target. Have to be very cautious but need to inform families.
 - c. Commissioner Ariza is seeing the same thing at court. Folks are not showing up and putting themselves in further trouble.
 - d. Chairman Bejerano noted that this was one of the great messages the Municipal Court shared at the retreat. They have an outreach person on staff who will share messaging.

e. Immigration Committee – no report

V. Old Business – no old business

VI. New Business



- a. Commissioner Chavez: Thank you to Lexi and everyone who put on the Title V Commission Retreat. Reflected that she learned so much from other commissioners. Everyone should make an effort to go to other commission meetings and invite them to HLAC. Prompted her to wonder how commissions can communicate amongst ourselves when issues overlap to synergize. Learned about Neighborhood Academy, which needs to be promoted with the Hispanic community. Chairman Bejarano did a great job presenting.
- b. Vice Chair Gonzalez: Deadline to apply to next Neighborhood Academy is Aug 29. She participated in the first round and found it valuable.

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. 918 Day Festival on September 18.
- b. Tulsa Fire Museum is having a live exhibit event with a Hispanic female firefighter (September 18th or 22nd at 5pm).
- c. Commissioner Chavez raised a call for support with an upcoming Tulsa City Council vote to fund the installation of “Caja de Agua,” a gift from our sister city San Luis Potosí, Mexico, at Tulsa Botanic Garden.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Chavez motioned, and Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 8
 - a. Commissioner Martinez Herrera left the meeting prior to the motion.
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.