



Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | October 9, 2025 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Carlos Bejarano, Chriss Chavez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Fatima Linares, Mark Ohnesorge, Diana Pennington, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Gomez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Jacob Parra, Amanda Peregrina

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Bejarano called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. As a quorum was not yet present, Chairman Bejarano did not call for a motion to approve meeting minutes.

III. Guest Speakers: Dr. William Smith, Director of the Helmerich Center for American Research

- a. Chairman Bejarano shared that the guest speaker is not able to attend today and will be rescheduled in January or February.

IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairman Bejarano shared that he was put in contact with Emilee Taylor, Executive Director of Strategy and Data at Tulsa Public Schools (TPS). There is an opportunity for GTAHLAC to provide TPS with input on their next strategic plan. Input can be in the form of survey or attending a public meeting. Can also have Emilee as a guest speaker in January or February and utilize the commission meeting as a feedback session. Commissioners expressed interest in this opportunity.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Chairman Bejarano shared the Executive Committee didn't meet, but they are working on guest speakers for the rest of the year.
 - ii. Commissioner Linares arrived at 5:39 pm.
- b. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Linares shared the Education Committee will meet next week to begin preparations for the Tomás Rivera awards.



- ii. Stephanie (Tulsa City County Library) and Commissioner Pennington are joining the committee.
- c. Community Advocacy Committee
 - i. Send any feedback on the 4th Amendment Workplace packet to Jackie.
- d. Public Safety Committee
 - i. Commissioner Ohnesorge shared about several projects that members of the Public Safety Committee are involved in or spoke at.
 - ii. Tulsa Fire Department (TFD), Tulsa Police Department (TPD), and EMSA are collaborating on a car seat safety day on November 11 at Station 27, hosted by Safe Kids. Families will register in advance.
 - iii. Red Ribbon Week in the schools is the week of October 24th.
 - iv. TPD, TFD, and EMSA are all working to recruit more Hispanic and bilingual officers. About 75 TPD officers speak Spanish, but this is a small percentage of the total force and not enough to meet the need of the growing Spanish-speaking population.
 - v. Commissioner Chavez shared the committee will meet monthly on the 1st Thursday at 11am virtually.
- e. Immigration Committee – no report

VI. Old Business

- a. Commissioner Chavez shared that City Council approved the Caja de Agua statue donation and it has been installed. The ribbon cutting will be on October 19 at the Tulsa Botanic Garden. Would love to have commission to have a presence.

VII. New Business

- a. Commissioner Martinez Herrera arrived at 5:45 pm.
- b. If you are interested in chairing the Nomination Committee, let Chairman Bejarano know as he will appoint the chair next month. Also share if you are interested in Chair or Vice Chair for 2026.

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Spanish Citizens Police Academy started this week. There were 75 applicants and could only take 30. Might host another cohort in the spring.
- b. Congratulations to Onyx for being accepted to the women's TFD training camp.
- c. Human Rights Commission's Fair Housing Committee is hosting a Fair Housing Summit for Veterans on November 6 at 1pm at Centennial Center.
- d. Department of Resilience and Equity now has a Spanish version of the flyer that showcases their department's work.
- e. Tulsa Global District is hosting Día de los Muertos activities on November 1.
- f. Eastside Rise's Fall Festival is this Saturday from 10 – 2.
- g. Public Comments:
 - i. Jose Ariza, Deputy Fire Marshall, introduced himself and shared his desire to serve the community.
 - ii. Onyx Montes: Tulsa Girl Power is hosting a series of workshops coming up that offers skill building for women.
- h. Commissioner Ariza arrived at 5:56. The Commission was then at quorum.



IX. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to approve the September meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Commissioner Martinez Herrera)
 - ii. Motion carried, September minutes approved.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Martinez Herrera motioned, and Commissioner Reina seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.