



## Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | November 13, 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, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Diana Pennington, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Gomez, Fatima Linares, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Mark Ohnesorge, 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. Nominating Committee: Appoint Chair and Elect Two Other Members

- a. Chairman Bejarano appointed Commissioner Reina as Chair of the Nominating Committee.
- b. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez expressed interested in serving on the Nominating Committee prior to the meeting. Chairman Bejarano also volunteered.
- c. As a quorum was not yet present, election of two other members was postponed to later in the meeting.

#### III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairman Bejarano shared an opportunity to join the Laureate advisory board. Commissioners should email Chairman Bejarano or Lexi if they are interested.
- b. Chairman Bejarano noted two open opportunities, New Commissioner Orientation and name tag ordering, for commissioners to pay attention to.
- c. Chairman Bejarano has been part of a working group looking at new fire safety regulations for food trucks. He elevated two events:
  - i. 11/17 at old State Farm headquarters: propane gas certification education, registration required.
  - ii. 12/8 at Hannah Hall: conversation with authors of bill and business owners to get more information and provide feedback for future changes to the bill, coordinated by Eastside Rise.
- d. Global Gathering at the Gathering Place on 12/27 is focused on cultural diversity of new year's celebrations. If you'd like to participate and table for GTAHLAC or any other



cultural group that would like to educate about new year's celebrations in your country, contact Chairman Bejarano.

- e. Commissioner Chavez arrived at 5:44 pm.
- f. Vice Chair Gonzalez shared about the Title V Commissions Chair and Vice Chair Quarterly meeting. Good discussion about goals, aspirations, pain points, opportunities, and ways to collaborate with other commissions.

#### **IV. End of Year Reflection: Annual Report**

- a. Chairman Bejarano led an exercise for commissioners reflect on the year, which will help writing the End of Year Report.
- b. 2025 Accomplishments
  - i. Tomas Rivera Awards
  - ii. Public Safety Committee has had good conversation about how changes in laws affect the community. Able to attend more community events.
  - iii. Good slate of speakers: Union Public Schools Superintendent, TPD Chief Larsen, Growing Together, El Centro
  - iv. 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Worksites (4AW) Playbook: Very close to be ready to print, will be ready to distribute before EOY
  - v. Successfully amended law that allows people to make corrections to birth certificates – worked with Dr. Dart (Tulsa Health Department) and Deputy Mayor Reyes
  - vi. Public attendance and comments at meetings
  - vii. A City Councilor attended a meeting
  - viii. Attended Caja de Agua ribbon cutting
- c. 2026 Goals
  - i. Distributing 4AW Playbook
  - ii. Continuation of identification resources: revisit survey
  - iii. Identify community events early in the year that GTAHLAC will table at. Possibly have a committee (such as Community Advocacy) take the lead on coordinating presence at events.
  - iv. Health topics or committee work
  - v. Future speakers: Tulsa Global Alliance, inTulsa Visa Network, TFD EMS Chief, TYPROS, Parent Child Center
- d. Commissioner Martinez Herrera arrived at 5:35 pm. The commission was then at quorum.

#### **V. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to approve the October meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Reina seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, October minutes approved.

#### **VI. Nominating Committee: Appoint Chair and Elect Two Other Members**

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to elect Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez and Chairman Bejarano and to the Nominating Committee.



- i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Martinez Herrera seconded.
  - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
- ii. Motion carried, Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez and Chairman Bejarano and elected to the Nominating Committee.

## VII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee – no report
- b. Education Committee
  - i. Commissioner Pennington shared the committee is meeting with Emilee Taylor from Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) to help bridge engagement with the Hispanic/Latinx committee on November 19 at 11am. Information about their public engagement is on TPS's website. Invited other commissioners to attend.
- c. Community Advocacy Committee
  - i. Vice Chair Gonzalez: Hope to have an informal gathering for the committee in December to understand the desire of the group (ie: advisory, working group, or other direction).
  - ii. 4AW Playbook is in a good place. Will have finishing touches complete in a couple weeks. Can distribute virtually and have resources to do an initial print run.
    - 1. Need translation support before the end of the year. Commissioners Reina and Pennington volunteered.
    - 2. Already have a list of restaurants that are interested in receiving the playbook. Will share outreach list with commissioners to add to.
- d. Public Safety Committee
  - i. Commissioner Chavez reported the committee met last week and had some new folks join. Held various discussions about engaging the community and utilizing interpreters across the Fire and Police Departments.
  - ii. No meeting in December, will reconvene in January 2026.
- e. Immigration Committee
  - i. Committee did not meet so there is no official report.
  - ii. Commissioner Ariza raised that in the counties outside of Tulsa, many people are being stopped and if they don't have a driver's license they are being booked to David L Moss and calling immigration to begin deportation proceedings. There is a lot of fear due to racial profiling.
    - 1. Commissioner Martinez Herrera added that Oklahoma Highway Patrol have made many immigration detentions.
    - 2. Andy: New law that gives officer discretion to cite a DUI as a felony instead of misdemeanor, which opens the door to have immigration involved.
    - 3. Commissioner Chavez suggested having someone from Tulsa County come speak to the commission.
  - iii. Commissioner Martinez Herrera shared about a forum COHO is hosting next Tuesday, will share information with commission. Will help folks build a readiness packet.



**VIII. Old Business** – no old business

**IX. New Business** – no new business

**X. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. La Cosecha annual Christmas event on 12/18
- b. Commissioner Reina raised a question about having a committee focused on physical and mental health. Commissioner Pennington added that this is an area that the commission could make an impact. Vice Chair Gonzalez noted this could be a combined effort with the Community Advocacy Committee. Andy noted 211 of Eastern Oklahoma could be a good partner on this.
- c. Chairman Bejarano thanked commissioners for a great year.

**XI. Adjournment**

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to adjourn.
  - i. Commissioner Chavez motioned, and Commissioner Ariza seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
    - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.