



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
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Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs **Minutes**

Thursday, October 16, 2008

1:00 – 5:00PM

Bureau of Labor and Industries Building, Conference Room 1B
350 Winter Street NE, Salem OR

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jose Ibarra at 1:00PM.
- II. The approval of the minutes of July 24, 2008 will be done at the next meeting.
- III. Discussion on committees
 - A. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry encouraged commissioners to maintain communication with each other. She also thanked Ray Caballero for organizing the meeting and getting meetings scheduled for 2009. She also thanked David Molina for his extensive work on the website.
 - B. Hispanic Heritage month. The Governor proclaimed Hispanic Heritage month from September 15 – October 15. The event was to recognize the accomplishments of the Hispanic population by government and private entities. Jose Ibarra spoke at the event on October 14. Lily Caceres said the event was sponsored by DAS and DHS and was very nice. Erlinda Caceres told the group she hoped next year to get a little time to speak to the public about the commission's work. Jose Ibarra said he had met with the planners several months before the event and program were planned. He did not hear anything else until a couple hours before the event asking him to speak. He said they needed more notice because of jobs and schedules but he could arrange his schedule to attend and speak. He said the lack of notice showed disrespect. After discussion, David Molina moved to write letter to express dissatisfaction with notification and participation for this year but would ask for notification for meetings planning next year's event. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry seconded the motion and it carried unanimous.
 - C. Executive Committee. Jose Ibarra discussed the hiring of an administrator. There were 70 applications and the chairs narrowed the field to 10 each and they will interview the 5 finalists on October 28. The chairs are looking for management experience, public relations experience and government experience on resumes. Jose invited anyone interested in attending to let him know. David Molina discussed the interview process he expected to happen. There will be the group of people interviewing and they have a list of questions. During the interview they will take notes about strengths and weaknesses. At the conclusion of the interviews, those interviewing will rank the candidates independently and the votes will be tallied. Independent questions can be asked about diversity by each interviewer. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry asked to be notified as soon as possible to schedule on her calendar. Lily Caceres asked that each candidate have a clear understanding of what they are to do and their roles and responsibilities.

- D. Financial Committee. Jose Ibarra said the commission needs to be accountable to taxpayers. At the April meeting he had requested an audit. Staff said audit would be done when new administrator is hired. Jose has requested an audit through the Governor's office with a letter. Raymond Caballero sent letter to staff about office operations. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry said to discuss the issue with Danny Santos. Who should be contacted when there is a problem with staff. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry said no one knows who reports to whom. David Molina said all the people have someone to report to. Jose Ibarra said the commission needs to be accountable.
- E. Senator Fred Girod was welcomed and introduced. He thanked the group for invitation and explained reason he is on the commission. Position based on information and shows the pitfalls. His office number is (503) 769-4321 and his assistant is Lori. Sen. Girod said he would not guarantee a 100% vote with commission but 10% of his constituency is Latino engaged in farming, timber and food processing. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry asked what his major issues were. Sen. Girod answered education and health care. He feels it is better to stress commonality. There is a need to show how important Latinos are to Oregon. He stressed that small schools in small towns do better with diversity than large cities and big schools.
- F. Development Committee – Research Committee. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry has prepared a bibliography and statistics on the Hispanic population in Oregon. Jose Ibarra asked about legislative report. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry said she had not worked on it and that collaboration is needed. The report must talk about accomplishments, however small.
- G. Mr. Carrasco, a law professor at Willamette University School of Law talked about how the students can work with the commission. The students introduced themselves and talked briefly about their projects. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry asked about internships and Mr. Carrasco said internship would fit in well with the commission and the students. One student mentioned the State Bar sponsors Opportunities for Law in Oregon, directed by Fred Garcia and provides interns from three Oregon law schools.
- H. Development Committee. David Molina heads the Development Committee. Jose Ibarra thanked David for his time in setting up the website and having autonomy without having to go through an IT person. David said it was a lengthy process to upload but he wants a second person as a contingency. He has updated the site, there is a welcome note, and announcements that are related to commissioner's name and employment. Will be able to put on event, where and a link. He also said facts and statistics should be bulleted but needs the staff help to implement. Jose Ibarra told David Molina he needs to work with the new administrator. Staff needs to support public relations part. Dagoberto Morales said a brochure is needed that explains the rights of Latinos. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry talked about the necessity of quarterly meetings with State people. In discussion about meetings, the Medford meeting was cancelled because there was not enough financial support. David Molina suggested a layout for community meeting dates. Jose Ibarra talked about the meeting he attended in Medford 7 – 8 years ago and how it stimulated him to become a commissioner. Lily Caceres asked the resume bank. Jose Ibarra said that any information collected should be turned into him. Raymond Caballero has been appointed to the Environmental Justice group and they will have quarterly meetings. They have had their formative meeting. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry talked about raising consciousness of healthcare workers about pesticide poisoning.
- I. Danny Santos gave a short bio. He talked about legislative concepts and budgetary process that starts immediately after session. This year agencies have worked with essential budget level. Agencies need to match up with the Governor's recommended budget on December 1 with anticipated revenue. Education is top priority but at the revenue anticipated budgets are going to have to be cut at agency levels. Another priority in the

Governor's budget is child healthcare. Another priority is climate change and fiscal responsibility. The Advocacy Commission will be at the essential budget level. Other issues this session will be affirmative action and small business for minorities. The 2010 census will be very important. Danny suggested commissioners meet with legislative leadership. He reminded commissioners to be careful about promoting a ballot measure or a candidate. They should get election law guidance and clarification from the Secretary of State's office. Dagoberto Morales Duran asked about fiscal impact of ballot measures, Danny said commission can say what the impacts are but stay neutral. David Molina asked about social impacts, Danny said right now only fiscal impact is reported. Jose Ibarra asked about accountability and said administrator should be accountable to commissions and the commissions should be accountable to the administrator.

- IV. Higher Education Report with George Pernsteiner, Chancellor of Oregon University System. Mr. Pernsteiner opened with the statement that those retiring now are the most educated in Oregon and that is not a good position for the future. The United States is now eighth in the world, dropping from #1 in the last 15 years and dropping more quickly each year. Oregon also is not what it used to be 40 years ago when Oregon was in the top half dozen in the country in education. The reason is that students are not graduating from high school. Forty years ago, at 25 around 92% had graduated from high school, now it is a little less than 86%. During the last 40 years, the white population has been shrinking, the Asian and Black population have been stable and the Latino population is growing. Once a Latino gets into college, they succeed. The completion rate of Latino students in high school needs to be addressed. The education system must be looked at with the whole picture from kindergarten through college. The Department of Education has not focused on those students that are not successful under the new Federal guidelines. The students need to be mentored and tutored. The schools have not modeled success to them. Schools in K-12 need to reach families as to how to get them through high school, they need a "road map". The needs are higher in diverse populations. We have to find ways to get students through college no matter the cost. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry commented on undocumented parents and financial aid. The Chancellor said the schools in the university system charge 3-1/2 to 4 times more for out of state students than for state residents. The schools need to charge the out of state tuition in order to survive. The one state school that does not charge out of state tuition is Eastern Oregon and it has 16 branches. These students need to be enrolled in some branch of this school. David Molina asked about tuition being waived for non-traditional students. David Molina asked how tracks have been for students. Mr. Pernsteiner said it has been successful but for math and science students must be captured by third or fourth grades. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry commented about the focus on hiring of colored faculty. The Chancellor answered that it has improved over the years. There has been a new group set up at the state level to look into this. Lily Caceres stated the expectation was for lots of homework to learn with parental help. She compared how it was in Peru with how it is in the United States. The Chancellor was thanked by Jose Ibarra and the commission applauded.
- V. Mr. Tom McClellan of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) was introduced by Jose Ibarra. Mr. McClellan said two recent changes have changed DMV. These changes are the Executive Order in November that took effect in February and SB1080 that took effect on July 1, 2008. These changes address the verification of Social Security numbers, birth certificates and immigration documentation. The law now provides that physical verification of these documents is necessary in order to qualify for a driver's license or identification card. With the SB1080 the documentation is necessary as proof of identification. Until the documentation is procured and verified there is a 90-day temporary license available even though it is non-

photo. All applicants must give their full first, middle and last name as shown on the birth certificate. Under the Executive Order and SB1080 any name changes had to be proven with documentation. On September 15, 2008 emergency changes were made to allow DMV to follow the changes from the birth certificate. An expiring license makes it easier to track back to the birth certificate so as many documents are not necessary as at first implementation. When fraudulent documents are presented to DMV, the police are called, not immigration. Prior to these new rules, 40-60% fraudulent documents were presented but since the new rules only 3-5% of the documents are fraudulent. In 2007, 3500 tests were given per month in Spanish but after the Executive Order the number dropped to about 500 per month. Requests for identification cards has dropped 31%, 10% for drivers licenses and 12% for commercial licenses. The customer wait time has dropped significantly. From July forward, DMV personnel have more time to spend with customers but are still spending between 8 – 9 minutes per customer. Prior to September 15, 2008, the rate of applicants for 90-day temporary permits increased to 65% but has since dropped. Telephone calls to DMV in 2007 in Spanish averaged 3567 per month and since the Executive Order has dropped to an average of 1661 per month. In January there were 66 fraudulent documentation cases and now it averages between 1 – 5 cases per month. Mr. McClellan handed out contact information and lists of legal documents acceptable to DMV. Lily Caceres asked about possible layoffs. Mr. McClellan said they hoped to leave vacant positions open so layoffs will not be necessary at this time, Dagoberto Morales Duran asked about police calling INS to verify information. Mr. McClellan said the DMV wants to know about any abuse by law enforcement officers. Lily Caceres asked if there was a trend for more people driving without a license or insurance, answer was that no statistics were available as yet. A citizen made public testimony about his case where he was stopped in Salem accused of driving someone else's car with a suspended license. His license had been suspended because in the last four months the SR-22 fine had not been paid for 2 months. He took the required documents as proof to the DMV Latino Task Force. Even though he has a legal license, he does not have on because of being in limbo because of documentation. The new requirements make it necessary for him to produce more documentation. Eduardo Angulo provided discussion about the driver's license problems for Latinos. Raymond Caballero asked about common ground on this issue. Danny Santos suggested a 2-tier process be developed. It was suggested for the Legislature and did not see the light of day and is not a strong possibility in the future. The problem must be corrected by legislation. Federal legislation is an even longer shot. Mr. McClellan was thanked by Jose Ibarra and the commission applauded his presentation.

- VI. The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2009 at the Capitol and will be an all day meeting. Time constraints today have made it difficult to discuss information received. Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.