**Attendees:** Johnny Garcia**,** Gunther Sanabria, Ricardo Villalba**,** Julio Guity-GuevaraAngelique Sina (minute taker)**,** Dr. Angelo Gomez, Margarita Dilone, Yasmin Serrato, Jackie Reyes

Public Attendees: Manuel Mendez, Dian Lammy and Claudia Barragan

**Items discussed:**

Meeting was called to order at 6.48 pm EDT

Last meeting’s minutes were approved via email

* Minutes will be continued to be approved via email unless there is an objection
* The Directors report was be moved farther in the agenda.
* Commissioner Garcia provided an update to have a Commissioners retreat during February 4th for the Commission group and MOLA team.
* MOLA is having conversations about the “Afro-Latino” task group. Johnny and Catalina will participate in the meetings to liaise with these groups.
* Guest comment: Manuel Mendez, the President of the “Afro-Latino Caucus” explained how the group wants to focus on having visibility within our community to mainstream the Latino and DC community groups to really understand our conflicts and accomplishments and try to solve these issues. They’re planning two events in December 16 and 23st. The Dec. 16th event will target the Haitian-Dominican issues and bring solutions to both communities. The second event, to take place on: December 23 will be focused on the African diaspora groups. Commissioner Garcia asked Manuel, how we as a commission can serve their mission and Commissioner Ricardo offered to do a video of Afro-Latino Task Force.
* “Round Robin, what’s on your mind”:
  + Margarita Dilone: began discussing about her attendance at an enrollment event by DC Health Link and HHS was not present or available to answer their phones in their hotline. There were 26 families that were waiting to be served. Margarita suggested that MOLA liaise with HHS. Director Reyes said she will follow up directly with HHS. Margarita also wants to work on the voter apathy and how there are senior citizens that did not vote and have ongoing voter registration campaigns. The overall Goal is to educate our constituents.
  + Yasmin Serrato her concern about how people are scared and are wondering “what are their rights”. She suggested doing a small workshop to educate and provide a Q & A to our constituents.
  + Gunther Sanabria: expressed how most Latinos in the district don’t know who represents them. He believes the commission should promote our mission. Gunther would like to take on the task to contact local organizations, especially the ones that receive grants, and tell them that we want us to take part in their events. Gunther proposed to send the letters and do outreach. Motion was granted to have Gunther represent the commission and do outreach on behalf of the commission, the motion was seconded unanimously. Gunther also wants to reach out to smaller groups, organizations, groups to branch out to groups that MOLA and Mayor cannot reach. Johnny proposed to Gunther to keep us in the loop so that we can have a larger impact.
  + Ricardo Villalba: suggested for MOLA to request to city council to do a press release and have a formal communication on how we’re a sanctuary city and Ricardo would like to initiate the efforts. Johnny suggested to approach the council as a commission versus as a constituent. Johnny suggested to Ricardo if he will contact his councilman as a resident, to please let the commission know in advance.
  + Director Reyes emphasized the importance of having a holistic approach that follows our strategic plan. Mayor Bowser had a press conference the day after the election to reduce fear and anxiety in DC residents. Director Reyes wants to involve us more in these types of updates as a commission.
  + Dr. Angelo: would like for positions for Latinos to remain “safe” between the now and the new administration.
* Unifying efforts between MOLA and the Commission: Gunther asked why we’re not invited to mayor and official events. Johnny wants us to be more active in the communities. Angelique Sina suggested for Jackie’s assistant to add our Google Group so that we can know about these events and be supported.
* Yasmin departed at 7.32 pm.
* MOLA’s Deputy Director Julio Guity Guevara updated on the State of Latino events and a shared that a follow up event could be taking place January. MOLA is setting up the agenda. The event will focus on education and jobs and economic development and public safety. There will be a third event if March to discuss housing.
* Julio expressed that he wants the Commission to play a larger role in capturing the data and also suggest speakers. More information will be distributed in the coming days.
* Director Reyes asked if we do an event about “know your rights” in multiple languages. Ricardo offered to have more time to spend more time with MOLA and also provide additional support about the state of Latinos event.
* Next official event is the town hall on Saturday, November 19, at 4 pm. Commissioners can sign up from their phones and participate via conference calls.
* Director Jackie and Julio will provide procedures on how we, as commissioners should speak about specific issues post-election such as immigrations.
* Director Reyes would like to have two events in December: (i) know your rights and a (ii) healing event for families with Dra. Claudia Campos which would be a tristate event.
* MOLA front desk will keep a log of incoming calls about the post-election.
* The MOLA and other Agencies press release with the list of FY2017 grantees was distributed by Johnny Garcia.
* Margarita proposed to respond in 24 hours on the approval of the minutes
* Meeting was adjourned at 7.56 pm.