**Minutes of the Commission on Latino Economic Development**

**Thursday January, 2017**

**Attendees:** Co-chair Johnny S. Garcia, Co-chair Catalina Talero (through phone call), Commissioner Margarita Dilone, Commissioner Yasmin Serrato-Muñoz ( through phone call), Commissioner Gunther Sanabria (through a phone call), Commissioner Jonas Minino, Commissioner Jessie Hernandez (through phone call), Commissioner Ana Reyes, Commissioner Angelique Sina (through phone call). MOLA’s Director Jackie Reyes and MOLA’s Deputy Director Julio Guity-Guevara, Director and Deputy Director of the MOLA respectively. Public Attendee included John Clark, Ward 1 Liaison of Mayor’s Office on Community Affairs (MOCRS)**.**

**Items discussed:** Meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. Last meeting’s minutes were approved via email. Minutes will be continued to be approved via email unless there is an objection. There wasn’t any objection. During the meeting participant discuss several topics, including:

1. Report from MOLA’s Director Jackie Reyes and:
   1. Reported that Mayor Bowser released Immigrant Justice Legal Service Grant of $500,000 – funds will go to organizations and law firms that do legal work for immigrants in the D.C. The Grant will be released through competitive process that includes a Notice on Fund Availability and Request for Applications.
   2. Explained that the grant will be managed by the Pacific Islanders Commission due to MOLA being understaffed at the moment.
   3. Communicated that a mixer for MOLA’s Commission, the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and the Commission on African Affairs is being planned for the week of February 31th at the Reeves Center and that pending Forums include the Know Your Rights workshop, State of Latinos Roundtable, and the Afro Latino Panel Discussion. These events are currently being planned.
   4. Notified that MOLA is currently hiring and that interviews for vacant positions will take place within the upcoming weeks.
   5. Described that efforts will be made to provide commissioners with a calendar of events to give them a heads up and increase commissioners’ presence at community events.
   6. Informed that currently, there are 3 positions open for MOLA Commissioners. Finally, she
   7. Asked that commissioners send the resumes of any possible candidates. It is required that they are DC residents and preferable if they are east of the river.
2. Johnny & Catalina Co-Chair Reported that:
   1. Commissioners have been in frequent communication and discussing how to increase the effectiveness of the commission.
   2. Items discussed were State of Latino Round Table & Commissioners Retreat where the focus is team building.
   3. The topic of attendance, reminded group that late policy and attendance policy was “still in effect”
   4. It was needed to reiterate that the group is still looking for ways for commissioners to find value in the time it invests. Commissioner Catalina also asked that commissioners hold fellow commissioners accountable on attendance, so that it would not be “just the co-chairs” doing this.
3. Director Reyes and Deputy Director Guity -Guevara have completed the Strategic & Performance Plan. It will be shared with the commissioners next week.

1. Commissioner Jessie Hernandez mentioned the importance & availability of commissioners’ presence during council meetings & hearings.
2. Commissioner Catalina Talero mentioned that there were public events where MOLA could have been present and reinforced that commissioners could testify & advocate on MOLA's behalf. Commissioner Margarita Dilone clarified that if a commissioner testifies on behalf of the commission, the entire commission would have to approve. Commissioner Talero agreed.
3. Commissioner Margarita suggested that MOLA commissioners send the Mayor a “Thank You Letter” for standing behind the immigrant community. Catalina suggested the letter be sent to other organizations but commissioners agreed to keep it private. It is simply a “Thank You Letter” from the commission to the Mayor. Gunther Sanabria commented about potential challenges about the Sanctuary City status. All attendees agreed it was best to keep it simple. Commissioners who voted for Commissioner Margarita Dilone to draft a thank you letter to the Mayor:Co-chair Johnny S. Garcia, co-chair Catalina Talero, Margarita Dilone, Yasmin Serrato-Muñoz, Gunther Sanabria, Jonas Minino, Jessie Hernandez, Ana Reyes.
4. Commissioner Margarita Dilone suggested holding monthly events at MOLA to promote DC Healthlink and that commissioners support Director Reyes with this initiative. Commissioner Margarita would like to have a staff member from the Economic Security Alliance (ESA) assigned at each event to get people signed up for Medicaid and Alliance. Commissioner Jessie supported this suggestion and confirmed that the staff member from ESA is a free service that should be provided by the city.
5. Commissioner Margarita Dilone announced the Senior Multicultural Event that will take place on October 4, 2017 at the Convention Center. They are currently looking for sponsors & vendors.
6. Commissioner Ana Reyes read over a rough draft of the evening’s notes while Commissioners listened, gave quick feedback. No objections or concerns noted.
7. Commissioner Jessie Hernandez announced a meeting spot for the Women's March: Garfield Park on G & 3rd Street NW at 8:30 a.m.
8. Commissioner Catalina Talero announced the After March Reunion at All Souls Church where there would be singing.
9. Commissioner Yasmin Serrato-Muñoz reiterated that she would like to organize and moderate the Know Your Rights forum.
10. Next meeting is **February 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**
11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.