**Commission on Latino Community Development**

Washington, DC

Thursday, September 21, 2017

MOLA Commission Minutes

 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**Commission members present:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Johnny S. Garcia | X | Gustavo Viteri | X |
| Margarita Dilone | X | Jill Byrd | X |
| Dr. Angelo Gomez | X |  |  |
| Jessie Hernandez | X |  |  |
| Jonas Minino | X |  |  |

**MOLA Staff present:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jackie Reyes | X |
| Julio Güity | X |

**Guests:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MOTA Director Steven Walker | X |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **6:30pm** | Welcome Remarks |
| **6:45pm** | Introductions * MOTA Director Steven Walker
 |
| **6:50pm** | Approval of previous meeting minutes* Draft minutes have been posted online and will remain as a draft until the next meeting in October. Feedback on the minutes from the last meeting to be sent to Johnny Garcia’s email address.
 |
| **7:00pm** | MOLA Director Report * Director Reyes spoke about a report that is coming out soon around finances and the Latino community.
* More specifically, she mentioned that the report will serve the purpose of educating people of the importance of financial banking.
* She referred to a current program in Mexico that could be a potential model for educational and awareness purposes.
* Director Reyes briefed the commission group on her visits/meetings with several country officials like the First Minister of Honduras et al.
* MOLA Team is still evaluating and assessing efforts to work with communities impacted by the recent natural disasters (i.e. Hurricanes in PR and earthquake in Mexico).
* More immediately, MOLA joined forces with local organizations to raise funds to go directly to the Red Cross of Mexico.
* Additional ideas that are being explored are working with HMS to establish a “call center” that would allow people to connect with their loved ones overseas.
* More information on this to come to see if it’s doable.
 |
| **7:15pm** | Special Guest Speaker: Director Walker remarks to the team: * There are over 100 vacancies for boards and commissions – encouraged the team to reach out to their networks to apply and serve in some of those available capacities.
* Spoke about the process of updating current Commission By Laws. This would be a historic milestone for the commission team as well as the MOLA office/staff. (Note: more information on this will be forth coming from Commission Chair Johnny Garcia and MOLA Leadership, Director Reyes and Deputy Director Julio Güity-Guevara.)
* Shared some best practices that he has seen from other Commissions that the MOLA commission can implement for success and the development of the Latino Community.
 |
|  |
| **7:27pm** | Adjournment  |