

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS



Muriel Bowser
Mayor

Jackie Reyes
Director

Commission on Latino Community Development
Washington D.C, Thursday, January 18, 2018
6:30pm-8:00 pm

6:00 p.m The Chair of the Commission Jonny Garcia opened the meeting and provided welcome remarks to Commissioners that attended the meeting and guest participants. Participants included Johnny Garcia, Margarita Dilone, Jonas Minino, Omayra Martinez, Ricardo Villaba, Jessie Hernandez, Ana Reyes (telephone), Jasmine Serrato Munoz, Jessica Camacho (telephone) Dr. Angelo Gomez (note taker) Angelique Sina, and Jill Byrd. On behalf of the Mayors' Office on Latino Affairs (MOLA) participants included Julio Guity-Gueva, Ronal Avila, Roger Sanchez, and Dian Lammy. Special guests included Bradley Mighdoll and Dr. Ana Rodriguez, Associate Professor, University of Maryland and President of Latino Studies National Association.

The Chair of the Commission Jonny Garcia asked participants to introduce themselves and their roles. Dr. Rodriguez introduced herself and talk about her personal and professional background. She also stated the purpose of her visit was to share information about the upcoming National Latino Studies Conference, to be held in Washington, DC. She explained the purpose of the conference, the relationship with the city, and the era in which we live to give connectivity and a sense of belonging and duty to serve Latinxs. The conference is open to everyone and she has invited everyone in attendance. Similarly, Bradley Mighdoll presented on talent acquisition and retention outreach initiatives by the Department of Transportation(DOT), especially to Latinxs. He also distributed handouts to the audience. The Chair opened the floor for approval of the minutes. Since there were no meetings in November and December 2017. The previous minutes were sent by email. The minutes were approved.

Director Reyes was unavailable to attend the meeting due to other commitments. Deputy Director, Julio Guity-Guevara acknowledged the participants and thanked the group for attending and giving a good start of the New Year. He also expressed his gratitude for those staff members and special attendees at the meeting. In his report, he highlighted some of the challenges facing Latinos regarding the TPS situation. He also conveyed Mayor Muriel Bowser's support of the Latinx residents. In addition, he reminded the audience of the Town Hall event that was being held on January 20, 2018 and he shared a draft of the program that explained the purpose of the event. He briefly mentioned the ongoing planning of the retreat for MOLA's employees and the Commissioners. Finally, he also mentioned the upcoming 200th anniversary of Frederick Douglas and its importance.

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The floor was opened for questions. Jessie Hernandez asked for clarification about the Town Hall event. Deputy Director Guity-Guevara provided some details including the participating organizations and other district agencies. The Commissioners asked multiple questions about the TPS program and procedures to determine how they can offer support. Commission Chair opened the floor for questions and comments specific to Dr. Rodriguez and Mr. Mighdoll to address. Mr. Mighdoll indicated that his office has various positions all across the spectrum and the idea is to diversify the pool of employees. He said that DOT has 6 different divisions.

Dr. Rodriguez explained the type of proposals that can be presented at the conference and how commissioners and other members of the community and the government can contribute to the conference. Commissioner Margarita Dilone suggested an alternative way to present and to advocate for Latinxs and how to help the Latinx community.

The Commissioners Chair suggested that the conversation should continue offline in the essence of time in order to follow to the agenda.

Regarding other items: the bylaws are still in the review process. Commissioner Jessica Camacho's update regarding the Retreat: "We are exactly in exact spot we have been for over six month. The Retreat fully planes with two vendors on hold. I have no authority to commit MOLA to any vendor, potential cost, or reservation. To continue operating in a legal and ethical way the Commissioners Retreat is in pause until MOLA and leadership are interested in working with the commission on this initiative". The Chair proposed to have a meeting with MOLA's leaders.

Hanna Backer from the Mayor's Office on Community Affairs shared information on the Mayor's Accountability Report. A supplemental booklet was distributed to the group.

Commissioner Villalba shared information on the Embassy of Paraguay upcoming event - February 16th 2018; all DC public schools will serve Paraguayan food. He invited everyone to participate.

The Chair reminded the audience on the next meeting date- February 15th, 2018.

7:42 p.m. Adjournment