

MOLA MINUTES – Thursday, March 21, 2019

6:32: Commissioner Johnny Garcia opens the meeting. Present are Johnny Garcia, Margarita Dilone, Anthony Musa (Note taker), Eduardo Guity, Jonas Minino, Jessie Hernandez, Gustavo Viteri, Dr. Angelo Gómez. There is a quorum.

6:38: Director Reyes welcomes everyone and introduces, Camilo Manjarres who has been hired to join the staff of MOLA. He was born and raised in Colombia and has lived in the United States for the last 16 years. He previously worked for Congresswoman Lujan-Grisham and Holmes Norton. Director Reyes, indicated that the immigrant justice legal fund has been extended. The Mayor indicated that this was a result of the budget forums. The original \$900,000 fund has been brought up to 2.5 million.

6:47: Tomorrow Mayor Bowser will be questioned by the City Council for line items in her budget.

6:50: Free tax preparation services will be provided Saturday, March 30th. This is in partnership with MOLA and the DC Federal Credit Union.

6:51: There will be an event honoring the legacy of Casilda Luna at Gala Hispanic Theatre at 3333 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20010 on April 6, 2019, at 1 PM. There is an advocacy group that would like to name a street after Mrs. Luna.

6:54: A national health day will be sponsored on the same day. This is a 5K run.

6:57: Participation is already underway for the Latino Heritage Month, there are action items to include Angelique on the WhatsApp and Google Drive groups.

6:58: On the state of immigrants in the District of Columbia, a report was emailed out and shared with the Commission. This is a report that MOLA has paid for in conjunction with other agencies.

6:59: The commission begins discussing the State of Immigrants report. Director Reyes would like to know how the Commissioners should discuss the results of the report and move forward. Particularly how it should go forward. Commissioner Garcia would like to table this and discuss how we plan to move forward at our next meeting.

7:08: Commissioner Jilly Byrd arrives.

7:16: There was a discussion over the services at the Small Business Resource Center and providing customer service to individuals there was concern that customer service needs were not being met. Jill will be following up on the inquiries she will be meeting with Margarita and Director Reyes. We will also be discussing this during the next meeting.

7:20: Tabling the promotional video discussion

7:21: Commissioner Margarita Dilone would like to do more outreach to Hispanic owned small businesses to be involved in D.C. Health Link. There is also a Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will be having a business expo from 10 am to 6 pm on Friday the 29th of March at the Convention Center.

7:28: There are action items to follow up with other commissions regarding the signatures on the petition. Action item to review doodle poll regarding meetings.

7:30: Concludes. Next meeting is April 18th from