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***Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
Strategic Planning Session (SPS-II) Meeting***

*Virtual ZOOM  
Thursday, April 4, 2024  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

**Minutes**

**Commission Attendance:** **Yes**

**Diana Acosta, Member**  
**Alicia Altamirano, Member**  
**Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez, Member**  
**Ernesto Chanona, Chair**  
**Lorena De Pombo, Member**  
**Veronica Estrada, Member**  
**Dr. Felipe Amin Filomeno, Member**  
**Jorge Flores, Member**  
**Victoria Gomez Lorenzo, Member**  
**Lena Hernandez, Member**

**Stephanie Landaverde, Member**  
**Yuliana Macey, Member**  
**Gabriel Moreno, Esq., Member**  
**Dinorah Olmos, Member**  
**Dr. Maria Ramos Olazagasti, Member**  
**Nitzalis Rivera, Member**  
**Ana Salmeron, Member**  
**Katie Simbala, Member**  
**Javier Toro, Member**

**GOCI Staff:**

**Dr. Aitza Haddad Nunez, Administrative Director for the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs**  
**Cheryl Madigan, Project Coordinator-Fiscal Admin. for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI)**

**I. Call to Order and Procedural Reminders:**

Ernesto Chanona, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. He requested a moment of silence for the losses of the tragic accident of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. He provided procedural reminders.

**II. GOCI's Opening Remarks:**

Dr. Aitza Haddad Nunez, Administrative Director for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives gave welcoming remarks to the commission.

**III. Presentations:**

Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) – Leo Elias, Housing Education & Financial Empowerment Manager, DC. The LEDC provides the following services, small business development, small business lending, housing counseling, tenant services, direct community investments and financial empowerment in Montgomery County. Their main office is in DC. For tenant rights, they refer them out to lawyers. Their clients that have ITIN, are eligible for assistance loans, apply for a home purchase. If someone comes to their business and they don't serve that county, then they will refer them to other sources.

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

This will be tabled until the next meeting.

100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032



**V. Unfinished Business**

- 1) Email Addresses – Please activate your maryland.gov address. You will need to download Okta Verify to activate your account. Please email Chair Chanona, Dr. Haddad Nunez and Cheryl Madigan for verification of activation. Commissioners will need to set up their own signature line for their email. Please do not use the Governor's logo.
- 2) Everyone will need to obtain their commission binder and review it.
- 3) Committees
  - a. Housing:
    - a. Javier Toro, Chair
    - b. Gabriel Moreno, Vice Chair
    - c. Veronica Estrada
    - d. Nitza Rivera
  - b. Health:
    - a. Victoria Gomez Lozano, Chair
    - b. Maria Ramos Olazagasti, Vice Chair
    - c. Yuliana Macey
  - c. Business & Economic Development:
    - a. Lorena De Pombo, Chair
    - b. Veronica Estrada, Vice Chair
    - c. Javier Toro
    - d. Lena Hernandez
    - e. Nitza Rivera
    - f. Katie Simbala
    - g. Isis "Ana" Salmeron
  - d. Education (Workforce Development):
    - a. Dinorah Olmos, Chair
    - b. Stephanie Landaverde, Vice Chair
    - c. Nitza Rivera
    - d. Maria Ramos Olazagasti
    - e. Gaby Argoti- Fernandez
    - f. Felipe Filomeno
    - g. Alicia Altamirano
    - h. Isis "Ana" Salmeron
  - e. Community (Arts/Culture/Faith): in charge of the planning of the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
    - a. Felipe Filomeno, Chair
    - b. Lena Hernandez, Vice Chair
    - c. Stephanie Landaverde
    - d. Yuliana Macey
    - e. Lorena De Pombo
    - f. Dinorah Olmos
    - g. Gabriel Moreno
    - h. Alicia Altamirano
    - i. Katie Simbala



#### VI. Governor's Priorities

Dr. Haddad Nunez spoke about how the top four priorities were chosen. She explained about the connection between these priorities and what is happening in the legislation and how to work these priorities into the subcommittees. Chair Chanona said this will be the commission's guiding light in what research they need to focus on. For the next meeting, the commission can discuss what research tools and methods to reach out to their stakeholders. Discuss how to collect data. Dr. Haddad Nunez will create and send out something to the commission. Commissioner Ramos inquired about something that was mentioned at the onboarding training concerning the University of Maryland data collection. Dr. Haddad Nunez will reach out to Chief of Staff Gregory Yancey and Director Adriana Lee for that information.

- a. Setting Maryland's students up for success
- b. Connecting Marylanders to jobs
- c. Bolstering the wellbeing of Marylanders by ensuring world-class health systems for all
- d. Ending child poverty in the State of Maryland

#### VII. Hispanic Affairs Commission Vice Chair Election

Motion	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Vote	
Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez for Vice Chair of the Commission	Ernesto Chanona	Gabriel Moreno	11Y-0N-0A	

#### VIII. New Business

- a. Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration information provided by Dr. Haddad Nunez.
  - Not open to the public, for leaders, the limit of attendees is 200, start three months ahead of time for planning, get sponsorships, obtain a venue, entertainment. She will create a worksheet.
- b. County Government SWOT Analyses
  - Chair Chanona already mentioned this earlier in the meeting.
- c. Bylaws, Executive Order and Current Legislation
  - Dr. Haddad Nunez mentioned the GOCI's Chief of Staff Gregory Yancey is still working hard on the revisions. She had already forwarded information on the legislation to the commissioners.
  - Executive Committee:
    - a. Ernesto Chanona, Chair
    - b. Gaby Argoti-Fernandez
    - c. Javier Toro, Chair & Gabriel Moreno, Vice Chair of **Housing**
    - d. Victoria Gomez Lozano, Chair & Maria Ramos Olazagasti, Vice Chair of **Health**
    - e. Lorena De Pombo, Chair & Veronica Estrada, Vice Chair of **Business & Economic Development**
    - f. Dinorah Olmos, Chair & Stephanie Landaverde, Vice Chair of **Education (Workforce Development)**
    - g. Felipe Filomeno, Chair & Lena Hernandez of **Community (Arts/Culture/Faith)**

#### VI. Adjournment:

Chair Chanona ended the meeting at 7:35 p.m., there was no quorum to vote on this.