



***Governor's Commission on Hispanic and Latin American Community Affairs
Special Call Commission Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting***

*Monday, June 9, 2025
6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.*

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance:

Alicia Altamirano, Member
Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez, Vice Chair
Ernesto Chanona, Chair
Lorena De Pombo, Member
Lena Hernandez, Member
Stephanie Landaverde, Member
Victoria Gomez Lorenzo, Member
Yuliana Macey, Member
Gabriel Moreno, Esq., Member
Dr. Maria Ramos Olazagasti, Member
Jennifer Rios
Nitzalis Rivera, Member
Katie Simbala, Member
Javier Toro

Commissioners not in Attendance:

Diana Acosta, Member
Veronica Estrada, Member
Ana Salmeron, Member

GOCI Staff:

Gregory Yancey, Chief of Staff (GOCI)
Keith Colston, Director of Ethnic Commissions (GOCI)
Silvia Decja, Administrative Director (GOCI)
Cheryl Madigan, Executive Assistant (GOCI)

I. Call to Order:

Ernesto Chanona, Chair – Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Opening Remarks:

- ❖ Chair Ernesto Chanona introduced GOCI's new Administrative Director, Silvia Decja.
- ❖ Administrative Director Silvia Decja greeted the commission and stated that she will be having a one-on-one meeting with each commission to get to know them better.



III. Motion to approve the HAPCOA (Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association) (Faith in Blue) MOU:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of MOU for the HAPCOA (Faith in Blue)	Gabriel Moreno	Gaby Argoti-Fernandez	14Y-0N-0A

Discussion on this was led by Vice Chair Gaby Argoti-Fernandez. She stated that this organization assists Maryland residents with medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, etc.) The intent is to help by getting the commission to help them promote their services. The commission can help provide/recommend the areas or organizations that require these medical items. Chief of Staff, Greg Yancey provided additional details on HAPCOA. He stated that they are also a network of law enforcement and clergy, which they do programs throughout the country where they're bringing these two different entities together to do a lot of good in the community.

IV. Motion to approve the All Counties Round Table Discussions:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of All Counties Round Table Discussions	Jennifer Rios	Gabriel Moreno	14Y-0N-0A

Discussion included praise for all the hard work that the commissioners have put into this. Commissioner Lena Hernandez provided the update on the upcoming meeting on June 11th and asked that all commissioners keep a look out for changes that are placed on the tracker.

V. Bylaws Discussion:

Chair Ernesto Chanona stated that this discussion can be tabled at this time, and it can be addressed at our next public commission meeting. He did inquire to see if GOCI could track the legislative bills and inform the commission and if this could be placed in the bylaws. COS Yancey stated that GOCI would update the commission on legislation that comes to their attention and that the office actively seeks bills that impact the community; however, GOCI does not take full responsibility to track all legislation. This is a shared responsibility of the commission and the community. Commissioner Katie Simbala asked how and when commissioners can represent the commission at an event. Director Keith Colston asked that commissioners refer to their handbook and follow the SOP approval process. Chair Chanona asked for a digital copy of the handbook.

VI. Adjournment:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
To adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.	Jennifer Rios	Gabriel Moreno	14Y-0N-0A