

Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Commission Attendance: **Yes**

Walkiria Pool, Chair

Francisco Ayala

Lilian Castillo-Harris

Veronica Estrada

Erick a. Oribio

Liliana E. Rojas

Carlos Juan Santos

Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez

Juan Caicedo

Maria D'Arcy

Alexander G. Núñez

Miguel Romao Palmeiro

David A. Rosario

GOCI Staff:

Lorena Rivera – Admin. Director of Hispanic Affairs and Director of Immigrant Affairs, GOCI

Maureen Regan – Director of Communications, GCO

Cheryl Madigan – Project Coordinator for the Ethnic Commissions, GOCI

Guests: N/A

I. Call to Order:

Walkiria Pool, Chair – 6:05 p.m.

II. Welcome Remarks & Announcements: Lorena Rivera – Administrative Director of Hispanic Affairs and Director of Immigrant Affairs, GOCI

The Office of Immigrant Affairs, <https://goci.maryland.gov/immigrant/>, has launched their hotline in partnership with MD211. For the month of May, they did have an uptick of over 200 calls, and most of those calls were in Spanish. This is very exciting for them to be able to provide resources and information to your local communities in a 150 plus languages. Not only will they be able to call in, but they will also be able to go to the website, <https://211md.org/>, which will also translate in over 150 languages. They have decided to launch a component “MDStopHate”. People will be able to text “MDStopHate” to 898211, or they can go online to report a hate crime incident. They will fill out all the information, which will be translated in their own language. These services are currently being promoted through our website and our social media platforms. They have also created multilingual graphics and they plan to engage their nonprofit organizations and commissioners. Director Rivera would like the commissioner to go to the website and download these graphics and share them on their social media. Alexander Nunez asked about the new one stop shop for immigrants. The callers are probably referred to state resources/agencies, but would a caller be referred to nonprofit organizations that are set up to specifically serve recent immigrants? Director Rivera replied yes. If you go to the website and put in the search bar the type of resource they are looking for, it will show up those nonprofit organizations, but also through a call when they have a conversation with a call specialist.

III. FBI Fraud Presentation: SSA Keith Custer, FBI Baltimore Field Office

Supervisory Special Agent Keith Custer presented a presentation on Financial Crimes – Recent Trends, which has been shared with the commissioners.

Marvella Gray – Community Outreach Specialist – On, June 15, 2022, they will be a panel that will include SSA Keith Custer, SSA Thomas Breeden with Cyber Security, hopefully their victim specialist and public affairs specialist. They are in conjunction with Baltimore Citizen Academy Alumni Association and AARP for the Elder Fraud Educational Webinar.

VI. Commissioner Events Check-In/Updates & Q&A

Director Lorena Rivera suggested about holding our next meeting in person. She will touch base with each commissioner.

Commissioner David Rosario - Latino Festival in Baltimore at Patterson Park in July 2022. They will be trying to raise funding for the OLA organization. fest. He will forward information on things that will be happening in September and October.

Madam Chair Walkiria Pool - Immigrants need job opportunities, food, and housing. So, if anyone can supply and resource information, that would be great.

Commissioner Miguel Palmeiro has created a nonprofit to work with his law firm to help clients that can't afford it. They have five interns for the summer doing cases that deal with the economic issues.

Director Rivera introduced GCO's new Communication's Director Maureen Regan – maureen.regan@maryland.gov. Director Regan spoke about her work with the communications concerning MD211. She provided the update of Maryland.Gov website design. It is designed to be more friendly and to be optimized more for a mobile experience. Also, there are new changes to the Governor's Coordinating Offices homepage. She requested that the commissions send her pics and event information for her to post.

Madam Chair Poole and Commissioner Nunez spoke on the Chesapeake Bay Trust. They are on the board and informed that there's a lot of opportunity on the environmental health issues. She said at some point she hopes that they could present at our August meeting to share the resources on grant opportunities. Chesapeake Bay Trust is an administrator of grant dollars that are received from the State or Federal or Local governments. Typically, they range from very small grants to community associations to very large grants, to well organized environmental organizations. So, there's a wide variety of offerings that they have and some of the money is dedicated to specific purposes. The point is that they want to make sure that the awareness and the opportunity to compete for these grants is broadly known, and especially within minority populations and if there are language barriers for that population.

V. Public Announcements:

VI. Closing

Madam Chair Walkiria Pool was very pleased with this meeting with all the resources that was provide and thanked everyone for attending.

VII. Meeting Adjourned

Madam Chair Walkiria Pool adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.