



Governor's Commission on Hispanic and Latin American Community Affairs
2nd Quarterly Commission Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Monday, July 8, 2025
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Commissioners not in Attendance:

Yuliana Macey, Member

GOCI Staff:

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

Guests:

John McKenzie

I. Call to Order:

Ernesto Chanona, Chair – Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Opening Remarks:

- ❖ Chair Ernesto Chanona welcomed everyone and went over meeting procedures.
- ❖ Administrative Director Silvia Decja greeted the commission and asked for all commissioners to keep their cameras on during commission meetings, since they are public meetings.
- ❖ Chief of Staff Gregory Yancey greeted everyone and stated that he was here for support.



III. Motion to approve the minutes from the commission meetings held from 02/01/24, 04/24/24, 05/06/25, and 06/09/25.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of the minutes	Jennifer Rios	Gaby Argoti-Fernandez	13Y-0N-1A

IV. Motion to Table the Subcommittee Reports:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of tabling the subcommittee reports.	Victoria Gomez Lozano	Gaby Argoti-Fernandez	14Y-0N-0A

There were several discussions concerning the subcommittees. Commissioner Maria Ramos suggested waiting before reorganizing the subcommittees. She stated that they should take the data from the Roundtable Discussions and decide which priorities that align with the Governor's priorities they want to address. Then they will decide which subcommittees to work on. The Roundtable Discussions collect data on concerns from community leaders on Business/Economic Development, Community (Art/Culture/Faith), Education (Workforce Development), Health, and Housing. These changes will be voted on after the Roundtable Discussions and then the Bylaws will be updated. The Commission will focus on the Roundtable Discussions and the Hispanic & Latin American Community Heritage Month Celebration.

V. Working Groups:

- a) Commissioner Lena Hernandez provided the updates on the Roundtable Discussions. Frederick County will be tomorrow, July 9th at 6:30 p.m. Chair Chanona will take care of the key takeaways. Howard County will be on July 30th at 6:30 p.m. and Commissioner Alica Altamirano will be moderating it, and Commissioner Stephanie Landaverde will be the co-moderator. Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City/Baltimore County will be in August. The August slots still need moderators, assistant moderators, and timekeepers. Commissioners will need to sign up on the planning document. There will be a break in September, due to Hispanic Heritage Month and the roundtables will pick back up in October, starting with Prince George's County and Montgomery County. The Commission wants a transcript of these meetings. Vice Chair Gaby Argoti-Fernandez stated that there will be Spanish spoken at the Montgomery County roundtable. Cheryl Madigan will research Zoom to address this. Vice Chair Gaby Argoti-Fernandez wants Thank You letters to go out to the roundtable attendees.
- b) HAPCOA – MOU (Faith in Blue) – AD Silvia Decja provided details on Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association. They provide free medical equipment. There is a flyer that has been created but needs updated. COS Greg Yancey to send the flyer to the Commission. AD Decja will get the reapproval of the flyers and begin the process of it being posted to social media.

VI. Hispanic Heritage Month Discussion:

Prospective Venues:

- ❖ The Walter's Art Museum – October 9th from 5:00 – 7:30, waived \$7,000.00 fee, provide AV equipment, tables, and chairs. Only need to fundraise for food. Suggested by Chair Ernesto Chanona.
- ❖ Carroll County Community College – Commissioner Javier Toro will obtain detail information.



- ❖ Chair Chanona provided criteria for a venue – 100 – 200 guests – maybe 250, area for catering, a podium for speeches, a projector screen. The place needs to be securable, in case the Governor attends. A budget that the commission can fundraise for.
- ❖ Commissioner Maria Ramos asked about security concerning ICE. Chair Chanona said this will probably be an invite only event.
- ❖ Commissioner Katie Simbala suggested the Care First building on Boston Street. The building has security.
- ❖ Chair Chanona will share a Google Doc that he has created for this event.
- ❖ Commissioner Jennifer Rios stated that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of PG County is planning a gala. She asked if the Commission would like to partner with this event. She will send Chair Chanona details on this.
- ❖ Commissioner Veronica Estrada stated that there was not enough promotion for the sponsors last year and asked if we could start promoting earlier. Chair Chanona said that marketing strategy needs to be discussed in more detail. Once there is a secure venue and a budget that tells us what we need to fundraise for, then we can come up with that sponsorship agreement, which will include the marketing perks and then we will vote on it. VC Argoti-Fernandez and Commissioner Fernandez both stated that they want to amplify the sponsorships in a bigger way.

VII. Motion for a Special Call Meeting to Discuss Hispanic Heritage Month 7/29/25 6:00 p.m.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of Hispanic Heritage Month Special Call Meeting 07/29/25 at 6:00 p.m.	Javier Toro	Alicia Altamirano	11Y-2N-1A

VIII. Motion to approve the Bylaws:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of the Bylaws	Jennifer Rios	Gabriel Moreno	11Y-0N-3A

IX. Adjournment:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
To adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.	Victoria Gomez Lozano	Lena Hernandez	13Y-0N-1A