



**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Commission Meeting Minutes
Indiana Government Center-South
Conference RM 17
6/28/06**

Commissioners Present:

Manuel Gonzalez- Senate Lay Member, Commission Chair
Frances Vega- Senate Lay Member, Commission Vice-Chair
Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes-Designees- Indiana Economic Development Corporation,
Commission Treasurer
Senator Tom Wyss- Senate Republican
Representative John Aguilera- House Democrat
Juana Watson, Senate Laymember
Carmen Quintana- Designee, Indiana Department of Health
Ronnie Cantu- Governor Appointee
Hilda Vázquez- Designee, Indiana Department of Education
Lawrence McCormack- Proxy, Senator Vi Simpson
Minerva Fargas-Diaz- Proxy, Indiana Department of Workforce Development
Angel Velez- Proxy, Indiana Department of Correction
Adolfo Solis- House Laymember
Ronnie Cantu- Governor Appointee
Dr. Mary Ilu Altman- Senate Lay Member

Staff:

Amy Mendoza, Executive Director
Ryan Marques, Staff
Laura Barrett, Staff

Audience:

Stephen Leak- BMV
David Alvarado- Mittal Steel
Marissa Vargas- Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce
Erika Chairez- WIIH-Univision
Nicholas Flores- WIIH-Univision
Francisco Garcia Juan Gonzalez
Fabricio Perez
Diane Martinez- Historic Landmarks
Morella Dominguez- Indiana Minority Health Coalition

I. Call to Order

A. Establish Quorum

A Quorum was established that consisted of 14 Commissioners.

Commissioner Ronnie Cantu announced his formal resignation from the Commission.

II. Commission Business

A. Adoption of Minutes

Chair Gonzalez asked the commissioner to review the minutes. He made a motion to adopt the minutes. A unanimous second motion was made. The adoption of the minutes passed.

B. 2006 Statewide Conference Report

Chair Gonzalez explained that last year's conference budget included \$65,000. He stated that the Commission was trying to use the budget money; the money was not lost. He mentioned how the Commission's conference goal is to move a statewide conference forward in a way that we could include all of the issues by reaching out to the community through a Conference Task Force.

Director Mendoza spoke about the conference collaboration meeting held in June to determine the issues that should be covered at the 2006 Conference. Attorneys, community members, higher education institution leaders and others attended this Conference Task Force meeting. Director Mendoza requested a direction from the Commission on whether or not a follow-up Conference Task Force meeting would take place.

Chair Gonzalez discussed the 2006 conference issues. Fifty percent of those invited to participate in the Conference Task Force meeting were in attendance. Chair Gonzalez asked the commissioners for feedback on having the conference in 2006. He was concerned about competition with similar events taking place throughout the state. Chair Gonzalez asked the commissioners if the Commission should support other Hispanic/Latino organizations financially or bring them together under one conference. This was the issue to be discussed. Chair Gonzalez spoke about Commissioner Watson's 2005 Summit, the Domestic Violence Conference with Clarian Health and others in the planning process. Chair Gonzalez asked if the Commission should continue with the 2006 Conference or support other groups.

Commissioner Watson explained how her Summit was a success. She expressed the importance of the ICHLA having their own identity, covering

all issues. She gave an example of her Economic Development Conference and how it highlights only business issues. She said, “We should look at all issues; it’s a unique opportunity.” A large event is necessary to combine everything.

Commissioner Quintana agreed that planning a conference in the year 2007 would be most beneficial.

Commissioner Aguilera also agreed. He explained the need for a statewide conference. He said, “It was our signature event last year; we did it with a short time frame, there were things we could have done better, but we need to have something to hang our hat on.” He stressed the significance of workshops and how the Commission must have them for attendees to participate. Commissioner Aguilera said the Commission must set dates for people to become accustomed to. He felt that the Commission has learned a lot from last year’s conference. He said, “We need to justify ourselves.” The budget was already set before the Commission decided to take over the conference.

Director Mendoza asked the commissioners to focus on the staff perspective of hosting a conference. She realizes that there are many issues to be covered, as national contacts will be most beneficial. She suggested that the Commission host the statewide conference every other year and asks that the Commission establish a set date.

Commissioner Wyss said, “This Commission should not just be reactive but proactive.” The Commission is the umbrella of other summits coming together.

Commissioner Altman recommends that the Commission have a high visibility in events planned outside of the Commission. She said the Commission must establish the right contacts. Commissioner Altman mentioned how working together with Commissioner Watson’s Summit is a proactive approach.

Chair Gonzalez commented on Commissioner Altman’s recommendation to have Commissioners present at other local conferences. He explained how this would include commissioners being present at different times and requiring reports on these events. He requested feedback from those attending.

Vice-Chair Vega reminded all commissioners that they must sit on a committee. She personally has access to all education conferences across the state. Vice-Chair Vega encouraged commissioners to solicit the opportunity of submitting the Commission report and to find the necessary contacts across

the state. She commended Director Mendoza's efforts at the last conference of 2005.

Commissioner Watson said that she always recommends that organizations invite Director Mendoza to participate in their planning committees. Commissioner Watson informed the Commission that she was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Clarian Health Conference.

Chair Gonzalez discussed the Latino prison population and its growth and enforced the commission's concern about this issue. He asked commissioners to bring these issues into the conferences. He also explained how families are showing up to the prison visitor stations but cannot get through without assistance. Chair Gonzalez confirmed that there is not help that is readily available yet for these families. He asked that the Commission address these needs of the Department of Correction.

Chair Gonzalez asked for further comments on the 2006 Conference. He made a couple suggestions to be voted on by the Commission. He suggested that the Commission contact the various organizations posting conferences and ask to be officially on their program. This will allow the Commission to present a report and then give the commissioners the opportunity for feedback.

Chair Gonzalez asked for a motion to adopt. He asked if the Commission should incorporate financial sponsorship.

Vice-Chair Vega said, "If we agree to that, we need a ceiling amount."

Commissioner Fuentes mentioned how the registrations alone would help those organizations as a contribution.

Commissioner Wyss explained a potential problem. Other organizations might ask for support and question why they might be left out. He urged the Commission to be careful about contributing money to organizations. He said, "We must not over commit ourselves."

Chair Gonzalez asked if the Commission was prepared to take criticism from other organizations that the Commission can't support.

Commissioner Altman explained a proactive approach by stating: "We will support your organization in ways that are different." The Commission could send commissioners to attend the event. This is a different, but supportive approach.

Vice-Chair Vega asked if the Commission had a ceiling donation amount and if those requesting funding had a specific process/form they must fill-out. She

also stressed the importance of considering proposals and the possibility that more organizations may approach the commission for funding.

Director Mendoza explained the process of organizations requesting funding/support. The Commission receives funding proposals that are presented to the Commission for discussion. These proposals must be statewide events.

Commissioner Aguilera asked that the Commission create a Task Force to work on these recommendation issues. In doing so, he stressed his interest in serving on it.

Treasurer Fuentes explained that the Commission has several priorities of importance. She reminded the Commission for the need of fulltime staff and asked for them to consider this as a high priority. The Commission's budget has money set aside for each commissioner to attend conferences. She agreed that the Commission can make room to purchase tables but cannot move forward with donation-giving, and mentioned that the Commission is not yet at that stage.

Chair Gonzalez asked to move the details of discussion to the Task Force. He said, "We should attend these conferences and be presenters." That is an action item to vote on. Commissioners and designees must be willing to attend them.

Chair Gonzalez asked for a motion.

Director Mendoza reiterated the motion. She stated that the commissioners recommended that there be a Task Force created to cover the details of the Conference finances and a Task Force created on how organizations approach the Commission on funding.

Commissioner Altman was concerned about the upcoming conferences and the time restraints.

Vice-Chair Vega spoke about the costs of being presenters at local conferences.

Commissioner Altman informed the Commission that it usually costs nothing for presenters to attend a conference. She asked that Director Mendoza make telephone calls to determine the commissioners' ability to participate in conferences.

Commissioner Aguilera made a motion for the Task Force to set standards to make conference donations.

Vice-Chair Vega made a second motion.

Chair Gonzalez asked for all of those in favor/opposed of this motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Altman made a motion for Director Mendoza to contact the organizations holding the conferences between July and December. The Commission must participate by attending, presenting, and publicizing the Commission's report.

Commissioner Wyss made a second motion.

Chair Gonzalez asked for all those in favor to pass the motion. The motion was passed.

Vice-Chair Vega made a motion for the Commission to refrain from a conference in 2006 and host it the following year in 2007 instead on a bi-annual basis.

Commissioner Aguilera made a second motion.

Commissioner Cantu recommended that the Commission determine a sound date for the 2007 Conference.

Chair Gonzalez explained that the goal of the conference date should be set within Hispanic Heritage month.

Chair Gonzalez suggested that the Task Force work on the details of the conference. He reminded the commissioners that the Commission should be branded with this Summit. Chair Gonzalez agreed with Senator Wyss's comments about the Commission acting as an umbrella. He would like everyone to work together and plan ahead.

Vice-Chair Vega made a motion to have a bi-annual Hispanic Conference during Hispanic Heritage month, disregarding this year and starting the year 2007.

Commissioner Aguilera made a second motion.

Chair Gonzalez asked for all of those in favor. The motion passed to hold the 2007 Conference during Hispanic Heritage month (September 15-October 15).

Vice-Chair Vega asked that the Commission address this plan to the public no later than fall 2006 so other organizations are not tempted to schedule their events during this time frame.

Commissioner Wyss assured the importance of establishing a date as soon as possible. He mentioned how other organizations might establish a similar date to that of the conference regardless.

Vice-Chair Vega asked that the Conference Task Force establish an exact date for the conference.

Chair Gonzalez asked for those interested in participating on the Conference Task Force. He requested that it be established immediately.

Chair Gonzalez reminded all commissioners of their leadership responsibilities and moved onto the Committee Reports discussion.

III. Committee Reports

A. Special Tax Issues Committee

Director Mendoza explained that the Special Tax Committee met last week and discussed the many tax issues facing Latinos. ITIN numbers and the Indiana Department of Revenue issues were discussed specifically.

Treasurer Fuentes explained the Committee meeting and who attended. They spoke with Deputy Director Vandevender from the Indiana Department of Revenue about the process of obtaining an ITIN number and the issues facing Hispanics/Latinos. She mentioned how the tax issue is a very important issue facing Hispanic/Latinos nation-wide and the many misconceptions about Hispanics “not-paying” taxes.

Chair Gonzalez discussed a language barrier incident involving an immigrant who has been a citizen for many years. He explained that a state employee was assisting this man who had thick accent with his taxes. Unfortunately, there was a problem with the interpretation and the man ended up paying his taxes twice. Chair Gonzalez was concerned about individuals who are misunderstood because of their culture.

Treasurer Fuentes informed the Commission that this incident was indeed discussed at the Special Tax Committee meeting.

Chair Gonzalez personally assisted the citizen and the problem was resolved within 24 hours.

Commissioner Aguilera said, “This emphasizes the need for cultural competency.”

Commissioner Wyss expressed that the need for cultural competency is across the board; “The legal system is a prime example.”

Chair Gonzalez explained how often times, state employees lose patience. He stated how everyone should be a little patient when dealing with a cultural issue.

Commissioner Watson discussed her cultural program called, "Face of the Latino Immigrant," and the success it has had with the BMV.

Commissioner Aguilera said, "Those who face the public need this kind of training."

Commissioner Aguilera requested that the Commission discuss Section IV. C.-Commissioner Attendance Report next on the agenda.

IV. Reports

A. Commissioner Attendance Report

Director Mendoza explained the attached attendance sheet. This sheet serves as a reminder to everyone about their attendance within the past year. This sheet must be kept for Commission records.

Commissioner Aguilera mentioned that commissioners could have a proxy. He asked that commissioners have someone attend in their place if they cannot attend the meetings. Commissioner Aguilera reminded everyone that He asked that the Commission send some sort of communication asking for a letter of resignation for those commissioners unable to attend meetings. This will allow another individual the opportunity to actively serve the Commission.

Chair Gonzalez explained that Frances Vega's attendance should reflect everything from December until current, as she was not a commissioner prior to December 2005. He also expressed the need to send a letter to Commissioner Myrna Maldonado regarding her attendance.

Commissioner Aguilera reminded the commissioners about the discussion in 2005 involving participation. He explained that the minutes from 2005 reflected that after three absences a commissioner should be removed.

Commissioner Wyss explained how the appointing authority should thank the commissioner for their service and then formally remove them from the Commission.

Chair Gonzalez assured the Commission that this process will be completed.

Chair Gonzalez asked for audience introductions at this time. Those present in the audience gave brief introductions. Chair Gonzalez informed the audience that they would be given time to speak towards the end of the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Aguilera asked Task Force members to participate. He suggested that Director Mendoza request a phone conference call for the Task Force members.

Fabricio Perez from the audience volunteered to participate with the Task Force.

Chair Gonzalez encouraged audience members to participate with the Commission's committees. The different committees available will be mentioned at the end of the Commission meeting. Chair Gonzalez assured the audience members that there is a great need for good people to help with the committees.

B. National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Conference Report

Chair Gonzalez spoke about the NALEO Conference held in Dallas, Texas in June. As promised, the Commission brought back information on the national issues and what other states are doing to learn from these issues. He explained how Director Mendoza was invited to be a guest speaker and gave a presentation to approximately 125 individuals. Director Mendoza brought approximately 125 Commission reports, including BMV recommendation reports to the conference. Director Mendoza was the first presenter early in the conference. Chair Gonzalez mentioned how various state representatives and council members were giving their cards to Director Mendoza and made comments on how well written the reports were.

Chair Gonzalez informed the Commission that they approached the President and Executive Director of NALEO and asked to host the 2009 NALEO Conference in Indiana.

Director Mendoza explained that both the Commission and the State of Indiana received national recognition. All of the ICHLA reports were disbursed at the conference and there was good representation.

C. Executive Director Report

Director Mendoza explained the Executive Director's report with the Commission. She mentioned how the majority of the discussions at the NALEO Conference were focused on immigration reform and Texas' growth and initiatives through keynote speakers. She noted a few workshops of which she had attended: Voting Rights Act, Impact of Immigration, Social

Security and others listed on the provided report. Most of these issues were addressed on a national level.

Director Mendoza informed the Commission that the Voting Rights Act was pulled last week. Commissioner Judge Scott spoke about this last year and had discussed the benefits Latinos had in the first Act, as previous provisions would expire in 2007 if not renewed. i.e. language assistance, etc. This Act would make it every five years to determine which state/counties might need language assistance. Director Mendoza said that the Clerk for the City of L.A. gave a presentation on a successful program in a large city. Indiana has a need for LEP and language proficiency. She mentioned that at the NALEO conference, presenters urged everyone to call their legislators in an attempt to renew the old Act.

Director Mendoza spoke about the workshop she gave at the NALEO Conference. She informed attendees of Indiana perspectives and the recommended solutions. It was very beneficial for the Commission. The Chair of NALEO said that Indiana appears to be proactive in dealing with these issues. Many conference attendees were impressed with the Commission's reports. Director Mendoza mentioned that the 2010 Census questions were also discussed. The Census is now holding regional meetings and is looking at non-citizens being counted. They are discussing detailed ancestry data and reviewing questions currently asked in the Census. Recommendations are being made to ask individuals where they come from instead of where they are incarcerated. Discussions on Latinos and aging were also given as outlined in the Executive Director report. The main message was how Social Security works well for the Hispanic community. Director Mendoza suggested that the Commission add this information to the next conference in 2007.

Vice-Chair Vega explained the #1 reason why Hispanic/Latino children have the highest dropout rate: "When they finally learn the language, they are behind on the academics." Society must equalize our students. Indiana has developed programs that are helpful to the community. She explained that they are looking to add something to the CORE 40 requirements that will address college readiness. This is the #1 reason for dropouts. Vice-Chair Vega explained the flow chart presented at the Conference showing dropouts and those that continued education. She was surprised to see that from 100 students enrolled, only 7 actually graduated. Educators were given suggestions for training and skills. Vice-Chair Vega plans to share this information with the Education Committee.

Commissioner Wyss said, "The one problem we have in America is the number of students that need remediation when they get to college." He commented, "If it's that bad for Caucasians, what is it for those with a language barrier?"

Vice-Chair Vega mentioned how Michael Cohen from Washington D.C. said that Indiana still lacks 80% of their students in need of remediation before they go to college.

Commissioner Altman made a recommendation to share the language assistance program with elections. She asked Director Mendoza to assist with this recommendation.

Chair Gonzalez informed the Commission that he attended the NALEO workshop sessions and planned to submit all information to the Committees so that they might incorporate it into their report. He explained how Director Mendoza was recognized as one of the national leaders and assured the Commission that the Governor would hear about this success.

Director Mendoza spoke about aging and the State of Texas' Emergency Response Team. She suggested that the Commission look into this issue. Director Mendoza plans to research whether or not Indiana might have emergency disaster plan in place and will bring share the findings at the next Commission meeting.

Chair Gonzalez would like to incorporate the Conference Task Force to include a proposal to NALEO to host the National Conference. He explained how NALEO goes to that community hosting the conference and develops a Latino strategy for that state and their organizations. Chair Gonzalez mentioned two companies that are interested in assisting with the conference: the government affairs for Eli Lilly will help plan and the head of the government affairs for General Motors will also assist. Chair Gonzalez asked the commissioners to discuss this idea to be included in the Task Force.

Vice-Chair Vega explained that the NALEO Conference has not been held in the Midwest for approximately 10 years.

Commissioner Wyss suggested that the RV and housing groups are also asked to participate with the NALEO Conference, as they employ many Latinos. He also mentioned a lobbying group in Indianapolis that represents them. He offered to provide the name of this group.

Steven Leak from the BMV confirmed that the contact for this lobbying group is Dennis Herney and can be reached at 317-247-6258.

Commissioner Solis also recommended his contacts for Tyson Foods in Indiana, as they have been good sponsors for various events.

Vice-Chair Vega informed the Commission that the NALEO Conference has an educational fund set aside for the state that hosts the Conference. NALEO

will offer this for the whole state for the year that the Conference is hosted. NALEO asks that each state follows through with the fund.

Chair Gonzalez moved the discussion to Old Business

V. Old Business

A. Discussion of Past Proposals

Director Mendoza de-briefed the Commission on the two past proposals. Copies were not given since the proposals had been presented at several previous meetings.

Chair Gonzalez asked Director Mendoza to state the Commission's current action involving the proposals.

Director Mendoza explained the Enterate proposal and how the Commission decided to meet with Marco Dominguez from Univision, draft a letter and to call him to request that this proposal be a statewide effort. Marco Dominguez informed Director Mendoza that it would be a statewide effort if the Commission sponsored it, as they have not yet asked for other sponsors. Director Mendoza informed Marco Dominguez that the Commission's budget does not have enough available to allocate \$86,000 towards this proposal.

Chair Gonzalez asked that the Commission take action on this proposal.

Director Mendoza informed the Commission that a budget amount was not yet discussed.

Commissioner Wyss asked for the Commission's budget.

Treasurer Fuentes explained that the Commission's budget was \$125,000 but is actually \$118,000.

Commissioner Wyss recommended that this is the reason why the Commission does not have that kind of funding for various groups.

Chair Gonzalez explained how the Commission pays for the staff. The staffing allocation does not come from other areas. He requested Commissioner Wyss's assistance with this issue. Chair Gonzalez acknowledged that the Commission would like to create a new proposal to recommend to the Legislature.

Commissioner Wyss expressed that the commission was funded the right way; it was not established to be a funding source for many initiatives. He assured the commissioners that the budget could be reviewed.

Chair Gonzalez asked for guidance from Commissioner Wyss and his Appropriations Committee.

Director Mendoza explained how the Commission has proposals to fund outside of the Commission. The Commission has already sent a check for \$2,500 to the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research. The Commission must examine the progress/research and determine funding allowances.

Commissioner Watson reminded all commissioners that the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research will give their presentation July 20th.

Commissioner Altman recommended that the Commission have another funding option. She felt that endorsing the project would be very beneficial for Univision so they can contact other funding sources. She urged that the Commission proceed in this manner.

Vice-Chair Vega felt that this recommendation would be very beneficial. She suggested that the Commission inform Univision that the Commission will endorse with a small fee. She felt that the Commission should state that this is what the Commission can support at this time and assure Univision that the Commission is in support with their efforts.

Treasurer Fuentes asked that the Commission help this program find their resources.

Vice-Chair Vega said that it is important for the Commission to be a part of this project. She asked if the Commission should establish a ceiling amount for Univision.

Chair Gonzalez said, "This is a program that will give us a lot of visibility." This proposal is community awareness. He stressed, "At the end of the day, our community looks to Univision to help."

Commissioner Altman suggested that Univision first look for the fillers in the community.

Vice-Chair Vega said, "If we put \$5,000 to show contributions and endorsement, others will as well."

Commissioner Altman felt that the Commission could always make it contingent. She said, "If you find other sources for our budget, we will give this amount."

Commissioner Watson explained how many communities are ignorant of what's going on. She said, "It is an emergency." She also stated, "People are getting the wrong idea of what we are."

Commissioner Altman informed Commissioner Watson that she is in a very unique position, as the Governor has very wealthy people to help fund this project.

Chair Gonzalez moves the discussion to conclusion. He explained how the Commission needs to make a concise decision. He recommended that the Commission fund a part of this proposal. Chair Gonzalez would like to see this project completed. He suggested that the Commission write letters and help raise money. He said, "We are leaders and we must decide."

Chair Gonzalez asked for a motion to fund the proposal.

Commissioner Altman agreed in making a motion, however, recommended that the Commission make it with a contingency.

Chair Gonzalez said, "We aren't doing a conference, so we have it in our budget." He would like to move this issue forward.

Vice-Chair Vega made a motion to allocate \$6,000 towards the Entérate proposal.

Commissioner Altman made an amendment with a contingency.

Director Mendoza confirmed to the Commission that the Entérate proposal is a statewide effort and would air the segments on Univision. There will also be DVD's available for statewide distribution.

Commissioner Watson felt that Marco Dominguez from Univision might be looking for three main sponsors and the Commission might be excluded if funding is not given within the near future.

Commissioner Altman said, "We shouldn't be left out with the \$6,000."

Chair Gonzalez urged that the Commission should allocate a grant for \$6,000, as this will be something that shows Commission ownership.

Erika Chairez from Univision said, "If the Commission gives money, Univision is responsible for the rest." Univision has already met with other possible sponsors. They would like the community to see that the Commission is really making this effort.

Chair Gonzalez asked that the Commission attend these Entérate proposal meetings involving other sponsors. He said, "It is just a lack of information in communities that knock down bills." Chair Gonzalez urged the Commission to get this project out in the streets as soon as possible.

Commissioner Altman explained the amendment and made the following motion: “The Commission will support the Entérate program and that the President, Vice-President and Executive Director attend the meetings and that any other commissioner that wishes to do so.”

Commissioner Cantu made a second motion.

Chair Gonzalez asked for all those in favor/opposed of the motion. The motion passed.

Chair Gonzalez asked that the Commission send the check to Univisión as soon as possible.

Erika Chairez from Univisión was pleased to invite the Commission to attend their meetings involving the Entérate project.

Director Mendoza discussed the proposal from the Latino Coalition Against Domestic Violence that was distributed several times at the previous Commission meetings. She briefly explained this organization again for clarity. The Coalition is a newly formed group and is holding a Conference on September 7, 2006 specifically around domestic violence. She explained that Marlene Dodson from the Coalition had mentioned different levels of sponsorship available. This proposal was first reviewed by the Commission at the March Commission meeting.

Vice-Chair Vega asked audience member, Morella Dominguez, if she had more information on this proposal.

Morella Dominguez explained that she is a part of the Conference Planning Committee but not the board. She confirmed that this conference will be a great success and will help increase exposure.

Chair Gonzalez asked Morella Dominguez if she was aware of the sponsorship levels and if the Coalition was looking for a specific amount.

Director Mendoza informed the Commission that Carmen DeRusha is the Chair of the Coalition’s Committee. If the Coalition does not find enough sponsors, then they plan to raise the registration fee.

Morella Dominguez mentioned that the fee was close to \$59.00.

Vice-Chair Vega made a motion to give \$1,000 for registrations, which will allow commissioners to attend. She asked that this not exceed \$1,000.

Treasurer Fuentes asked if the Task Force mentioned earlier should be the entity to decide on the amount.

Vice-Chair Vega felt that the Commission should make the decision soon as possible due to time sensitivity. She recommended for the allocation not to exceed a \$1,000 ceiling, which includes commissioner registration fees.

Commissioner Altman recommended that the Commission first determine how many commissioners are planning to attend.

Vice-Chair Vega felt that commissioner attendance would be hard to determine at the moment.

Chair Gonzalez asked that a commissioner make a motion.

Vice-Chair made a motion for the Commission to donate \$1,000 towards the effort of the Latino Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Commissioner Altman made an amendment with the inclusion of commissioners to attend the event.

Lawrence McCormack made a second motion, including the amendment.

Chair Gonzalez asked for those in favor/opposed of the motion. The motion passed.

Director Mendoza asked what the remaining funds from the \$1,000 donation should go towards.

Chair Gonzalez confirmed that the remaining funds should go towards the Coalition's sponsorships.

Audience member, Juan Gonzalez, asked to speak about an important subject affecting the Hispanic/Latino communities. He expressed his personal concerns for the current immigration issues and how they will affect the Hispanic/Latino communities.

Chair Gonzalez suggested that Juan Gonzalez join a Committee to contribute his efforts.

Commissioner Watson informed Juan Gonzalez that the Commission does not have the ability to lobby.

Chair Gonzalez confirmed, "As a Commission we are within our legislative agenda."

An audience member informed the Commission that people like Juan Gonzalez do not understand the best way to help the community. He asked for the appropriate way for community activists to bring their concerns to the Commission.

Chair Gonzalez explained to the audience that the Commission has been working on the current issues for many years. The Commission has active committees that have done a lot of work. He said, "We have been ringing the alarm..." "We were fighting anti-Latino bills and confronting legislative individuals." Chair Gonzalez reiterated that the Commission cannot always provide the answer to every concern.

An audience member mentioned how the community serves as the backline and they might not know where to go for help.

Commissioner Watson explained to Juan Gonzalez that the Commission cannot pressure/lobby. The Commission communicates, but cannot lobby.

Director Mendoza mentioned that the Commission has empowered the Hispanic/Latino community by offering the Commission's report in Spanish. Community activists can help distribute this report to their communities. She said, "We rely heavily on people like you in the community." Director Mendoza also advised Juan Gonzalez to speak to the new Latino/Hispanic lobbying group for assistance. She advises that those key community leaders receive the right information and pass it along.

Vice-Chair Vega urged that the people must get the right information.

Chair Gonzalez informed the audience that the Commission has a special report on the Hispanic/Latino issues. Most of these issues are federal issues. Chair Gonzalez said, "The issue is, there must be immigration reform, period."

Chair Gonzalez spoke about July 19 as being the day declared for Immigrant Advocacy in Washington D.C. The people want to take immigration reform from the House/Senate and make the agenda. The House has stalled, while the Senate has decided. This is not a march. The goal is to take the immigration reform movement. Chair Gonzalez said the Executive Committee just found out about the July 19th Immigrant Advocacy day while attending the NALEO Conference. No one was aware of this in Indiana. Immigration will be taken over by the people.

Vice-Chair Vega said, "All Latino elected officials are taking bus loads of people to the hill on July 19th to talk about Immigration Reform and to demand some sort of resolution." She stressed that this is not a march.

Director Mendoza confirmed that the Immigrant Advocacy day is news and offered to send anyone interested the appropriate information.

Director Mendoza announced the following committees to those audience members interested in participating: Education Committee, Civil Rights/Housing Committee, Business/Economic Development Committee, Special Tax Committee, Health Committee, Media Committee and the Research Committee

VI. Adjournment

Chair Gonzalez made a motion to adjourn the Commission meeting.

Vice-Chair Vega made a second motion.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15pm.