

**Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (ICHLA)
Commission Meeting Minutes
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A
1/31/06**

Attendance:

Rep. John Aguilera-House Democrat
Margie Chavez-Commission- Designee, Family and Social Services Administration
Dr. Mary Ilu Altman-Senate Lay member
Reverend Samuel Ruiz-House Lay member
Rita Cano-House Lay member
Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes-Designee, Indiana Economic Development Corporation
Mistie Morales-Designee, Dept. of Correction
Lawrence McCormack-Proxy, Senator Vi Simpson
Hilda Vázquez-Designee, Department of Education
Manuel Gonzalez-Senate Lay member
Juana Watson-Senate Lay member
Frances Vega- Senate Lay member
Carmen Quintana-Designee, Department of Health
Myrna Maldonado- House Lay member
Adolfo Solis- House Lay member

Staff:

Amy Mendoza, Executive Director
Ryan Marques
Laura Barrett

Audience:

Malika Mays, James Garrett Jr., Tania Lopez, Ellen Krulewitch, Paul Bateman, Mary Jane Gonzalez, Azalea DeFord, Karina Macelo, Pedro Roman, Juan Gonzalez, Jackie Cissell, Francisco Garcia

I. Call to Order & Establish Quorum

Vice Chair Margie Chavez brought the Commission meeting to order. A quorum was not established at this time. She informed those present that the Commission had received enough meeting confirmations for a quorum.

II. Guest Speaker Introductions & Presentations

Vice Chair Margie Chavez introduced Mara Casanova & Marco Dominguez as the station manager and co-anchor for WIIH Univisión Indiana

**A. Mara Casanova & Marco Dominguez, WIIH Univisión Indiana
Entérate Educational Program**

Mara Casanova explained that Hispanic/Latino communities need a communication source/guidance for their day-to-day lifestyles. She also briefly discussed the importance of the provided booklet called Entérate Educational Program.

Marco Dominguez described Univisión as an educational and informative source that reaches out to Indiana communities.

Mara Casanova explained the power of WIIH Univisión. WIIH Univisión, channel 17, is the local source of news and information for the Hispanic community in the State of Indiana. The Spanish news is aired everyday at 6pm and 11pm and is anchored by Marco Dominguez. Mara Casanova recognized WIIH Univisión as becoming a routine part of family dinner habits. WIIH can also be viewed on Comcast, channel 18, and Bright House, channel 44. WIIH Univisión has proposed a financial underwriting request in order to develop and implement news segments on topics such as education, immigration, laws and tourism.

Marco Dominguez explained the two-minute segments. These segments will be broadcasted each week during WIIH's newscast at 6pm. The total cost of \$86,625.00 will include the following: assistant for pre-production, production and post production which will oversee all creative aspects of the segments; as well as talent fees, air time and the creation of 2,000 sets of DVD's.

Mara Casanova explained that each DVD will contain the 52 segments and may be distributed within agencies/organizations that are involved within the Hispanic/Latino communities. Mara Casanova examined the benefits of community outreach to Hispanic "Hoosiers." WIIH is looking for someone who can both anchor these special segments and represent a face for the state.

Mara Casanova gave the Commission statistical information on Hispanics/Latinos residing in Indiana. The US Census Report from 1990-2000 reflected Indiana's Hispanic/Latino population as having doubled in size. There are more than 100,000 Hispanics/Latinos in the metro area alone. The population of Hispanic/Latino children between the ages of 5 and 18 has increased by almost 18%. Approximately 52% of those patients in Wishard Hospital are of Hispanic/Latino decent.

Commissioner Altman commended Mara Casanova and Marco Dominguez on their presentations of their proposal. She asked that they re-work the proposal page to include industries and economic development housing. The idea will have to be ready made for the other organizations.

Marco Dominguez explained to the Commission that the proposal was simply an outline. He would like the Commission to inform them on what the community needs.

Chair Aguilera asked for other questions.

Commissioner Watson agreed that WIIH Univisión has really helped the Hispanic/Latino communities. She felt that their proposal is very important.

Marco Dominguez said, "We are here to help the community as much as we can." He would like to bring back the information that the Commission presents to the Hispanic/Latino communities. Marco Dominguez assured the Commission that WIIH Univisión plans to be impartial as much as they can, as they are very proud to be present at this Commission meeting. Marco Dominguez is aware of the high costs involved with this proposal. He requested the Commission's assistance in funding such a production. WIIH Univisión is in need of the Commission's support for the future of the Hispanic/Latino community and that of the state.

Chair asked for other comments. He thanked guest speakers Mara Casanova and Marco Dominguez from WIIH Univisión for both their presentation and attendance.

Chair Aguilera presented *Commissioner Juana Watson* as the next speaker.

**B. Juana Watson, Office of Governor Daniels
2006 Agenda**

Juana Watson explained her position as the Governor's Senior Advisor for Latino Affairs. She was appointed by Governor, Mitch Daniels in May 2005. Juana Watson designed her job description. She explained her strategic plan. Juana Watson represents and advises the Governor with Latino issues. She encourages and helps facilitate events for Latino communities in the State of Indiana. Juana Watson assists in providing cultural awareness programs to government agencies, as she is very active in promoting/developing Latino research centers. Juana Watson also explained to the Commission that she helps promote harmony between the cultures across the State of Indiana. Her goal for next year includes working closer with the police and law enforcement agencies. She discussed the "Badges without Borders" initiative. This initiative will educate police and various law enforcement agencies on the Latino culture. Juana Watson mentioned that she plans to create more Latino research centers and assist the current ones with any problems. She also plans to develop a Latino Association at a state level. Juana Watson is working with the Sagamore Institute in developing a statewide economic development council. There are many implementations of cultural awareness centers. She began creating awareness with the BMV and plans to move throughout all of the state agencies. Juana Watson plans to meet with mayors and community leaders throughout the State of Indiana. She recognizes the need for better cultural understanding/educating within specific Indiana communities. Juana Watson asked for any questions.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked how Juana Watson plans to blend her activities with the Commission. He gave reference to the events that took place in the fall of 2005. He explained that both the Commission's conference and Juana Watson's Access Indiana event took place within a few days of each other. He was disappointed that both events did not coincide with one another/take place at the same time. Commissioner Gonzalez recommended that both events be partnered in the future. He also asked Juana Watson how she plans to leverage all of the Commission's assets. Commissioner Gonzalez explained how Juana Watson has the activity and resources, whereas, the Commission has the activity and little resources. He asked Juana Watson how she plans to blend the two together.

Juana Watson discussed the Access Indiana event and its success. She agreed to work together with the Commission on future events. Access Indiana provides the community with services from across the state. She would like this information to advance. She acknowledged that she is working together with Director Amy Mendoza on certain events/initiatives.

Chair Aguilera asked if there were additional questions for speaker Juana Watson. Chair Aguilera thanked Juana Watson for her presentation. He requested a change in the Commission agenda. He moved the agenda to new business, 2006 officer elections.

III. (New Business) Election of 2006 Commission Officers

Chair Aguilera opened the floor for officer elections.

Director Mendoza informed the Commission that elections will begin with the officer position for Commission Chair. She listed the following commissioner nominees for the position of Chairman: Rep. John Aguilera, Mary Ilu Altman, Ronnie Cantu, Margie Chavez, Manuel Gonzalez and Gregory Kellam Scott

Director Mendoza opened the floor for open nominations. No additional nominations for position of Commission Chairman were made.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Rep. John Aguilera for the position of Chair to raise their right hand. Rep. John Aguilera received 3 votes for the position of Commission Chair.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Dr. Mary Ilu Altman for the position of Chair to raise their right hand. Dr. Mary Ilu Altman received 0 votes for the position of Commission Chair.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Ronnie Cantu for the position of Chair to raise their right hand. Ronnie Cantu received 0 votes for the position of Commission Chair.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Margie Chavez for the position of Chair to raise their right hand. Margie Chavez received 7 votes for the position of Commission Chair.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Manuel Gonzalez for the position of Chair to raise their right hand. Manuel Gonzalez received 3 votes for the position of Commission Chair.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Gregory Kellam Scott for the position of Chair to raise their right hand. Gregory Kellam Scott received 0 votes for the position of Commission Chair.

Director Mendoza announced to the Commission that Margie Chavez, having received 7 commissioner votes, will become the new Commission Chairperson.

Director Mendoza informed the Commission that elections will proceed with the officer position for Vice-Chairman of the Commission. She listed the following commissioner nominees for the position of Vice-Chairman: Dr. Mary Ilu Altman, Ronnie Cantu, Manuel Gonzalez, Rev. Samuel Ruiz. Director Mendoza informed the commissioners that the new Commission Chair, Margie Chavez, was also nominated for Vice-Chair. Director Mendoza omitted the new Commission Chairman, Margie Chavez from the Vice-Chairman, nominee ballot.

Director Mendoza opened the floor for additional nominations for the position of Commission Vice-Chairman. Director Mendoza closed the nominations, as there were no additional nominations made.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Dr. Mary Ilu Altman for the position of Vice-Chair to raise their right hand. Dr. Mary Ilu Altman received 0 votes for the position of Vice-Chair.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Ronnie Cantu for the position of Vice-Chair to raise their right hand. Ronnie Cantu received 0 votes for the position of Vice-Chair.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Manuel Gonzalez for the position of Vice-Chair to raise their right hand. Manuel Gonzalez received 15 votes for the position of Vice-Chair.

Director Mendoza asked those commissioners in favor of Rev. Samuel Ruiz for the position of Vice-Chair to raise their right hand. Rev. Samuel Ruiz received 0 votes for the position of Vice-Chair.

Director Mendoza closed all elections for the position of Vice-Chairman.
Director Mendoza announced to the Commission that Manuel Gonzalez, having received 15 commissioner votes, will become the new Commission Vice-Chairman.

Director Mendoza informed the commissioners that elections will proceed with the officer position of Commission Secretary. Myrna Maldonado was the only nominee for the position of Commission Secretary.

Director Mendoza asked for open nominations for the position of Commission Secretary. There were no additional nominees for the position of Commission Secretary.

Director Mendoza asked all those commissioners in favor for Myrna Maldonado as Commission Secretary to raise their right hand. Myrna Maldonado received 15 votes for Commission Secretary.

Director Mendoza closed the floor for nominations. She announced to the Commission that Myrna Maldonado, having received 15 commissioner votes, will become the new Commission Secretary.

Director Mendoza informed the commissioners that elections will proceed with the officer position of Commission Treasurer. The following commissioners were nominated for the position of Commission Treasurer: Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes and Rita Cano.

Director Mendoza asked for open nominations for the position of Commission Treasurer. There were no additional nominees for the position of Commission Treasurer.

Director Mendoza asked all those commissioners in favor for Rita Cano as Commission Treasurer to raise their right hand. Rita Cano received 2 votes for the position of Commission Treasurer.

Director Mendoza asked all those commissioners in favor for Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes as Commission Treasurer to raise their right hand. Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes received 12 votes for the position of Commission Treasurer.

Director Mendoza closed the floor for nominations. She announced to the Commission that Claudia Ontiveros-Fuentes, having received 13 commissioner votes, will become the new Commission Treasurer.

Director Mendoza informed the Commission that all newly elected officers will assume their responsibilities at the next Commission meeting.

Chair Aguilera requested to change the agenda to current legislative bills that will affect the Hispanic/Latino community. He informed the Commission that he must leave the Commission meeting shortly in order to proceed with legislative session.

Director Mendoza thanked and recognized Chair Aguilera for his leadership with the Commission for so many years. She also welcomed all of the newly elected officers.

IV. Commission Business

Chair Aguilera moved the discussion to Commission Business.

A. 2006 Legislative Review

Chair Aguilera began discussing the most controversial legislative bills in session that are affecting the Hispanic/Latino communities. He directed the commissioners' attention to the chart inside the folder that contained bill descriptions. Chair Aguilera commented on a few bills in particular. He stressed that the most important stage of a bill is in the second reading.

Chair Aguilera discussed bill 1383. He was most concerned about this bill, because it has a very negative impact on society. Bill 1383 is cutting off public services, as it was drafted. He also explained that this bill is cutting off educational services and access to public universities. Chair Aguilera recognized four republicans as being sponsors of bill 1383. He stated that changing the "language" of this bill will allow him to try to make a bad bill better. He felt that the bill is mistargeted. Chair Aguilera acknowledged how those in favor of this bill do not understand that industry is being left out. His intentions are to change the language of this amendment. His amendment will require each employer to provide to the Department of Workforce Development documentation on the legal status of each employee. Chair Aguilera explained that this amendment will fine each employer of their most previous month's payroll for any falsification of records. He would like to kill the bill. Chair Aguilera said, "It's mean-spirited." He is most concerned about this bill in particular. He explained his opportunity he had with Representative Murphy to keep the bill out of committee. The bill failed with a tie of 6-6. Chair Aguilera emphasized that nothing is impossible.

Commissioner Gonzalez spoke about bill 1383 and his conversation with (Commissioner) Judge Gregory Scott. Commissioner Gonzalez presented his concerns about this bill at the Civil Rights Commission. He explained that if this particular bill would happen to the African American community, it would have never appeared on paper.

Commissioner Gonzalez explained how employer requirements clearly state that employers cannot ask certain questions without becoming subject to discrimination. He asked how anyone could possibly comply with this situation. Commissioner Gonzalez argued how Judge Scott cannot write a position on this bill and send it to the governor. He ensured everyone that bill 1383 will make life very hard for everyone. Commissioner Gonzalez acknowledged his testimony in front of the Home Land Security Committee regarding bill 1383. He spoke about the reactions of those present at the Committee hearing. Manuel Gonzalez discussed how he cannot approach a Middle Eastern race-

related issue, because it would be considered racial profiling. He agreed that bill 1383 is racial profiling at its worst. Commissioner Gonzalez also testified at the Committee hearing for the driver's certificate bill. He spoke about the disturbing facial expressions of those against the bill. He felt that this particular Committee hearing appeared racially motivated. The people who are being punished unjustly are in need of the Commission's voice.

Commissioner Altman asked whether or not the bill could be amended, if not killed.

Chair Aguilera explained to the Commission that an amendment will happen today in the second reading, as it is a vote. Chair Aguilera warned the commissioners that his comments may offend some. He explained that he wanted to depoliticize the Commission; yet, it has been politicized within the last year. He said, "If we can't have our own executive director speak on our behalf, then we have been neutered." Chair Aguilera said, "This Commission was set up to have its own voice." He acknowledged his willingness to participate in the Commission, but refuses to take part in the politicized aspect.

Director Mendoza informed Chair Aguilera that she cannot testify on behalf of the Commission because she had not received any direction from the Commission.

Commissioner Watson explained to Chair Aguilera that Director Mendoza cannot speak on behalf of the Commission without their consent.

Chair Aguilera asked if the Commission ever took a position on the driver's certificate.

Director Mendoza clarified that the Commission voted to send the Governor and legislators a report regarding the driver's license issue, but had not taken a position on specific legislation. She also clarified that the language in the driver's certificate bills differed from the recommendations language made in the report. Commissioner Watson explained to Chair Aguilera that Amy Mendoza has the power of the commissioners.

Chair Aguilera accepted what Commissioner Watson felt, but did not agree with what he has seen.

Commissioner Watson explained to Chair Aguilera that Amy Mendoza cannot speak on her behalf.

Director Mendoza said, "A public meeting must take place in order for the commissioners to vote." She confirmed that she is not authorized to take a position without consent. Director Mendoza suggested a vote be taken immediately. This vote will reflect the Commission's positions on various issues. She requested everyone's direction. Director Mendoza acknowledged that taking a position on a specific issue without the consent of the Commission would have been in violation of her duties as the executive director.

Commissioner Gonzalez said, "The real issue is there are people in this community with power who are writing bills that affect us in a grotesque way." He gave an example of how bill 1383 might discriminate against any family. Commissioner Gonzalez stated that if he and his family wanted to qualify for a lunch program, they might be set aside and questioned simply because of their Hispanic/Latino descent. Their kids could be denied

lunch. He said, "Our legislators are considering this law." Commissioner Gonzalez stressed the importance of stopping bill 1383 and representing the community's voice.

Commissioner Watson emphasized the importance of giving Director Mendoza the power of representing the Commission's voice.

Chair Aguilera asked why the driver's license report was not completed by mid January. He also questioned the reason for the meeting changes. Chair Aguilera said, "Here we are, about to change things; bills are on the floor with no participation; and now we are holding a meeting on January 31st."

Director Mendoza requested the Commission's position on the bills. She explained to Chair Aguilera that the Commission must hold a public meeting in order to vote on a particular issue. A quorum must be established at this meeting in order for the Commission to take a position on an issue. Director Mendoza asked the Commission's permission to draft a letter for the current legislative session or for the next legislative session.

Chair Aguilera informed the Commission that he must leave the Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Chavez explained that if bill 1383 comes out of the House of Representatives, it still is not a law. She encouraged everyone to petition the Senate. Commissioner Chavez made constituents aware of their representative's contact information. These representatives have received hundreds of calls. Commissioner Chavez explained to Chair Aguilera that a December Commission meeting was not held due to the December Retreat. She agreed that the Commission should have discussed a December meeting regardless. Commissioner Chavez acknowledged Director Mendoza's orders to follow statute, as she can not be blamed for the Commission's decisions. Commissioner Chavez said, "From today forward, we will take a position on each bill." "Everyone will be a voice." She also reminded every commissioner that they were chosen to represent a region or an agency; and that is their job. Commissioner Chavez also reminded Chair Aguilera of his absence at the December Retreat.

Chair Aguilera discussed a bill he proposed that would depoliticize the Commission further. This bill has not received a hearing. Chair Aguilera explained that when he started, he took the Commission from his own governor so it would not be politicized. He said, "This Commission is slanted in one direction." "It's unfortunate."

Commissioner Chavez informed the Commission that necessary changes should have been made to the statute pertaining to lobbying capabilities.

Chair Aguilera originally requested that the leadership of both parties be a requirement of the Commission.

Commissioner Chavez asked Chair Aguilera why his bill proposal involving the Commission would eliminate the economic development position.

Chair Aguilera explained to the Commission that the drafters of the Commission created the economic development position.

Commissioner Ruiz expressed his feelings on how the Commission is portrayed within the local communities.

Chair Aguilera said that the Committee hearing for bill 1383 had three immigration groups present; they were not listed on the agenda. He felt that this was a set up.

Commissioner Ruiz asked what the Commission could do.

Chair Aguilera asked the commissioners to focus their efforts on the bills that are still "alive."

Audience member, Ellen Krulewitch, expressed her concerns involving high school drop-out rates. She said, "If you pursue the idea that a sixteen-year old will drop out of school, then what's the point of graduation?" "There is none." "These students do not know what their future can hold in the industry." She wanted the Commission to pay close attention to this extremely important piece.

Chair Aguilera dismissed himself from the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Altman made a proposal to discuss the bill issues. She recognized Director Mendoza's attentive email correspondence with Commission updates. Commissioner Altman spoke about bill 1383. She disagreed with arguing over this bill. Commissioner Altman explained how dealing with another population in such a way is not the proper procedure.

Director Mendoza reminded everyone that careful monitoring of these bills will reflect day to day changes.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked the Commission to go beyond the talking table. He requested for action to be taken on these bills and asked to call them to a vote. Commissioner Gonzalez urged the Commission to give Director Mendoza the authority.

Commissioner Chavez encouraged the commissioners to testify at legislative hearings. She asked for the support from all commissioners. Commissioner Chavez reminded everyone to speak with their legislators and write letters of concern. The population must speak in volumes. Commissioner Chavez requested the stance of the Commission on each bill. She informed the commissioners to review each bill carefully.

Commissioner Vega emphasized the importance of giving Director Mendoza the authority to speak on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Vega requested that this power of authority be documented in writing, with an understanding that each commissioner will be informed of the information/status via email.

Commissioner Chavez asked for a motion on the floor for Director Mendoza to act on behalf of the Commission voice. She asked the commissioners to remain current with their emails, as session is moving very quickly.

Commissioner Altman requested an amendment to be made. She asked Director Mendoza to represent what the commissioners say. Commissioner Altman said, "Director Mendoza must know and report exactly that."

Director Mendoza reminded Commissioners that she will need to check with legal counsel to see if there is any conflict in her capacity to testify on legislation.

Myrna Maldonado seconded the amended motion for Director Mendoza to represent the Commission's exact voice on all issues.

Commissioner Chavez asked for further comment on the discussion.

Audience member, Juan Gonzalez, stressed how the Commission must continue to work together. He recognized and thanked the commissioners for their dedication to the Commission.

Commissioner Chavez thanked Juan Gonzalez and re-stated the motion for Director Mendoza to fully understand her given authority to represent only the Commission's voice. Commissioner Chavez asked for a vote. Eleven hands were in favor of this motion and the motion was passed. Director Mendoza was given the authority to represent the Commission's voice.

Commissioner Chavez asked the Commission how they preferred to vote on the legislative bills of Commission concern. She suggested that each commissioner send their position on the bills via email. Commissioner Chavez also asked that Director Mendoza continue to email the commissioners any pending changes on legislative bills of Commission concern.

Director Mendoza directed the Commission's attention to the bill chart hand-out. She gave reference to House bill 1292 and its bi-partisan membership. Director Mendoza addressed how bill 1292 would remove the Indiana Economic Development designee from participation with the Commission.

Commissioner Chavez informed the Commission that bill 1292 did not receive a hearing; it is "dead." Both bill 1383 and bill 1310 are high priorities of concern with the Commission. Commissioner Chavez asked that Director Mendoza speak to the following senators who sit on the Commission: Senator Wyss or Senator Simpson. Commissioner Chavez would also like to see a revival of the driver's certificate. She asked Proxy McCormack to give a better direction with these bills.

Commissioner Chavez explained the status of "live" bills. Most live bills are in the second reading. She hopes Rep. Aguilera will either "amend" the bills of Commission concern or "kill" them completely. Commissioner Chavez said that bill 1383 is a civil rights issue. She also encouraged everyone present to determine which legislator lives in their district. They must remind the ethnic groups who they are voting for.

Commissioner Solis questioned the ability to stop bill 1383. He asked what the Commission and the communities could do to avoid this bill.

Proxy McCormack informed the commissioners the difficulty of voicing a public opinion after a bill has passed public debate. He encouraged everyone to lobby their representative, as they have to listen to your voice. Proxy McCormack also recommended contacting Speaker of the House, Rep. Brian Bosma, and informing him their concerns. Proxy McCormack said that the legislature is currently looking at numbers for either "yea" or "nay."

Commissioner Watson asked whether or not Rep. Bill Davis from Gas City was the author of bill 1383.

Vive Chair Chavez informed Commissioner Watson that Rep. Eric Turner was the author of bill 1383. She also mentioned that there were other republican co-authors of bill 1383. Commissioner Chavez reminded constituents to leave their names and address when calling to oppose a bill.

Commissioner Watson explained the importance of leaving one's name, area of residence and contact information so she can follow up accordingly.

Commissioner Chavez reminded those present to view the Commission's website and determine which legislator represents their area.

Commissioner Vega asked Director Mendoza to give an update on the bills of concern.

Director Mendoza gave the following updates: Bill 1383 is still alive, the two driver's certificates are dead and the Commission bill is also dead. Director Mendoza explained that the senate could combine the bills together. She plans to email an update to all of the commissioners.

Commissioner Chavez gave reference to Senator Kinley's bill 98. She explained how this bill would allow a Mexican driver's license to be a part of a primary documentation. The driver's certificate must be amended to include the proposal of bill 98.

Proxy McCormack explained that any bill on the first reading is probably dead.

Director Mendoza discussed bill 1348. She asked the commissioners to pay close attention to all of the highlighted bills.

Proxy McCormack informed Director Mendoza that bill 1348 did not receive a hearing.

Vice Chair Chavez said that Senator Cook is willing to work with Representative Aguilera in finding those businesses that hire undocumented workers.

Director Mendoza agreed to remove all of the dead bills from the list and plans to send an updated list to all of the commissioners via email.

Vice Chair Chavez acknowledged the establishment of a Commission quorum at this time. She moved to continue Commission business.

B. Adoption of Minutes

Commissioner Chavez asked for a motion to accept the previous Commission meeting minutes.

Proxy McCormack made a motion to accept the previous Commission meeting minutes

Commissioner Ruiz made a second motion to accept the previous Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Chavez asked all those in favor to pass the previous Commission meeting minutes to say “Aye.” The previous Commission meeting minutes passed.

C. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Chavez moved business to the Commission’s treasurer’s report.

Director Mendoza said that she requested a form report from DWD.

Commissioner Fuentes informed the Commission that there is a little over \$3,000.00 to the Commission for conference expenses. She promised a more complete report at a later date.

Commissioner Chavez asked the commissioners to look at the Driver’s License Subcommittee report. She moved the discussion to the Driver’s License/Immigration Subcommittee report.

D. Driver’s License/Immigration Subcommittee Report -Review & Vote

Director Mendoza briefly discussed the structure and data within the driver’s license report. She acknowledged the grammatical errors on the provided draft that was sent to each commissioner via email. Director Mendoza is asking for commissioner approval of the report. She thanked Commissioner Morales (Driver’s License/Immigration Subcommittee Chair), Ryan Marques and Laura Barrett for their assistance with the report. Director Mendoza explained how this report contains an abundance of hard facts regarding economic contributions of the Hispanic/Latino community within the state. The Driver’s License Subcommittee contacted both federal and state legislative updates. This subcommittee held 3 meetings and has collected testimony through interviews. There were several contacts made, although some individuals did not respond. Director Mendoza explained the different sections of the report. She brought attention to the Tennessee Diver’s Certificate. She also acknowledged the Driver’s Privilege Card from Utah. The subcommittee examined both of the states and the pitfalls of each. The driver’s license report also includes an insert that reflects state-wide savings with the implementation of a driving document. This estimate was determined by the Sagamore Center for Policy Research in Indiana. The subcommittee has partnered with this research center. Director Mendoza requested that state agencies work together.

Commissioner Morales informed the Commission that the Driver’s License and Immigration Subcommittee spoke with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). The subcommittee asked the BMV to call this driving proposal a driver’s document.

Director Mendoza expressed the need for a detailed follow up with a pilot program and necessary language. The Real ID Act allows states the ability to implement a driving “document.” The requirement of an alternative “document” must read: “For driving purposes only, not for identification.” This is the only requirement.

Commissioner Chavez asked the Commission for their comments or questions on the driver’s license report. She requested a motion to pass the driver’s license report.

Commissioner Vega made a motion to pass the driver’s license report.

Commissioner Quintana made a second motion to pass the driver’s license report.

Commissioner Chavez asked for a vote to move forward with the report. All commissioners said "I." She informed the Commission that the meeting will now move forward and the completed report will be distributed to the public.

E. Annual Report Discussion

Commissioner Chavez opened the floor to the annual report discussion.

Director Mendoza asked all commissioners to please submit their annual report data as soon as possible, as she has received very little feedback. The data must reflect issues affecting any community. The annual report is not finished. She requested an early Commission meeting in February. Director Mendoza plans for the annual report to be completed by the February 16, 2006 Commission meeting. She directed the attention to the provided, rough draft outline of the annual report. The annual report will also include all of the information from the public forums and recommendations from each subcommittee. Each subcommittee held a meeting to make specific recommendations. Director Mendoza requested statistical information from state agencies and communities to include in the annual report. This report will be the first Commission annual report. This report will include the Commission's findings, activities and public testimony. Everything in the report will be categorized and will be emailed / presented at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Chavez confirmed the next Commission meeting date as February 16, 2006. She asked for an appropriate timeframe for this meeting. Commissioner Solis requested an afternoon meeting. Commissioner Altman suggested a compromise with a mid-morning, 11:30am meeting instead.

Commissioner Chavez gave the next item on the agenda as the strategic plan.

E. Strategic Plan Discussion

Commissioner Chavez mentioned that the Commission's strategic plan from the December Retreat is almost completed. This plan is modeled after the comments and goals from the retreat. Those present at the retreat addressed demographics of the Hispanic/Latino community, counties with the most growth, and gave an objective of timeframe to address these issues.

Director Mendoza explained that all of the subcommittees are addressed in the strategic plan. She plans to contact the subcommittee chairs and set up a meeting time to complete the plans. The Business/Economic Development Subcommittee and the Civil Rights and Housing Subcommittee plans are not quite complete. Director Mendoza plans to include a section in the annual report for her recommendations. She will recommend subcommittees to address issues involving senior citizens, migrant issues, race-relations and gang issues.

Commissioner Chavez asked for further discussion with the strategic plan. There were no other comments. She moved the meeting agenda to old business.

V. Old Business

Commissioner Chavez added the discussion of Hispanic/Latino Community Day to the agenda. She directed the attention to the proposal for this event. Commissioner Chavez stated that Proxy Lawrence McCormack, Director Amy Mendoza and herself, have been

working on this event. The Hispanic/Latino Community Day will take place on February 9, 2006. She asked for more participation from the Commission. There will be approximately 100 pages and 50-100 adults that will need assistance moving around the State House. Commissioner Chavez gave reference to the prepared budget for the lunch portion of the event. She also asked for more participation outside of central Indiana. She said that there are many spots open for adults. Rep. John Aguilera will speak to the full body of students and adults. Commissioner Juana Watson and Commissioner Frances Vega will also speak to those attending this event. Adults will take a tour of the State House and the wall of fame, while the students attend a mock legislative session. Rep. John Aguilera plans to assist as the speaker. He would like everyone to understand what they will see. Lieutenant Governor, Becky Skillman, will also address the full body. How a bill becomes a law will be discussed. Those attending will be given the opportunity to have their pictures taken with their state representative at the State House. Students will watch session at the floor level and the adults will watch at the above level. This event will be concluded by a roundtable discussion. Commissioner Chavez and Amy Mendoza plan to give the closing remarks. Refreshments will be provided.

Commissioner Solis asked for the requirements to attend this community day. He plans to pass this information onto the school corporations.

Proxy McCormack asked those interested to send in their page request form as soon as possible. They must provide their own transportation. Parents/adults are encouraged to attend. The students must fill-out the forms and fax them back.

Commissioner Chavez explained that students will be given a letter excusing them from school.

Commissioner Vega made a motion to accept the proposal to co-host and sponsor the expenses of the Hispanic/Latino Community Day.

Commissioner Altman made a second motion to accept the proposal.

Commissioner Chavez asked those in favor to please say "I." The Commission proposal to co-host and sponsor the expenses of Hispanic/Latino Community Day, was passed.

Director Mendoza discussed two separate programs from November and October 2005. She explained how the Sagamore Institute provided the Commission with hand-outs supporting a proposal to receive funding from the Commission. This funding will provide the community with surveys and political opinions. The current focus of this proposal is on Mexicans. Eventually, the institute would like to draft a report including all Hispanics and Latinos. Director Mendoza explained that the institute would like to request \$25,000. They plan to hold two conferences, complete partnerships, pay for researchers and draft preliminary reports with the funding. Director Mendoza suggested that the Commission either write a letter of support and/or provide an alternative allocation of funding for this proposal.

Commissioner Altman said that it would be wise for the Commission to write a letter of support. The institute can use this letter of support when asking other organizations/agencies for major funding allocations with this proposal. She asked the Commission to consider a very small grant. She felt that \$25,000 is out of range for the Commission to fund.

Commissioner Gonzalez discussed the importance of the research studies and how they can be used with the next legislative session. He said, "The impact of this research will have an effect on those legislators riding the fence." Commissioner Gonzalez also said, "We must use a tool against legislators." He recommends that the Commission support and use this research. The institute plans to draft a report in August 2006. Commissioner Gonzalez would like to use this draft to educate the legislators.

Director Mendoza directed the attention to the preliminary draft discussion at the bottom of the first page of the proposal.

Commissioner Chavez felt that the proposal is a good suggestion. She also commented on the discussion of a smaller grant allocation. She asked additional recommendations for a grant allocation.

Commissioner Altman asked where the Commission stands with the budget. She explained that knowledge of the Commission's budget will allow the commissioners leverage with decision-making. She asked if the Commission could request \$2,500.

Commissioner Fuentes explained that the Commission has set aside a certain dollar value for research projects. The Commission currently has enough for \$2,500 funding. She promised to provide a detailed treasurer's report at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Altman requested that Sagamore Institute use the funding specifically for the report and its printing costs.

Commissioner Chavez made a motion to allocate \$2,500 to the Sagamore Institute for their report and printing costs. The Commission must work in support with the Sagamore Institute. The Commission may move for additional funding and provide a letter of support.

Commission Morales made a second motion to allocate \$2,500 to the Sagamore Institute.

Commissioner Chavez asked for those in favor of allocating \$2,500 to the Sagamore Institute for report and printing costs to please say "I." The motion passed.

Director Mendoza discussed the provided Bi-national Citizen Project (A Partnership with Purdue University) hand-out. She informed the Commission about the attached explanation of the project from Associate Professor, James McCann. This research project will include two rounds of surveys and focus group discussions. It will reflect specifically on the Mexican community. This study would examine civic incorporation and include a power point presentation. Director Mendoza informed the Commission that in the first paragraph, the proposal suggests \$134,000 as the estimated cost of the project, however, could be decreased to \$70,000.

Commissioner Altman suggested that the Commission postpone this proposal, as Professor McCann is conducting classes with research projects. His students could conduct research on this proposal. She recommended following up on this proposal at the end of the school semester. Commissioner Altman asked that the Commission request an updated letter on this proposal at the end of the school semester. Commissioner Altman would like this update to be submitted to the Commission by early

May 2006. The Commission should review this proposal again and determine their support with funding.

Commissioner Chavez suggested that the Commission table this proposal for funding until late May 2006. She moves to table this discussion and continue the Commission meeting agenda with new business.

V. New Business (Continued)

Commissioner Chavez continued the new business discussion.

A. Election of 2006 Commission Officers (Re-cap)

Commissioner Chavez thanked everyone for their participation in officer elections. She reminded each commissioner the importance of representing their region and/or agency. Each state agency designee must understand how their agency member/agency head feels about current legislation. She confirmed that her agency (FSSA) is not taking a position on bill 1383. Commissioner Chavez said that everyone will hear criticism. She thanked the new commissioners for their service. Commissioner Chavez also informed the commissioners their privilege to join or change committee positions. She encouraged those commissioners who are not already a part of a committee to participate.

B. Subcommittee Participation

Director Mendoza plans to inform each commissioner of their committee assignments and responsibilities depending on their area of expertise. She will also assist in committee reappointments and/or appointments.

Commissioner Chavez asked those commissioners who have yet to host an open, public meeting in their communities to do so. She also discussed the whereabouts of the history project. The history project's timeline is currently on display at a public library in Fort Wayne. She encouraged participation in displaying the history timeline within other communities. Commissioner Chavez also spoke about the lengthy Hispanic/Latino history that Herbert Hernandez of Fort Wayne gave to the Commission. Mr. Hernandez gave the Commission permission to use his information. The history project is an ongoing project.

C. Calendar Coordination for 2006

Commissioner Chavez moved the agenda discussion to calendar coordination of 2006.

Director Mendoza informed the Commission that the next Commission meeting will be held at 11:30am. The location will be announced at a later date.

Commissioner Chavez requested permission to move the Commission meetings to either the last Wednesday of each month or to the second to last Thursday of each month. She will no longer be able to attend the last Thursday of each month Commission meetings. She asked for a motion to move the Commission meetings to the last Wednesday of each month.

Commissioner Quintana made a motion to move the Commission meetings to the last Wednesday of each month.

Commissioner Ruiz made seconded the motion to move the Commission meetings to the last Wednesday of each month.

Commissioner Chavez asked for all those in favor of moving the Commission meetings to the last Wednesday of each month to please say "I." The motion passed. Commissioner Chavez thanked the Commission for this change.

Commissioner Chavez opened the floor to public question and answer.

VII. Public Question & Answer

Commissioner Chavez asked for public question and answer at this time.

Audience member, Ellen Krulewitch, explained that there are approximately 2,700 ENL students within the Elkhart district. She asked the Commission to add the number of undocumented workers to the Sagamore Institute's research involving economic development. She stressed the importance of recognizing citizens who are voting in the elections. Ellen Krulewitch also discussed the rising gang issues in Elkhart, Goshen and South Bend. There will be two all day sessions on March 16 that will address the issues and impacts of gang violence. One session will take place at Goshen College and the other one will be held at the University of Notre Dame. The mayors of Elkhart, Goshen and South Bend plan to be present at these sessions. She asked those interested to please contact her for more information. Ellen Krulewitch also discussed her concern for the undocumented students coming into her office. She asked for alternative places that these students could go to for public assistance if bill 1383 was passed. Ellen Krulewitch acknowledged the Salvation Army and local churches as places of public assistance and support. She explained that the county will not serve the undocumented through agency resources. Ellen Krulewitch said that bill 1383 is very discriminative and affects one primary group. She also informed the Commission that Elkhart community schools have over 37 different languages spoken in their district and approximately 90%-95% of these students are of Latino decent. Ellen Krulewitch recommended that Central American statistics also be included in the Sagamore Institute study, as the number of Central Americans in the State of Indiana is rising.

Audience member and immigrant Pedro Roman from Bloomington introduced himself as a representative from a policy center. He spoke about his concern for the unbalanced party representation. Pedro Roman requested that there be more Commission member representation from the south part of the State of Indiana. He expressed his disgust with bill 1383. Pedro Roman gave reference to 6 billion dollars paid every year by immigrants in the United States. He felt that the State of Indiana has no business deciding what is and is not a probable cause. Pedro Roman argued that the State of Indiana has no jurisdiction in signing national agreements with any country, as international law is very clear. Pedro Roman said that Indiana cannot decide to limit services to a specific culture. He also mentioned Rep. Eric Cox's bill. He asked how the State of Indiana plans to decide on this bill. Pedro Roman informed the Commission that there are over 20 different classes of immigrants with valid working permits. He said that bill 1383 goes against the federal law. Pedro Roman admires the job of the Commission. He said, "We must streamline the way that we deal with these bills." "These bills are illegal."

Commissioner Chavez thanked the audience members for their comments and opinions.

Commissioner Chavez adjourned the Commission meeting at approximately 12:30pm.