



## **Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission**

Regular Meeting | February 13, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Carlos Bejarano, Amairani Perez Chamu, Chriss Chavez, Daniel Gomez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Fatima Linares, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Mark Ohnesorge, Diana Pennington, Amanda Peregrina

Commissioners Absent: Amy Ariza, Angelica Reina

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard

Liaisons Absent: Andy Little, Ivan Patino-Cortez

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Chairwoman Perez Chamu called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
- b. New member, Commissioner Pennington, introduced herself.

#### **II. Commissioner Oath**

- a. Lexi passed around a document for commissioners to sign the oath of office. All commissioners present signed.

#### **III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairwoman Perez Chamu entertained a motion to approve November 2024 meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Bejarano made a motion, Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
    1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 3 (Commissioners Ohnesorge, Lozano-Alvarez, and Pennington)
    2. Commissioners Martinez Herrera and Linares were not yet present in the meeting.
  - ii. Motion carried, November 2024 meeting minutes approved.

#### **IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report**

- a. Chairwoman Perez Chamu reported that the Executive Committee met last week. Discussed current state of immigration and the possibility of spearheading a know your rights session. Potentially invite law enforcement, Mexican Consulate, and Deputy Mayor Reyes.
  - i. Vice Chair Gonzalez: Could talk to YWCA about their current efforts and what the Commission could do to enhance. Have lawyers volunteer, similar to what the

Human Rights Commission's 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee did recently, and/or host a bystander intervention training. If there is alignment, the Asian Affairs Commission may collaborate to be inclusive of more immigrant communities. The HRC is also willing to support.

- ii. Another idea is creating a resource/bringing visibility to how to protest lawfully to preserve the health and safety of those. Law enforcement appreciates knowing when/where protests will take place.
  - 1. Commissioner Ohnesorge: Tulsa Police Department will often help people have their message heard and exercise their first amendment rights. Work to ensure safety of protestors. Can work with protest organizers to keep folks safe. Don't know leaders/organizers of recent protests, suspect they are likely Hispanic and would like to work with them.
- iii. Commissioner Peregrina: There have already been several resources shared with the community, would like to know who created them and how we can support their distribution.
- iv. Chairwoman Perez Chamu: Also discussed organizations the Commission could partner with. Could be one session or multiple with different topics. Want to stay community-centered and provide opportunity for folks to voice concerns.
  - 1. Commissioner Peregrina: El Centro doing Know Your Rights Forums every two weeks, need to amplify.
- v. Commissioner Bejarano: Would the event be a presentation or workshop?
  - 1. Chairwoman Perez Chamu: Envisioning a presentation and panel to distribute information with opportunity for discussion.
- vi. Commissioner Martinez Herrera: Difficult to make sure that information is consistent and accurate. For example, school districts are giving conflicting information. School districts need to align and need to take a public stance.
  - 1. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez: School districts are having conversations but need to get their stances in writing.
  - 2. Commissioners conducted a conversation related to cartas poder and misinformation or confusing information related to documentation.
- vii. Commissioner Peregrina: Need to educate community on things that are putting them in jeopardy that they need to avoid.
  - 1. Commission Ohnesorge: There is confusion between law enforcement groups and what jurisdiction is. Right now, TPD is not conducting immigration checks. Right now, the only pathway to a check would be to commit a state crime.
- viii. Vice Chair Gomez: Need to find out what other forums are missing and address gaps. It makes sense for the Commission to focus on government function as part of the City.

ix. Commissioner Peregrina: People need to be informed with accurate, current information. Many statements are being publicized as if they are official, but they're not, and it's creating fear. Disseminating information in audio and video is important, as not everyone can read.

1. Commissioner Martinez Herrea suggested work with community influencers to create videos. Many commissioners agreed.
2. Videos created by the Commission as well as City resources can be posted on the Commission's webpage.
3. Commissioner Bejarano suggested that creating resources (instead of hosting an event) could be a better use of time.

x. Commissioner Chavez: US Attorney's office has identified several scams targeting immigrants with fake calls and texts, attempting to get money. Need people to know how to spot fake communication. Can report on a website, but there is fear when reporting due to identify themselves.

- b. Chairwoman Perez Chamu recommended establishing a working group to move this project forward. Vice Chair Gonzalez will work with Commission Ohnesorge on creating a safe protesting resource.
- c. Chairwoman Perez Chamu entertained a motion to establish a working group to create educational resources for the community.
  - i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
    1. Aye: 12, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, working group established.
- d. Chairwoman Perez Chamu and Commissioners Martinez Herrera, Bamaca Hernandez, Lozano-Alvarez, Chavez, and Linares volunteered for the working group.

**V. Focus: Increasing Access to Identification Documents for Undocumented Communities**

- a. Executive Committee discussed pausing this research project. Survey is still open and can continue collecting responses.

**VI. Committee Reports**

- a. Executive – no additional report
- b. Education
  - i. Tomás Rivera Awards Ceremony on May 8. Central Library reserved and Cynthia Jasso will be the keynote speaker. Nomination form is open and already received about 20 nominations. Would like to do promo videos to encourage nominations and attendance.
- c. Community Advocacy – no report
- d. Public Safety
  - i. Commissioner Chavez announced the rescheduled Council for Safe Neighborhoods Soccer Tournament will be in March.

- ii. Commissioner Ohnesorge: All officers have been briefed on immigration stance, want to serve all Tulsans. Appreciate many community members who are dispelling misinformation.
  - 1. Commissioner Gomez: Is there a written policy that outlines when immigration checks will not take place for traffic violations and municipal crimes? How can we assure people this is an official policy?
  - 2. Commissioner Ohnesorge: Currently leaning on a word of mouth campaign started when HB 4156 was passed. No plans to release a formal statement at this point.
  - 3. Deputy Mayor Reyes: There are existing policies against racial profiling and against pulling people over only to check immigration status. Chief Larson, Majors, and Deputy Chiefs reaffirm this.
- iii. American Red Cross is conducting outreach in East Tulsa to install fire alarms in homes on February 25. Need Spanish-speaking volunteers to do pre-canvassing and education on February 21.
- iv. Liaison Howard: EMSA does free education demonstrations. Can request EMA attend your event through their website.
- e. Immigration
  - i. Chairwoman Perez-Chamu is sending invites to other community members who may join the Committee.

**VII. Old Business** – no old business

**VIII. New Business**

- a. Establishing Nominating Committee for 2025 Chair and Vice Chair: Commissioners Bejarano, Ohnesorge, and Lozano-Alvarez volunteered to serve.

**IX. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. Chairwoman Perez-Chamu recognized Krystal as the City's new Deputy Mayor and expressed gratitude for her work.
- b. Lexi shared a volunteer opportunity for the City's naturalization ceremony on March 13. Will follow up with a sign up link via email.

**X. Adjournment**

- a. Chairwoman Perez Chamu entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - i. Commissioner Martinez Herrera made a motion, Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 12, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.