



Virginia Latino Advisory Board

June 9, 2017

Minutes

Present: Eugene Chigna, Chris Falcon, Juan Espinoza, Mercedes Santos-Bell, Cecilia Williams, Jorge Yinat, Sergio Rimola, Diana Vall-Ilobera, Aida Pacheco, Julio Cesar Idrobo,

Absent: Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Estuardo Rodriguez, Mike Martinez, Zuraya Tapia-Hadley, Carolina Espinal

I. Welcome Remarks

Aida announced the Juan Santacoloma has resigned. There are currently three vacancies on the board and Jennifer Sayegh, Assistant Director of Appointments in the Governor's Office, shared with Aida that the two new appointments should be approved before the end of June.

II. Public Comment

No Public Comments made.

III. General Assembly and Policy Update

Robert Mejia gave the board an update on Governor McAuliffe's action during the General Assembly session, highlighting relevant vetoes and Governor's amendments. Robert also gave a summary of the Governor's recent trade mission to Mexico as well as legislative activity relevant to the Latino community in particular. After Robert's presentation, Jorge offered a motion to examine further whether the Governor's office could take executive action to allow those who are undocumented to obtain driver's licenses within the state. Julio seconded the motion, Juan, Sergio, Cecilia, Jorge, Julio, Louisa, and Gloria voted Yes. Aida and Diana voted No. Eugene and Chris abstained. The motion passed.

IV. Board Discussion and Approval

Julio expressed his appreciation for Governor McAuliffe's action to join the US Climate Alliance. Sergio made a motion proposal to formally congratulate the Governor on the Climate Alliance and accomplishments made during the 2017 General Assembly session. Julio seconded the motion. Louisa offered an amendment to add Governor McAuliffe's pardon of Liliana Mendez and his efforts at Dulles Airport after President Trump's travel ban was announced, passed unanimously.

Aida Pacheco announced that the Executive Committee will meet next week to discuss the motions further. Robert touched on restrictions and guidelines for staff members that travel with the Governor on trade missions. Robert advised that staff is very limited, however the board is more than welcome to submit recommendations for future trade missions. The board discussed edits to March minutes and Louisa Meruvia offered a motion to approve March minutes, Gloria Rockhold seconded and the motion was approved. Additionally, Gloria Rockhold suggested that someone follow up with the Board's Attorney to receive guidance on several issues, Chris Falcon will reach out and provide a follow up.

Aida Pacheco gave a summary of the Executive Committee's recent meeting with the Governor. The Governor encouraged the board to work with the office to increase Latino representation on Virginia's Boards and Commissions. In addition, meetings with the Secretary of Commerce and Trade were also held. Diana organized an initiative for board members to submit two recommendations for board and commissions, with a deadline of June 30th. Eugene Chigna emphasized that board members can fill out applications on their behalf if needed. Eugene offered a motion to submit a proclamation to Secretary Rodrigues to thank her for her work in the Latino communities, the motion was passed unanimously.

Julio Idrobo congratulated relevant board members on the success of the previous evening's community forum and what the board should do to build on that success. Aida mentioned that it is important to make the forum's manageable, if we need to make these events bigger the board will discuss.

Jorge Yinat reviewed the evaluation feedback from his business roundtable participants, and the and feedback were very positive. Mercedes Santos-Bell turned over the completed evaluation forms to Chris Falcon. If we need to make these events bigger the board will need to discuss further. Jorge and Board members applauded Mercedes Santos-Bell for a superb job in leading and organizing the event. Mercedes Santos-Bell indicated that it was truly a collaborative effort, and she had a fantastic team mostly composed of community leaders from the region. Mercedes Santos-Bell and Jorge Yinat will draft a letter to thank organizations and the speakers. Aida suggested that they receive an official letter with the VA Seal. She can forward her electronic signature to Robert. The board recessed for lunch, Diana made the motion and Chris seconded.

V. Update from the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran

The board introduced Secretary Moran and expressed concerns with ICE and recent raids at previously protected areas. The board would like clarification on what authority the Governor has and what VLAB can do to assist.

Secretary Moran stated that he serves as a direct liaison to DHS. On ICE, earlier this year Governor's staff met with Secretary Kelly on the heels of a report that there had been a report of a raid. Maribel Ramos and Sec. Moran started contacting our federal partners to figure out what was going on. Secretary Moran had an in-person meeting with Sec. Kelly and brought up our concerns and what happened in the report. Field director described the scene and that they were only doing targeted raids, because of that person's arrest background. At the meeting with Sec. Kelly, Governor McAuliffe and Sec. Moran expressed concern that this policy was changed from the Obama administration. They had designated deportation for serious criminal offense. Current administration is on just criminal behavior in general. Governor was concerned about deportations, and Secretary Kelly asserted that they would have to have criminal offense. Important from the Governor's office perspective is that the state is not involved in these raids, state police is not involved. State and local police are not assisting with these raids. Law enforcement is very concerned because what this does is has a chilling effect on communities to report crime. Police chiefs are very concerned and it will result in citizens less likely to come forward with a crime.

On the case of Ms. Mendez, she had been stopped for a broken headlight and was driving without a license. She had been recently detained her for deportation, the Governor's office expressed our objection to the appropriate federal colleagues that this was not a serious offense. Governor took it upon himself to pardon this woman.

Question and Answer

Aida Pacheco asked Sec. Moran for recommendations to the board and what they can do to provide support. Sec. Moran stated that educating the community is very important, and praised the board's work for educating the community and encouraged them to keep doing so at forums and meetings.

Louisa Meruvia asked Sec. Moran what the board could do to find funding to educate and teach those who aren't capable of finding that information on their own. Sec. Moran said that the board could research grant opportunities and recommended looking at the Bureau of Justice for education grants.

Gloria Rockhold asked about the existence of private prisons in Virginia, Sec. Moran stated that there is only one private jail in Virginia.

The board thanked Secretary Moran for his time to come and speak with them.

VI. Committee Chairs report-out on progress to date

The board offered a motion to meet with the gubernatorial candidates before the general election in November and was passed unanimously.

Chris Falcon summarized board and committee responsibilities and that it is a responsibility as members of VLAB to participate not only in the quarterly meetings, but also committee meetings, which includes completing any work assigned by the committee chairs, and assisting with the annual report. Chris also mentioned that the chair and vice chair will be asking committee chairs if they are getting active participation from all members of his/her respective committees.

Business Committee: Jorge Yinat stated that there was nothing new to report, expressed the need to recruit more to the business committee. Jorge also briefed the board on GO Virginia and the importance of Latino representation on regional advisory councils.

Civic Engagement: Diana Vall-llobera stated that there are three active members currently, need a new chair. They are focused getting Latinos appointed to boards. Louisa Meruiva gave a summary of her recent media project. Julio proposed having students sitting in on our meetings in order to have a representation of young people.

Education: Eugene Chigna announced that the board of education has a comprehensive list of public meetings that is posted online. Education summit is coming up and Leah Walker will give the board dates when they are available.

Healthcare: Sergio Rimola announced that he has spoken with Karen Reid on increasing Latinos in the health workforce and noted the availability of scholarships.

Executive Committee: Aida Pacheco stated that discussion on trade missions will fall under the purview of the Business Committee and will involve other interested Board members. Aida followed up with Zuraya Tapia-Hadley who volunteered at the March meeting to reach out to staff prior to the Governor's trip to Mexico. Zuraya confirmed that the discussion was held and that post discussion is needed.

The Board anticipates an update from Zuraya Tapia-Hadley prior to or at the next meeting in the fall.

VII. Overview on Expense Reimbursement Forms

Diana Vall-llobera gave a summary of guidelines for expense reimbursement forms to the Governor's office.

VIII. Meeting Adjournment

Aida Pacheco reminded board members of the upcoming Webinar and offered a motion to adjourn, Diana Vall-llobera seconded and the motion was passed.