

**Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Draft Minutes
Friday, December 10, 2010, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
State Capital Building, House Room 3
Banks and Tenth Streets
Richmond, Virginia**

Members Present: Omar Rashid, Michel Zajur, Beatriz Amberman, Kris Tilley-Lubbs, Esteban Nieto, Peter Loach, Jorge Lozano, Laura Drain, Gaby Rengifo, Elin Doval, Deborah Muñoz, Charlotte Fritts, Víctor Gómez, Jason Miyares, Eddie Reyes

Ex-Officio Members Present: Mirta Martin

Liaison with Governor's Office: Duane Stafford

Guests Present: Xenia Sánchez, Michael Eggleston, Tracey Keller, Sharon Brown, JoAnne Maxwell

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm.

Approval of minutes: The minutes were provided for the meetings held on June 11 and July 30 due to the fact that a quorum was not present at those meetings and approval was pending. Beatriz moved to approve all the minutes, seconded by Peter. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Kris will send amended minutes to Duane and he will disseminate them.

Duane provided guidance from DMV to discuss the Governor's action to not approve licenses for temporary workers.

Beatriz asked for report from Atty. General's Office regarding Agee's decision.

The following discussion ensued:

Question: How do temporary workers with permits go through clearance and work without a driver's license. This presents a conflict between ICE statements and the VA DMV.

- The DMV does have the authority to accept or reject documentation. They can examine documents and determine whether they meet the Virginia criteria for legal presence. The law does give that authority to the DMV. Individuals must provide evidence of legal presence. They must show authorization to work in US. The court also looks at the law. The court gives the DMV discretion to decide whether to accept documentation and issue a license. Legal Presence Law: If a person is here with a legal presence, s/he has a starting and ending date for that documentation. The DMV issues licenses for a normal 5 year period. If someone is deported, the DMV cannot rescind that license.
- If a person fails to renew the license even though her/his visa has been extended, the license expires.
- Renewal is denied primarily to those in the process of adjusting status and/or without acceptable proof of legal presence, such as a visa.
- An unofficial 6-7-8% of the work force is here with limited visas/temporary work permits.

A meeting was requested between the leaders of the DMV and leaders of the Hispanic community so these leaders can be perceived as partners, not antagonists. They are the ones who disseminate information to the public. They can help the DMV in issuing press releases to the public regarding policies.

Question: Do the new policies the DMV explained at the last meeting help residents of the Commonwealth to be and feel safer? A fatal accident in NOVA was cited.

Answer: Information emerged from that situation that led to deportation. There are people out there who can drive with licenses without ever proving legal presence unless a situation occurs. The new policy did not arise to make streets safer, but rather to make sure people who drive have a legal presence.

Question: What can people do who are in the process of seeking a legal presence and who need to drive for work or to take children to school?

Answer: They can bring in documentation, and have fingerprints taken.

- If someone has attended high school and college and has a license, but their residency paperwork is in process, s/he should have an I-45 receipt notice that allows receiving a license.
- Instances were cited when social security cards were requested when people applied, and these instances should be reported.

Request: A bilingual pamphlet or brochure that states the requirements for eligibility would be useful. It would be helpful if it were on the webpage with 2-3 paragraphs to explain the procedure. It could be disseminated at public meetings.

Response: DMV 141, on the DMV webpage, is a list of available documents. There is also a driver's license manual available in Spanish and English. It was pointed out that the manual in Spanish is not available at many DMV branches.

Request: It would be helpful to provide training to help DMV workers to understand language and cultural barriers.

Response: Please submit helpful materials for review by the DMV.

Comment: A manual is available online to download, but can be hard for people to do that. Several DMVs were visited in search of a manual without success.

Response: This situation will be investigated.

Debbie Muñoz mentioned harassment from 9-11 Mosque at crossroads of route 7 and Baileys. Concern about youth being recruited. Security issue.

Elections for the 2010 board:

Omar presided as the current chair.

Eddie received a call from the Secretary's Office telling him that his term will not be renewed. Can he reapply in 2011?

Duane found out yesterday about Eddie's situation. He will investigate the status of those members whose terms have expired.

Elin served on the Board for Disabilities and questioned whether Eddie can still be a member until his seat is filled.

Omar: The Governor can terminate a board appointment at any time.

Eddie can vote and be at the board meeting.

Omar suggested that new members review the VLAB webpage to understand the history and purpose of VLAB. We normally address issues identified as important by the Governor. He stated that this year we

are focusing on economic growth in VA. The Governor signed a declaration recognizing Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month and held a reception. VLAB acts as conduit between the community and the Governor. It is important to learn what the Governor wants as a focus. We each operate from our own expertise, but we try to discern between our personal view and the view of the community. We all have an equal right to voice concerns and opinions.

Concern: As advisors, we need to be sure to bring the community voice to the Governor, even if community concerns are not aligned with the Governor's priority.

Concern: New members are hesitant about electing a chair without knowing everyone and their commitment.

Omar: we should have had elections in February, but we delayed in order to align with the Governor. We wanted to understand the Governor's agenda before setting our own agenda. In 2009, we held Town Halls around the state to bring community concerns to the Governor. In 2008, when Beatriz was Chair, we held the Governor's Summit to bring service providers to speak to other service providers for the Latino/Hispanic community.

Eddie: At the last three meetings, we have not had quorum, so we have not set an agenda or had action items.

Peter: We need to express appreciation to Eddie. Applause and standing ovation.

Eddie: The Chair (Omar) runs meeting. The Vice-Chair (Eddie) assists with meetings and phone calls, especially when the Chair is not available. The Secretary (Kris) takes minutes. The Treasurer (Michel) handles money when appropriate, such as when VLAB held the Governor's Summit and outside funds provided a reception, etc.

Omar opened elections for the new Board for 2011.

Omar nominated Michel for Chair. Seconded by Beatriz. Victor moved that nominations be closed since there were no other nominations. Michel was unanimously elected Chair.

Michel assumed the Chair role for the remainder of the meeting, expressing thanks to Omar and Eddie for their leadership.

Michel opened nominations for Vice-Chair. Beatriz nominated Victor. Seconded by Peter. Elin nominated Laura. Seconded by Jorge.

Laura is the Chair of the Board of the Hispanic Professional Women's Association. She heads a foundation to mentor young women to go to college. She mentors young women to assume leadership roles in the community. She is from NOVA.

Victor is serving his third year on VLAB. He arrived in the United States 18 years ago and he has served the community ever since. He is clergy. He previously worked for the VA Council of Churches. He is from Ladysmith, VA.

It was suggested that a secret ballot election be held.

Claire Casteñaga reminded members that under the Freedom of Information Act, state boards cannot hold secret ballot elections.

Michel called for the vote:

Laura: 6 votes.

Victor: 8 votes.

Victor nominated Kris as Secretary. Seconded by Beatriz. Kris was elected unanimously.

Michel: do we need to have a Treasurer?

Peter's position as Treasurer was created to fill a need to handle money for Summit. It is good to have the position to provide a leadership opportunity.

Omar: There are no Executive Committee meetings. All decisions are made at meetings.

Michel called for a vote on whether to keep Treasurer. Peter moved to keep the position. A vote was called and approved to keep the position in case of a need arising for a treasurer.

Victor nominated Charlotte as Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Beatriz.

Michel called for a vote. Charlotte was elected unanimously.

Duane: VLAB should hold four meetings/year. Quorum must be met at each meeting. Individuals can call in but not be counted for a vote. The call must be on a speaker phone. Quorum consists of 11 members physically present in the meeting room. The meeting must be posted two weeks in advance.

Beatriz: In previous years, we have had media announcements from the Governor's Office regarding meetings to make public aware. All meetings may be attended by members of the public.

Duane will also make sure to post meetings on the Commonwealth calendar.

Jorge proposed the formation of committees to help handle work:

- Immigration
- Healthcare
- Housing

Michel proposed that at the next meeting we form committees.

Elin proposed committee on communication to communicate with the new generation of Hispanic business leaders.

Beatriz expressed strong support for these proposals and suggested forming committees today.

Claire: Committee meetings must be made public and all decisions must be brought to VLAB. They must be posted.

Elin proposed that the whole Board meet first, and then committees meet, and then all return to the group to report committee discussions and proposals.

Peter: We first should define where how we want to proceed before forming committees.

Omar: Make sure that before you start working, your work will have an impact by being aligned with the Governor's agenda.

Gaby: Affirms Omar's assertion that reports are not read.

Jorge suggests that legal counsel be present at our meetings.

Beatriz says our previous efforts have not been in vain. They document our work.

Michel proposes that we work with Duane to determine what the Governor would like to see us work on.

Jorge says these committees provide a foundation for our work. All have economic impact.

Dr. Mirta Martin: The Governor's priorities consist of higher education reform and innovation as well as job creation and workforce development. In education, the important issues are creating access and affordability.

The observation was made that we can be advisors to the Governor, but we have no power.

Jorge: works with national security. We need to focus on job creation and work through our committees. He moved to establish committees today. Duane stated that he will check to see which committees are aligned with Governor's initiatives. The following committees were proposed:

- Business: National and International
- Health
- Immigration
- Housing
- Education
- Homeland Security: Safety and Security

Michel suggested setting a meeting time for February.

February 18 will be the next meeting, 1-5, in the same location: State Capitol Building, Room 3.

Michel attended LEAD Virginia and introduced Susan B. Horne to present the program.

- President and CEO of LEAD Virginia.
- 2006 LV was established—five-year anniversary celebration this year. The following people have attended from the Hispanic Community:
 - Michel Zajur 2010
 - Dario Márquez 2009
 - Beatriz Amberman 2008
 - Andres Tobar 2007
 - Leni González 2006
- Mission: To connect leaders across the Commonwealth to encourage and develop leadership.
- Talk with community leaders about issues: Strengths and challenges.
- Seek women, also geographical representation
- Classes run April-November, but right now the application is available on the web: www.leadva.org
- Meeting in April will be in Colonial Williamsburg.
- Cover many areas of interest and importance.

- Tuition-based, but scholarships are available: \$6800 to cover meals, lodging, transportation. Not tax deductible. If paid for by employer, can be considered tax deductible as professional development or continuing education.
- Seven meetings per year, not in August. One weekend a month.
- Thursday noon-Saturday noon.
- Michel would like to establish scholarship. Offered to talk with employers to seek money.
- Similar in concept to local leadership organizations, but with more depth and throughout the Commonwealth.

Announcements:

Beatriz: Hispanic Community Dialogue. Hampton Roads: Sunday, Celebration of the Virgin. Rather than religious, has the purpose of educating people about all the people who come to Mexico City. Humble people in Mexico go with food to share with strangers. Reinforce community notion to give. People from other nations will be there to share about their celebrations.

Laura: NOVA—for the celebration, people will bring children's books.

Peter: He was contacted by DOJ from Philadelphia. They will come to talk about hate crimes. They should be reported.

Peter: The President will receive Census information by the end of this month. Peter will help work with Pew Hispanic Trust and/or Weldon Cooper Center to do a presentation at VLAB regarding Hispanics in VA.

Mirta: Only 3% of all college students are Latino, leaving behind 33%. 1/3 of Hispanic graduating seniors are Latino. Only 51% attend college. For African Americans, the figure is 5%. Research shows that to earn a living wage, it is necessary to have a two-year degree, either technical or academic.

Elin: Only 3% of professors in higher education are Hispanic and serve as role models.

Beatriz: A Human Rights Declaration from VA Beach was written. Beatriz will forward it to us.

Adjournment: Rosaura made the motion to adjourn at 3:05 p.m.. Beatriz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Tilley-Lubbs