



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | November 14, 2024 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Amairani Perez Chamu, Chriss Chavez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Fatima Linares, Amanda Peregrina, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Carlos Bejarano, Daniel Gomez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Mark Ohnesorge

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Perez Chamu called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

II. Guest Speaker: Cynthia Jasso, George Kaiser Family Foundation

- a. Cynthia Jasso spoke to the commission about her work on the Oklahoma State Work Permit and Visas Taskforce.
 - i. She began by reviewing the recent Oklahoma HB 4156 and the effect it's had thus far on community trust (especially with Hispanic/Latine, Asian, and immigrant communities) with law enforcement. The law is currently under litigation. This law prompted Governor Stitt to form the Task Force by way of an Executive Order.
 - ii. The Task Force evaluated opportunities for immigrants to have the visas, permits and documentation necessary to contribute to our workforce, study and conduct research at Oklahoma's higher education institutions, and for industries to safely and legally recruit and retain global talent without fear of unnecessary deportation or separation from family.
 1. Five Recommendations:
 - a. Creating an Office of New Oklahomans
 - b. Empowering employers, internationally trained talent, and migrant workers with tools and information necessary to fill jobs
 - c. Promoting policies which optimize efficiency for international talent navigating credentialing process



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- d. Piloting innovative solutions to increase work permits and visas issued to non-citizens seeking to move and/or living in Oklahoma
 - e. Issuing Driving Privilege Cards to qualifying non-citizens
 2. Recommendations were finalized this summer and the Task Force concluded. Now on state officials to act to make Oklahoma as welcoming and inclusive as possible.
 - iii. Commission Question and Answer:
 1. Chairwoman Perez-Chamu: Do you see areas where some of these recommendations could be done at a city level?
 - a. Cynthia: Yes, Recommendation 3 about credentialing is something MORE and the City of Tulsa is already working on through the New Tulsans initiative. Issuing Municipal IDs is another opportunity.
 - b. Commissioner Martinez Herrera: With the credentialing process, was there discussion around manufacturing and blue-collar jobs (ie plumbing)?
 - c. Cynthia: The conversation primarily focused on Commercial Drivers Licenses, didn't go into specific industries. Some states have ensured access to CDLs.
 2. Commissioner Chavez: How was the report received by state officials?
 - a. Jasso: There was a mixed reaction. Some were excited, some thought recommendations went to far, others thought it didn't go far enough. The Driving Privilege Cards was the most controversial, and many of the other recommendations were largely well received.
 3. Commissioner Martinez Herrera: What can the Commission do locally to share information with the community?
 - a. Cynthia: Share report with the community to raise awareness. Continue to support the New Tulsans initiative through the mayoral administration change. Testimonials and storytelling can mitigate polarizing nature of the topic.
 4. Commissioner Chavez: Is there documentation of the contributions immigrants make economically in Oklahoma?
 - a. Cynthia: American Immigration Council has an Oklahoma impact document with an estimated number of immigrants, revenue, spending power, etc. Estimated 15,000 Latino-owned businesses in the state.



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- iv. Cynthia encouraged the commission to look up the publicly posted meeting minutes to learn about data and resources.
- b. Cynthia then shared about her work at Elevate East through the George Kaiser Family Foundation.
 - i. Four Pillars: Early childhood development and education, community wellbeing and justice, city vibrancy, and strong neighborhoods
 - ii. Through Elevate East, GKFF has invested about \$8 M in the last two years in east Tulsa to grow capital, capacity building, and connections. Programs and services seek to be comprehensive and wide-ranging to enable neighborhood residents to elevate neighborhood conditions.
 - iii. Launched collaboration with Tulsa Higher Education Consortium to host FAFSA and Oklahoma Promise enrollment events.
 - iv. Cynthia reviewed retail and housing developments that are planned and in the works in Tulsa Global District.
 - v. Opportunities for support:
 - 1. Spread the word
 - 2. Be a neighborhood champion
 - 3. Be on the lookout for more information
- c. Cynthia closed by reflecting on our moral obligation and economic justification for investing in our young people. Working to ensure Tulsa is an inclusive, welcoming, and vibrant city for youth.
- d. Chairwoman Perez Chamu asked Cynthia can commit to support getting the word out about the Commission's survey. Commissioner Martinez Herrera asked if Cynthia could review the survey and provide input. Cynthia agreed to both and offered to use ad dollars with Spanish media.

III. Chair's / Vice Chair's Report – no report

IV. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive** – no report
- b. **Education** – no report
- c. **Community Advocacy** – no report
- d. **Public Safety**
 - i. Commissioner Chavez shared updates on recent events, some of which had low attendance due to cultural barriers or were rescheduled.
 - ii. Andy Little presented to a group about mobile integrated health care teams focusing on mental health. Mini mobile teams are being deployed in the community, including east Tulsa. Commissioner Chavez and Andy Little recommend having this presentation at a future Commission meeting.
- e. **Immigration** – no report



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V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Perez Chamu entertained a motion to approve the October meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - 2. Commissioner Martinez Herrera left the meeting prior to the motion.
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting minutes approved.

VI. Old Business – no old business

VII. New Business – no new business

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Chairwoman Perez Chamu introduced Oscar Guillen, a scholar that moved to Tulsa on a fellowship and decided to stay. He currently works with The Oklahoma Policy Institute.
- b. Commissioner Ariza is meeting with the Executive Director of the Tulsa Health Department about her concern of problems with legality of names of parents on birth certificates.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Perez Chamu entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0
 - 2. Commissioner Martinez Herrera left the meeting prior to the motion.
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.