



Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | February 12, 2026 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Carlos Bejarano, Chriss Chavez, Daniel Gomez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Fatima Linares, Diana Pennington, Amanda Peregrina, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Mimi Martinez Herrera, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Mark Ohnesorge, Jacob Parra

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion to approve the January meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Bejarano motioned, and Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, January meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez reported that this month has been focused on defining goals and lining up speakers for next few months.
- b. 2026 Commission Goals:
 - i. Strengthening committees: building a consistent cadence and community engagement
 - ii. Boosting GTAHLAC visibility and engagement
 - iii. Bring more speakers to GTAHLAC meetings
- c. Chairwoman Gonzalez reminded commissioners they are expected to serve on a committee and encouraged everyone to reflect this month on their current engagement and areas of interest.
 - i. Commissioners should notify Chairwoman Gonzalez and Vice Chair Chavez of their committee interests by the end of February.
- d. In the future, Chairwoman Gonzalez will discuss the structure of committee reports to use time efficiently.

IV. Community Presentations

- a. Resource Spotlight: Jessica Rice, Epidemiologist at Tulsa Health Department (THD)
 - i. Jessica oversees disease investigations.



- ii. THD is working on building community trust that was eroded during COVID.
- iii. THD Programs
 - 1. Substance use prevention – covers alcohol, opioids, and stimulants
 - 2. Infectious disease prevention tool
 - 3. Can go on THD website to request resources for free such as lock boxes, medication deactivation kit, safer sex products, and Narcan.
- iv. THD strives to educate and inform community so they can make informed decisions for themselves and their families. Offer two newsletters.
- v. Commission Discussion
 - 1. Chairwoman Gonzalez and Commissioner Peregrina asked about resources being provided in Spanish. Jessica affirmed the THD website has a translation option and many brochures have Spanish versions. They also have a bilingual epidemiologist and post on social media in Spanish. They are working to broaden accessibility to Spanish speakers.
- b. Issue in Focus: Dr. Patrick Hutton, HB1082
 - i. Oklahoma HB1082 & SB1452: Equal Shared Parenting
 - ii. Current Oklahoma law does not require evidence to be presented upfront in custody cases, resulting in lengthy court battles. These proposed laws start custody cases with an assumed 50/50 parenting split unless evidence is presented upfront that another arrangement should be considered.
 - iii. Commission Discussion
 - 1. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez asked if these laws would apply retroactively, if passed. Patrick said that will not happen automatically, but if families re-open their case the new law (if in place) will apply.
 - 2. Commissioner Bejarano: What's the current standard that makes this bill necessary? Patrick: "Best Interest Standard" does not include a presumption on custody split, this bill proposes having to provide evidence up front that one party should not have equal custody.
 - 3. Commissioner Bejarano asked if the bill is inclusive of same sex couples. Patrick shared the language of the bill is not inclusive of same sex couples, but the law (if in place) would still apply.
 - 4. Commissioner Gomez: Are there other states with a similar law? Patrick: Kentucky, Missouri, and Arizona are some examples.

V. Action: Vote to Approve 4th Amendment Worksites Playbook

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez reminded GTAHLAC of the purpose of the playbook. Thanked every commission who was involved in creating the document.
- b. Placing the playbook up for a formal vote to have it on record as a commission-backed resource, aiding in distribution, credibility, and opportunity to use in Mayor's Office and City Council.
- c. Chairwoman Gonzalez opened the floor for questions.



- i. Commissioner Bejarano noted one edit in the signature line in the Spanish version.
- d. Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion to approve the 4th Amendment Worksites Playbook with one edit.
 - i. Commissioner Bejarano made a motion, Commissioner Reina seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, 4th Amendment Worksites Playbook approved with one edit.
- e. Will launch digital distribution and have a plan for physical distribution soon.

VI. Action: Chairwoman Gonzalez Appoints New Special Committee, Business Engagement Committee, and Committee Chair

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez appointed a new special committee: Business Engagement Committee. Goal is to strengthen ties with the local business community.
- b. Chairwoman Gonzalez appointed Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez as Chair of the Business Engagement Committee.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Gonzalez: Established meeting cadence and discussed goals.
 - ii. Vice Chair Chavez: Looking to document who is on which committees (commissioners and community) along with contact information so folks can get in touch with each other and the community can engage. Modeled this idea with the Public Safety Committee, open to feedback or other committees borrowing. Putting more structure in place for attending and tabling at events.
- b. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Linares: Jesse Guardiola has been invited to be the keynote speaker.
 - ii. 30 nominations for awards so far. Deadline is February 27.
 - iii. No opportunity for commission support yet but will come.
- c. Community Advocacy Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Gonzalez is reviewing the process for attending events.
- d. Public Safety Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Chavez: Meeting first Thursday of the month
 - ii. Added THD to incorporate public health into safety and Maria with City Communications to help share information through City channels.
 - iii. Andy Little: Seatbelt safety workshop, registration is available online. March 10, May 12, and July 12 in east Tulsa.
 - iv. Vice Chair Chavez shared an update from Commissioner Ohnesorge sent via email. Tulsa Police Department will host another Spanish Citizen's Academy after the success of the first cohort.
 - v. Riley: Potential EMSA rate change in the future. EMSA care members will be unaffected and EMSA will still be lowest cost EMS care provider. EMSA hasn't changed its rate in 13 years. This change is still undergoing approvals, if it does to through nothing will change until October.



- vi. Considering revising Public Safety Committee description in bylaws.
- vii. Violence prevention grant with City is focusing on NW Tulsa. Hispanic community members live in this area. Vice Chair Chavez met with the grant coordinator to discuss Hispanic/Latinx community presence and offer to support.
- e. Immigration Committee
 - i. Commissioner Ariza: Two community members joined the meeting this month and came with lots of questions.
 - ii. There is no bond when an individual is detained for immigration reasons at David L Moss, they are kept in detention as proceedings move forward.
 - iii. Habeas corpus is so important, and an individual's immigration attorney needs to file as soon as someone is detained.
 - iv. Commissioner Ariza will send committee meeting notes to Lexi to distribute to commission.

VIII. Old Business – no old business

IX. New Business – no new business

X. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Congratulated Commissioner Bamaca receiving the Business of the Year Award from the Hispanic Chamber
- b. Save the date for Title V and Beyond Apology Commissions Retreat: July 24
- c. Public Comments:
 - i. Lexi, Community Journalism Director at Tulsa Flyer: Invitation to connect and collaborate. Hope to work together to share the work of the commission, community, and neighborhoods.
- d. Commissioner Linares: Seeing a decrease in attendance for students impacted by immigration issues. The community is asking what the City can do to advocate for them. GTAHLAC can remind the community to set up power of attorney for kids in case parents are deported. Commissioner Peregrina shared the same thing is happening at Union Public Schools. Big need for education about the deportation process.
 - i. Lexi noted that legacy planning services are available for free through the Financial Empowerment Center.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Bejarano motioned, and Vice Chair Chavez seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.