



## **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.



## Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

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

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Carlos Bejarano, Chriss Chavez, Jackiez Gonzalex, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Fatima Linares, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Mark Ohnesorge, Amanda Peregrina, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Amairani Perez Chamu, Daniel Gomez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Diana Pennington

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez

#### I. Call to Order

- a. Vice Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

#### II. Guest Speaker: Maria Elena Kuykendall, Executive Director of El Centro New Sanctuary Empowerment Center

- a. Maria Elena started with gratitude and asked commissioners to introduce themselves. María Nunéz, El Centro's Administrative Coordinator, shared a handout.
- b. El Centro is a nonprofit organization focused on empowering the immigrant community in Tulsa. They are a grassroots organization that focused on peer education. They emphasize making community feel welcomed and listened to.
- c. El Centro runs several programs, including free legal consultations. Currently in need of a new provider, have 300 people on a waiting list to receive legal services. Have been hosting Know Your Rights events.
  - i. There is fear in the community to gather; however, El Centro is recognized as a safe place to access information.
  - ii. Prioritize child-friendly areas in meeting rooms and events.
- d. Offer a free community closet including clothing and household items.
- e. Provide a membership card to those who don't have the documentation needed to access certain services. It's not a driver's license or government identification, but it provides folks with a card that identifies who they are.
- f. Crisis Fund Management: Economic support program. Families are eligible for up to \$240 after going through an application process. Provides some relief to pay bills,

provide food, etc. This is a very popular program. Can only offer assistance to 36 families per month, and appointments will up within three hours of opening them for each month.

- i. Relationship built with families is important, as they can be connected to other services such as SNAP, WIC, and Financial Empowerment Center. They provide a warm handoff to these other services that they know can help them with their unique situation rather than a simple referral.
- g. Partnership with Oklahoma Birth Equity Initiative has a community doula embedded in El Centro. Offer classes for parents in partnership with Amplify, OSU, and others. Planning to collaborate with DVIS on domestic violence prevention.
- h. Have certified 150 peer educators to provide support in various community organizations.
- i. Upcoming events:
  - i. April 30, Mexico celebrates Day of the Children, El Centro hosts an event on April 26.
  - ii. Other events this year will be a community baby shower and a health fair.
- j. Commissioner Q&A:
  - i. Vice Chair Gonzalez shared GTAHLAC's work to administer a survey to understand the community's needs and fears around accessing identification documents. Also have discussed organizing or amplifying Know Your Rights sessions. When you talk about legal services not being active right now, are you looking for individuals or do you need an organization to partner with?
    1. Maria Elena: El Centro doesn't currently have a staff lawyer and need to find a way to provide this resource. Welcome individuals who can donate their time, and open to ways to make that happen.
  - ii. Commissioner Chavez: What donations will you take, and how do we drop off?
    1. Maria Elena and María: Can drop off between 10 am – 5 pm on Monday – Friday. Can't take big furniture. Clothing, toys, small household items are all appreciated.

### III. Vice Chair Report

- a. Vice Chair Gonzalez turned the meeting over to Commissioner Bejaranos for the vote on 2025 officers.
  - i. Commissioner Bejaranos shared the slate of officers as determined by the Nominating Committee:
    1. Chair – Amairani Perez Chamu
    2. Vice Chair – Jackiez Gonzalez
    3. Recorder – Mark Ohnesorge
    4. Historian – Jose Bamaca Hernandez
  - ii. Paused for nominations from the floor.

- iii. Vice Chair Gonzalez entertained a motion to elect the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee.
  - 1. Commissioner Bejaranos made a motion, Commissioner Chavez seconded
    - a. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
  - 2. Motion carried, officer slate elected.

#### **IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Vice Chair Gonzalez entertained a motion to approve February meeting minutes.
  - i. Lexi noted a typo in section X that will be fixed.
  - ii. Commissioner Bejarano noted edits to who served on the nomination committee.
  - iii. Commissioner Chavez added the announcement of the soccer tournament to the Public Safety report.
  - iv. Commissioner Ohnesorge made a motion to approve February meeting minutes with three edits, Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
  - v. Motion carried, February meeting minutes approved with three edits.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

- a. Executive – no report
- b. Education
  - i. Commissioner Linares reported that the Tomás Rivera Awards Ceremony nominations close tomorrow, currently have about 58 nominations. Cynthia Jasso is confirmed as the keynote speakers, the Central Library is booked, and the committee has secured a sponsor for food.
- c. Community Advocacy – no report
- d. Public Safety
  - i. Commissioner Chavez shared that a Save Neighborhoods meeting took place, no new information. All local law enforcement entities continue to reinforce that they are not changing their practices and want community help to get the word out and calm fears. Noted that Broken Arrow Police haven't attended, but Bixby is still attending.
  - ii. All-ages soccer tournament March 29 & 30 fundraiser. Opportunity for the commission to table and raise awareness. Also need volunteers.
  - iii. Andy Little spoke about their canvassing event with American Red Cross, installed 52 smoke alarms with the help of many Spanish-speaking volunteers.
  - iv. Commissioner Ohnesorge shared TPD spoke at two immigration forums and multiple community events to continue to spread the word. Have 20 – 25 Spanish-speaking officers who are well versed on practices.
- e. Immigration – no report

#### **VI. Old Business**

- a. Vice Chair Gonzalez reviewed activities from previous meetings, including the working group to create educational resources for the community.
  - i. Commissioner Bejarano mentioned the Tulsa Area United Way and YWCA Tulsa presentation, can use those resources as a starting point and is willing to get people together to start the conversation.
  - ii. Vice Chair Gonzalez made an offer to connect the working group to a lawyer.
- b. By next meeting, Vice Chair Gonzalez and Commissioner Ohnesorge will have a draft of the lawful and safe protesting resource.

#### **VII. New Business**

- a. Commissioner Ariza provided an update on the vital records issue with Tulsa Health Department. She continues to follow up with Dr. Dart, THD's Executive Director, to push for changes to be more inclusive of documentation. This resulted in an Oklahoma House of Representatives bill to be filed—HB1688—which would allow people to amend birth certificates later in life to correct spelling and other errors.
  - i. Currently can only make these corrections within the first year of a child's live.
  - ii. Vice Chair Gonzalez asked how GTAHLAC can advocate for this bill.
    - 1. Commissioner Bejarano shared they can pen a letter from the commission and/or a chair letter.
    - 2. Lexi noted that a letter on behalf of the commission as an entity would need to be voted on in a future meeting. Additionally, the Human Rights Commission has an avenue for other commissions to make requests of support, so there is opportunity that HRC could sign onto a letter as well.
  - iii. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez asked if Commissioner Gomez has drafted letters in the past, Commissioner Bejarano confirmed he has helped with that. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez offered to ask Commissioner Gomez to draft a letter on behalf of the commission.
- b. Commissioners mentioned other Oklahoma bills to watch out for: HB1362, SB865

#### **VIII. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. Commissioner Chavez congratulated Commissioner Reina on a presentation on the gender gap in entrepreneurship.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

- a. Vice Chair Gonzalez entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.



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

Regular Meeting | April 10, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Amairani Torres-Chamu, Chriss Chavez, Fatima Linares, Mark Ohnesorge, Jacob Parra, Diana Pennington, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Carlos Bejarano, Daniel Gomez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Amanda Peregrina

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez

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

- a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. A quorum was not yet present.

#### **II. Chair / Vice Chair Report**

- a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu revisited the idea of an advocacy letter that was brought up in the last meeting. Lexi reminded the commission what was discussed in March's meeting so everyone is on the same page.
  - i. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu agreed that it's important for the commission to advocate and offered to reach out to Commissioner Gomez to see if he has a template.
  - ii. Commissioner Parra looked up and shared an update on the three bills discussed in the March meeting. Asked who the letter would be addressed to.
    1. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu mentioned the letters could go to local leaders (such as City Counselors) educating them about the bills.
    2. Commissioner Chavez noted it's still important to raise awareness on a state level.
    3. Commissioner Parra noted that individual emails, phone calls, and in person meetings with legislators is effective. On Monday, they will release the schedule for committee hearings to know if and when bills are being considered.



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iii. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu offered to discuss the bills when she is at the capitol on April 21. If you are interested and available to go to the capitol, reach out to her.

b. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu welcomed Commissioner Parra, who is new to the commission. Commissioner Parra introduced himself.

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

a. A quorum was present in the meeting as of 6:20 pm.

b. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu entertained a motion to approve March meeting minutes.

i. Commissioner Chavez noted one correction that needs to be made in Section VII.

ii. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Ariza seconded.

1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0

iii. Motion carried, March meeting minutes approved with one correction.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

a. Executive

i. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu noted that the Executive Committee did not meet this month, but she and Vice Chair Gonzalez will meet with Lexi soon.

ii. Will consider changing the date of the Executive Committee meetings to better accommodate schedules.

b. Education

i. Commissioner Linares reminded the commission that the Tomás Rivera Awards are next month, May 8 at 6 pm, at the Central Library.

ii. Currently in the process of interviewing students and community heroes. Also working to have the City of Tulsa communication's department approve assets such as the certificates. Pic Me Photobooth will be at the event.

c. Community Advocacy

i. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu reported that Commissioner Bejarano emailed resources to her, who will share them with Lexi to distribute to the commission.

d. Public Safety

i. Commissioner Chavez shared the committee met this month and Andy Little chaired.

ii. Andy Little reported that the Council for Safe Neighborhoods soccer tournament went well.

1. Commissioner Ohnesorge had an idea of a soccer game where youth can play against law enforcement.



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iii. Discussed inviting folks to the Tomás Rivera Awards, Commissioner Linares shared that they plan for 200 guests, so anyone is welcome.

e. Immigration

i. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu shared that she connected with a local grassroots group and they are attending committee meetings.

## V. Old Business

a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu returned to the advocacy letter discussion. Can also create talking points commissioners can utilize when reaching out to legislators. Open to picking a day during the timeline of the bill to travel to the capitol.

i. Commissioner Linares agreed talking points will be helpful.

ii. Commissioner Chavez shared an idea of writing a letter that other individuals can then adapt and send themselves.

iii. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu proposed having an advocacy letter and also develop talking points that community members can utilize when reaching out as individuals.

iv. Discussion ensued about the best way to present the letter, if it should be from Chairwoman Torres-Chamu or from the entire commission. If the letter is on behalf of the entire commission, they will have to meet in person to agree and vote on the language, which will slow down the letter's delivery. Consensus was reached that for the sake of time, the letter will come from Chairwoman Torres-Chamu.

v. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu entertained a motion to draft an advocacy letter from herself and talking points for community members to utilize.

1. Commissioner Linares motioned, Commissioner Reina seconded.

a. Aye: Commissioners Ariza, Chavez, Linares, Parra, Pennington, Reina, and Chairwoman Torres-Chamu

b. Nay: 0

c. Abstain: Commissioner Ohnesorge

2. Motion carried, Chairwoman Torres-Chamu will write an advocacy letter and draft talking points.

b. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu will move the civic engagement videos through the Executive Committee.

## VI. New Business – no new business

## VII. Announcements / Public Comments

a. Commissioner Ohnesorge: Tomorrow, the next Tulsa Police Academy class graduates. Significant because one graduate is graduating through the new partnership with Mexico City University.

b. Department of Resilience and Equity has been talking to Tulsa Police officers about immigration, refugee services, and educating them on different forms of



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documentation so they are better informed on how to communicate with residents.

- c. Tulsa Police Department will offer a Spanish language of the Citizens Police Academy.
- d. Tomorrow, Tulsa Fire Department will canvas homes from 11<sup>th</sup> St S to 21<sup>st</sup> St S, which are often at risk for structural fires. Many Hispanic/Latinx folks living in that area, so they have Spanish-speaking volunteers.
- e. Lexi reviewed TGOV microphone protocols and City Hall parking procedures.
- f. El Centro Dia del Ninez event on April 26 from 12 – 4 pm.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

- a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - i. Commissioner Ohnesorge made a motion, Commissioner Chavez seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.



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

Regular Meeting | May 8, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm  
Central Library | Pocahontas Room

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Amairani Torres-Chamu, Chriss Chavez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Fatima Linares, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Mark Ohnesorge, Jacob Parra, Diana Pennington, Amanda Peregrina, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Carlos Bejarano, Daniel Gomez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez

Liaisons Present: Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Riley Howard, Ivan Patino-Cortez

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

- a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

#### **II. Tomás Rivera Awards Ceremony**

- a. Mayor Monroe Nichols shared remarks.
- b. Deputy Mayor Krystal Reyes introduced the keynote speaker, Cynthia Jasso.
- c. Cynthia Jasso delivered the keynote speech.
- d. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu and Commissioner Linares distributed awards to students and community heroes.

#### **III. Adjournment**

- a. Chairwoman Torres-Chamu adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm.



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

Regular Meeting | June 12, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Fatima Linares, Mark Ohnesorge, Carlos Bejarano, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Amanda Peregrina

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Gomez, Chriss Chavez, Jacob Parra, Diana Pennington, Angelica Reina

Liaisons Present: Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez, Riley Howard

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

- a. Vice Chairwoman Jackiez Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

#### **II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Vice Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion to approve April and May meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Berajano made a motion, Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
    1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, April and May minutes approved.

#### **III. Vice Chair Report**

- a. Vice Chairwoman Gonzalez acknowledged that previous Chairwoman Torres-Chamu has moved to Oklahoma City, therefore the Chair position is vacant. Gonzalez opened the floor to nominate a new Chair that will fill the position until the end of the year.
- b. Commissioner Bejarano self-nominated for the Chair position.
- c. Vice Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion to appoint Commissioner Bejarano as Chair of the Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission for the remainder of 2025.
  - i. Commissioner Ohnesorge made a motion, Commissioner Martinez Herrera seconded.
    1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, Commissioner Bejarano was elected Chair for the remainder of 2025.
- d. Vice Chairwoman Gonzalez passed further meeting facilitation duties to newly appointed Chairman Bejarano.

#### **IV. Guest Speaker: Tulsa Police Department Chief Dennis Larsen**



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- a. TPD Chief Dennis Larsen spoke about his positive experience working with the Hispanic community.
- b. Chief Larsen discussed some of TPD's major priorities, including reducing gun-related violent crime and combatting the proliferation of drugs such as fentanyl in the Tulsa community.
- c. Chief Larsen also spoke about TPD's immigration policies and translation services as it relates to the Hispanic community.
  - i. Assured commissioners that TPD seeks to treat everyone with dignity and respect as it conducts law enforcement activities.
  - ii. TPD is starting to utilize translation devices that enables officers to communicate with those who speak languages other than English. He is also interested in recruiting bilingual police officers from the Hispanic community.
  - iii. Stressed the importance of working together—TPD, Fire Department, City of Tulsa, churches, community organizations, and others—to address community challenges.
- d. Commission Discussion
  - i. Commissioner Peregrina asked if there is a way to know what percentage of the Hispanic community are involved in crime, whether it is a high percentage.
    1. Chief Larson noted that in his experience, Hispanic communities have low crime levels.
    2. Commissioner Peregrina: Given the negative stereotypes about the Hispanic community, is it possible to use TPD data to dispel these public misconceptions?
    3. Chief Larson suggested that the negative narratives and stereotypes come from the national level, not the local level.
    4. Commissioner Ohnesorge added that data is tracked by different organizations. However, TPD typically does not track demographic data in its crime analytics.
  - ii. Vice Chairwoman Gonzalez asked, given the level of misinformation and fear, whether TPD has increased its community education and outreach work to build trust and dispel fears.
    1. Chief Larson: TPD's strategy for outreach work hasn't changed. He described some of the department's ongoing outreach work, including participating as speakers at community organizations and churches. TPD also has community ambassadors who attend community events and answer any questions directly. He personally offered to speak at any venues that the Commission recommends.
  - iii. Commissioner Martinez Herrera expressed concern about social media, which can spread propaganda, as well as the large number of private citizens that call immigration with false accusations. She asked Chief Larson to describe how TPD



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ensures that information is accurate and that all are treated with dignity and respect, particularly given the risk of a false accusation.

1. Chief Larson described the process that TPD takes in its investigations to verify the likelihood of crime being committed. TPD must build a substantial case and present it in written form to a judge, who then will decide whether to grant a warrant.
  2. Commissioner Martinez Herrera asked about the Hispanic community's fear to gather at various events, given the fear of a possible ICE raid.
  3. Chief Larson answered that ICE will not come to these events. He offered to send police presence to any events to engage with the community and ensure participants' safety. He suggested that the fear of what's happening at the federal level is not coming to our local community.
- iv. Commissioner Ariza thanked Chief Larson for all of TPD's amazing work in the community. She called out a new educational initiative—Citizen's Policy Academy in Spanish—that TPD will be starting that allows Hispanic people to learn more about the department.

## V. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee – no report
- b. Education Committee
  - i. Commissioner Linares reported that the Tomas Rivera Awards attracted approximately 200 people, which was a great turnout in the current climate.
  - ii. The Committee is considering changing the criteria for nominating heroes to include workers in the school system (teachers, counselors, etc.) and other community members.
  - iii. The Committee is also looking into options to change the venue that are more cost effective and welcomes any recommendations.
- c. Community Advocacy Committee – no report
- d. Public Safety Committee – no report
- e. Immigration Committee
  - i. Chairman Bejarano noted that there is currently no Chair for this committee, so opened the floor to general updates from all Commissioners.
  - ii. Commissioner Martinez Herrera noted that there has not yet been much activity from ICE in Tulsa, although there have been unconfirmed sightings. The best thing the Commission can do for the community is dispel any misinformation. The Commission should also continue to inform people about their rights, how to respond to various scenarios, etc. Nevertheless, the fear people have is valid, given that Tulsa has had raids in the past.
  - iii. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez shared that based on his work experience, he has not seen any evidence of ICE activity and that the unconfirmed sightings are likely false.



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- iv. Commissioner Ariza highlighted that ICE is continuing its normal scope of work targeting individuals who should be deported. However, these deportations are very targeted and do not impact the general population.
- v. Commissioner Peregrina highlighted that it is important to verify information before it is spread. She also raised the Attorney General's initiative to remove the status of Venezuelans, which are part of the Hispanic community. This is a big fear and many families are impacted. She suggested that the Commission could create a letter addressing these changes.
- vi. Chairman Bejarano suggested that the Commission should assemble the Immigration Committee to focus on this work and develop recommendations for the entire Commission.

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

**VII. New Business**

- a. Vice Chairwoman Gonzalez presented to the Commission requesting endorsement of about a possible new initiative for the Immigration Committee called 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Worksites.
  - i. It is an educational toolkit and training that provide restaurant owners with guidance on how to protect employees in the event of an unconstitutional search by federal law enforcement.
  - ii. Vice Chair Gonzalez suggests this resource could be valuable in the Tulsa context.
  - iii. An endorsement from the Commission would involve:
    - 1. Resource adaptation: Help curate and modify select tools for print, given that restaurant managers requested printed materials.
    - 2. Promotion and distribution.
    - 3. Resource tracking and evaluation.
  - iv. Proposed summer timeline:
    - 1. June/July: work meetings, commissioners attend virtual training, establish initial distribution plan.
    - 2. July: print initial batch of materials, identify distribution days, virtual training for local restaurants, ongoing distribution and education.
    - 3. August: revisiting businesses to understand ongoing needs and impacts of resources.
  - v. Chairman Bejarano suggested that this could be an initiative under the Community Advocacy Committee instead of the Immigration Committee, as they are more established.
    - 1. Vice Chairwoman Gonzalez suggested that this could slow down the timeline unnecessarily to push the initiative to committee rather than vote as a commission today.



CITY EXPERIENCE  
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

2. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez responded that it would be better to vote on this endorsement today, given that this is urgent information to share with the community.
  3. Chair Bejarano clarified if Vice Chair Gonzalez is seeking for the commission to formally vote on this today, Vice Chair Gonzalez said yes.
- vi. Chair Bejarano entertained a motion to adopt the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Worksites as a commission project.
1. Vice Chairwoman Gonzalez motioned, Commissioner Herrera seconded.
    - a. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
  2. Motion carried, the commission adopted the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Worksites as a project.
- vii. Vice Chair Gonzalez will connect with folks in a smaller group to begin work.

#### **VIII. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. The Commission heard public comments from Alfredo Marcelo from the organization Growing Together.
  - i. Mr. Marcelo highlighted that interpreters at the municipal court are not effective at carrying out their duties. They regularly mislead defendants and provide them with incomplete information that carries serious negative consequences, yet are not held accountable. Moreover, families do not have access to online information about incarcerated or detained family members. He suggests that these are major problems that face the Tulsa Hispanic community that the Commission should actively address.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

- a. Chair Bejarano entertained a motion to adjourn.
  - i. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez motioned, and Commissioner Linares seconded.
    1. Aye: 9
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.



## Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | August 14, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Carlos Bejarano, Chriss Chavez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Mark Ohnesorge, Amanda Peregrina, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Gomez, Fatima Linares, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Jacob Parra, Diana Pennington

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez

#### I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Bejarano called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

#### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Commissioner Chavez proposed an edit to specify the education initiative mentioned—Citizen's Police Academy in Spanish—in Item IV.d.iv.
- b. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to approve June meeting minutes with one edit.
  - i. Commissioner Peregrina made a motion, Commissioner Reina seconded.
    1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Commissioner Chavez)
  - ii. Motion carried, June minutes approved.

#### III. Guest Speaker: Alejandro Garcia, Executive Director at Tulsa Global District

- a. Alejandro Garcia invited HLAC to La Fiesta de Tulsa on September 13<sup>th</sup> at Hannah Hall. This is the fourth year of the event and is rebranding this year from the Hispanic Heritage Celebration.
  - i. First time there will be a parade (Cooper Elementary to Hannah Hall).
    1. Tulsa Global District (TGD) is partnering with Tulsa Public Schools and will have shuttles between the two locations.
    2. Commissioner Chavez: Who is in the parade? Alejandro: Already have eight organizations signed up for parade equaling 500 people.
  - ii. The event will feature a festival, performers, and vendors. Almost all vendor spaces are filled but invited HLAC to table.



- iii. TGD is reaching out to diverse group of performers to expand beyond Mexican folklorico. Open to ideas from commissioners.
- iv. Will start advertising the event next week.
- v. Commission Discussion:
  - 1. HLAC will table at the event. Chairman Bejarano will take the lead and encouraged other commissioners to volunteer.
  - 2. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez asked about the parking lot capacity. Alejandro noted this is the biggest concern for the event. There is only one entrance into parking, will have traffic control and police to help with parade and traffic. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez asked if vendors are only from TGD. Alejandro said they're from all over.
  - 3. Commissioner Martinez Herrera: Do you have a link for volunteers to register?
    - a. Alejandro: Yes
    - b. Commissioner Martinez Herrera will share with COHO.
  - 4. Commissioner Peregrina asked if all the event materials are available in Spanish, and Alejandro affirmed that they are.
  - 5. Alejandro mentioned reaching out to the City to participate in the parade and is awaiting a response.
  - 6. Commissioner Martinez Herrera gave kudos to Alejandro as a one-person team and all he does to support small businesses.
- vi. Dragon Trail Ride (August 23 at 9 – 12): Placing 14 bike racks near businesses with dragon shapes throughout TGD, each painted by a local artist. The event will also offer free helmets, bike locks, safety checks, and bike tune ups.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

- a. Executive Committee
  - i. Chairman Bejarano: Met on Aug 1 to discuss committee assignments and arranging guest speaker for September (Growing Together)
    - 1. Possible future speakers include Office of Financial Empowerment, new Director of Public Art, Municipal Court, US Attorney's Office, and YWCA Tulsa.
  - ii. HLAC has received a request to move meetings to an earlier time. Chairman Bejarano opened up discussion for commissioners to share their thoughts on meetings starting at 5:30 instead of 6.
    - 1. Several commissioners quickly shared 5:30 is better for them.
    - 2. Chairman Bejarano asked Lexi if HLAC can begin this change in September, and she confirmed they can.



3. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to move meetings from 6pm to 5:30pm.
    - a. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Martinez Herrera seconded.
      - i. Aye: 9
    - b. Motion carried, meeting time will be 5:30 starting in September.
  - iii. Chairman Bejarano mentioned the Title V Commission Retreat in July. He presented on behalf of HLAC about the Tomás Rivera Awards Ceremony.
  - iv. Chairman Bejarano will meet tomorrow with Kate Neary at Community Health Connection to learn about their programs.
  - v. Chairman Bejarano will continue chatting with committee chairs to establish a format for their reports.
  - vi. Commissioner Linares asked Chairman Bejarano to reach out to the Central Library about hosting Tomás Rivera for free in May of next year. Will update the Education Committee when he hears back.
- b. Education Committee
    - i. In Commissioner Linares's absence, Chairman Bejarano shared that the committee will meet next week.
  - c. Community Advocacy Committee
    - i. Vice Chair Gonzalez will chair this committee moving forward. They haven't met yet but hope to within the next two weeks.
    - ii. Vice Chair Gonzalez provided an update on the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Worksites project.
      1. Resources to help customer-facing businesses think about tools and protocols in the event federal agents arrive at their business and try to conduct illegal search.
      2. Thanked Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez for being a great advisor.
      3. The toolkit is in the near-final draft stage. Aiming for a 10-page physical document to distribute to businesses.
        - a. Exploring options for printing sponsorship.
        - b. Will also create postcards to distribute at events.
      4. Summary of contents: optional training information (free, 90 minutes), checklist for leadership decision making, environment checklist, employee checklist for before, during, and after an incident
    - iii. Request for Support from HLAC:
      1. Review and identify most important parts of FAQ section in the toolkit.
        - a. Commissioner Reina volunteered to help.



2. Identifying community partners to include in the toolkit and to help raise awareness.
  3. Build list of businesses to distribute packets to (Not urgent yet).
- iv. Commission Discussion:
1. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez thinks the toolkit is solid, just needs more input from commissioners and committee members.
  2. Chairman Bejarano: Would it be helpful to have a quick working session to finalize? Vice Chair Gonzalez will think about this. Would like to have a version ready to go out by 918 Day weekend. The toolkit will be a living document to extent.
  3. Commissioner Ariza thanked Commissioner Gonzalez and emphasized how important this information is to the community.
  4. Commissioner Chavez would like to present the toolkit at the Council for Safe Neighborhoods, as the topic affects safety and fear. Asked if there is a lawyer on the committee having input.
    - a. Vice Chair Gonzalez clarified that the toolkit is not legal advice, and they are not inventing anything, but taking existing resources and making them more digestible.
- d. Public Safety Committee
- i. Commissioner Chavez noted that the committee includes liaisons from Tulsa Fire, Police, and EMSA as well as Commissioners Ariza and Martinez Herrera.
  - ii. Completed Spanish translation for the food truck fire safety and compliance packet, this resource is now on the Fire Department's website.
  - iii. Citizen Policy Academy in Spanish in October. This will be the first one ever conducted in Spanish. The application deadline is August 30, the class is limited to 30 people, and spaces are still available.
    1. Will do a brief background check and participants must be 18 years or older.
    2. Commissioner Chavez called on HLAC to promote this opportunity and fill the class to continue having opportunities for Hispanic/Latinx community like this.
  - iv. Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on September 20 at McCullough Park. The event had a great turn out last year and this is an opportunity for HLAC to table. Commissioner Chavez will be present.
  - v. Safety Council Fair: Covers gun safety, self-defense, and cyber security. Andy wasn't sure if the event is happening. If it is, Commissioner Chavez noted it could be an opportunity to education on fraud prevention in the Spanish-speaking community.
  - vi. Commissioner Chavez expressed her appreciation that Chief Larsen was at the last commission meeting. They are doing important work to promote



diversity in TPD's employment and offering awareness events such as Beyond the Badge.

- vii. Riley: August is the enrollment period for EMSA Care, a benefit that ensures Tulsans don't pay out of pocket for ambulance rides if they enroll. Covers everyone who is a full-time resident in the household for \$5.45 per month. Will email link to EMSA Care page in Spanish.
- viii. Commissioner Martinez Herrera: Coalition of Hispanic Organizations' Back to School Event social media comment section was disappointing, there were rumors that ICE would be at the event and COHO received hateful messages for providing the service to the community. COHO will do video soon to clarify misinformation. ICE was not present, and the event was very successful with 8,000+ people attending, even though a smaller percentage than usual (33%) self-reported as Spanish-speaking.
  - 1. Commissioner Ariza noted that this fear is affecting other things like public schools and CAP enrollment.
  - 2. Andy noted that the families who did attend were very engaged with police and fire depts.
  - 3. Commissioner Peregrina added that enrollment for newcomers at Union's 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center is way down. Also, students are dropping out and families are very afraid to take their kids to school. Need to communicate that school is safe and it's important to go, despite political messaging trying to instill fear. Schools are not asking for immigration status and there is nothing in the application that would give away this information.
    - a. Andy: Have there been conversations in school board leadership?
    - b. Commissioner Peregrina: Problem is that if the district promotes too much, we become a target. Have to be very cautious but need to inform families.
    - c. Commissioner Ariza is seeing the same thing at court. Folks are not showing up and putting themselves in further trouble.
    - d. Chairman Bejerano noted that this was one of the great messages the Municipal Court shared at the retreat. They have an outreach person on staff who will share messaging.
- e. Immigration Committee – no report

**V. Old Business – no old business**

**VI. New Business**



- a. Commissioner Chavez: Thank you to Lexi and everyone who put on the Title V Commission Retreat. Reflected that she learned so much from other commissioners. Everyone should make an effort to go to other commission meetings and invite them to HLAC. Prompted her to wonder how commissions can communicate amongst ourselves when issues overlap to synergize. Learned about Neighborhood Academy, which needs to be promoted with the Hispanic community. Chairman Bejarano did a great job presenting.
- b. Vice Chair Gonzalez: Deadline to apply to next Neighborhood Academy is Aug 29. She participated in the first round and found it valuable.

**VII. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. 918 Day Festival on September 18.
- b. Tulsa Fire Museum is having a live exhibit event with a Hispanic female firefighter (September 18<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm).
- c. Commissioner Chavez raised a call for support with an upcoming Tulsa City Council vote to fund the installation of “Caja de Agua,” a gift from our sister city San Luis Potosí, Mexico, at Tulsa Botanic Garden.

**VIII. Adjournment**

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to adjourn.
  - i. Commissioner Chavez motioned, and Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 8
      - a. Commissioner Martinez Herrera left the meeting prior to the motion.
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.



## Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | September 11, 2025 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Carlos Bejarano, Chriss Chavez, Daniel Gomez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Fatima Linares, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Mark Ohnesorge, Diana Pennington, Amanda Peregrina, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Amy Ariza, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Jacob Parra

Liaisons Present: Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Riley Howard, Ivan Patino-Cortez

#### I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Bejarano called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

#### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to approve August meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
    1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, August minutes approved.

#### III. Guest Speakers: Kaitlin Williams and Alfredo Marcelo, Growing Together

- a. Growing Together (GT) formed in collaboration with residents in 2011.
- b. GT's Mission: Eliminate inequalities that stand in the way for families in vulnerable neighborhoods to succeed.
- c. Wholistic, inclusive neighborhood development. People typically think of buildings as neighborhood development, but it also includes community aspect, people, and access to opportunities.
- d. Kendall-Whittier neighborhood history: Tulsa's first suburban shopping district. There was an influx of Latinx immigrants in the 90s, who helped bring stability to the neighborhood after a decline in the economic corridor starting in the 50s.
- e. Kendall-Whittier neighborhood data:
  - i. Approximately 12,000 people.
  - ii. 50% white and 32% Hispanic.
  - iii. 64% of households earn less than \$50,000 per year.
- f. Social connectedness provides essential resources, especially among newcomers.
- g. As new folks move into the neighborhood, GT considers how it is affecting current residents so they can help combat gentrification.



- h. GT identified residents' main priorities through their Flourishing Neighborhood Index, which engaged 400+ residents.
  - i. Economic challenges, inability to save money or purchase a home.
  - ii. Sense of disconnection and/or mistrust of leaders and lack of civic engagement.
    - 1. There is power in this room individually and as a commission body.
    - 2. Residents want to know where decisions occur that affect their neighborhood or the Latino community, and where is community-level support.
    - 3. Want to know community leaders and community-level decisions.
  - iii. Safety & security, lack of investment in lighting, sidewalks, etc
- i. Alfredo distributed a handout with resources (Appendix 1).
- j. GT's main priority: Help parents access resources to advance their family's economic opportunity.
- k. GT faces challenges with implementing programming due to larger societal barriers such as transportation, community trust, and safety.
  - i. 742 participants in community programs from June 24 – 25.
- l. Creating closer connections between neighborhood residents and leaders. Working with City Councilors and School Board members.
- m. Community Leadership Institute: Fellowship to train people in financial literacy and building generational wealth. 43 residents trained so far.
- n. Mentorship opportunities for students who need role models, especially male students.
  - i. 6,000+ hours served per year from 39 mentors in schools, providing support to teachers and students.
- o. Kendall-Whittier Neighborhood Trust: Preserving long-term affordability with mixed-income housing
  - i. Conscious rental of single-family homes. Families in neighborhood need larger homes and long-term rental opportunities.
  - ii. Breaking ground next year on an apartment/town home development.
- p. Commission Discussion
  - i. Vice Chair Gonzalez: Can you speak to the Market District development's impact on your strategy?
    - 1. Kaitlin: Yes, there is growing concern in neighborhood about gentrification (not necessarily purposeful). What happens when external investments are not aligned with community vision? Developments have impacted property affordability in a short period of time. Community has expressed lack of consultation before development took place, and it's important to make thoughtful investments to improve the neighborhood.
  - ii. Commissioner Chavez invited GT to participate in Council for Safe Neighborhoods.
  - iii. Chairman Bejarano: What is the feedback loop from program participants and data you collect on program satisfaction?
    - 1. Kaitlin: It's different program to program, mainly trying to align around main purpose of program. They measure the likelihood participants will recommend a program to someone else and how much a program



contributes to a participant's goals. Long-term community metrics GT wants to track include: How large the community's network grows, how long do people stay with us, are they seeing improvement or growth, activation in community role.

- q. Opportunities and Events with GT:
  - i. Community Pumpkin Patch: October 18 from 2 – 5 in Kendall-Whittier Square. Addressing the affordability of fun
  - ii. Volunteer for Future Not Finance at Will Rogers Middle and High Schools on October 29

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

- a. Chairman Bejarano shared that GTAHLAC is signed up to table at La Fiesta de Tulsa this Saturday. He and Vice Chair Gonzalez will be there, need two more people volunteer.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

- a. Executive Committee
  - i. Chairman Bejarano noted that next month's speaker will either be from the Financial Empowerment Center or Municipal Court.
  - ii. With Governor Stitt's operation involving the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), there is an influx of officers in Tulsa. Keep in mind that individuals who are stopped by OHP and go to jail will go to county jail which brings in other considerations related to immigration.
  - iii. Commissioner Chavez asked if commissioners should send guest speakers recommendations to Chairman Bejarano, who said yes.
- b. Education Committee
  - i. Commissioner Linares shared the committee will meet the third Wednesday of the month from 11 – 12 moving forward.
  - ii. Commissioner Pennington will join the committee.
  - iii. Central Library is reserved for Tomás Rivera and will start planning next month.
  - iv. Connected with the new Hispanic Resource Center Coordinator, and Chairman Bejarano mentioned she may be interested in participating with event planning.
  - v. Chairman Chavez: In contact with engineers at TU and they have money to do a Noche de Ciencias with Tulsa Public Schools. Would like to connect Commissioner Linares with them. The programming will be paid for and planned and can be for any grade level.
    - 1. Vice Chair Gonzalez asked if there's an opportunity for them to work with GT, Commissioner Chavez said yes.
    - 2. Commissioner Chavez can also enlist ORU students to help at Union, connect with Amanda.
- c. Community Advocacy Committee
  - i. Vice Chair Gonzalez referred commission to the draft version of the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Workplace packet. At this point, text is pretty set, working on design next. Still incorporating local resources and an FAQ section. Will have a Spanish version as well.



- ii. Reminder this is a resource for business to understand rights when federal agents arrive for search.
- iii. Vice Chair Gonzalez reviewed different sections of the packet with the commission.
- iv. Several commissioners have expressed interest in helping with distribution, have leads from business community on printing.
- v. Commission Discussion:
  - 1. Chairman Bejarano asked if the packet will also be available electronically. Vice Chair Gonzalez said it will, though she is still determining the best place for it to live.
  - 2. Commissioner Pennington: Is there a shortened version that organizations can post that links to the full document? Vice Chair Gonzalez said there isn't, but that's a good idea.
  - 3. Commissioner Chavez asked about the title, and Vice Chair Gonzalez clarified that it's a work in progress. Don't want to cause alarm, so need to find the right informative title.
  - 4. Commissioner Chavez would like to present the resource to the Council for Safe Neighborhoods when it's ready. Vice Chair Gonzalez said it will likely be ready for print by the end of the month.
- d. Immigration Committee – no report
- e. Public Safety Committee
  - i. Commissioner Chavez shared they did not meet last month.
  - ii. 34 people signed up for Spanish Citizen's Police Academy (30 spots available).
  - iii. Community Safety Fair: September 25 from 6 – 8 pm. Opportunity for the commission to table. Topics covered will include cybersecurity, fire protection, firearm safety, medication disposal, CPR, and more. All in Spanish.
  - iv. Law Enforcement Appreciation Day: September 20 at 6pm. Another opportunity for the commission to table.
  - v. Andy Little reported that the Oklahoma state legislature passed bill 2459, changing safety inspections for food trucks, which goes into effect on November 1. If they don't have the Fire Marshall and LPG Commission sticker, then they will be shut down and can't operate.
    - 1. TFD won't patrol looking for stickers, this is outside of TFD's jurisdiction.
    - 2. There is an event on September 22 and 23 to receive the inspection. Folks can also call the state Fire Marshall to schedule an inspection.
    - 3. Vice Chair Gonzalez offered to attach a flyer with this information to the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Workplaces packet.
    - 4. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez: Food trucks have to have the fire suppression system? Andy shared it depends on what type of cooking equipment they have. If they have petroleum, they have to have the LPG sticker.
    - 5. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez: Will TFD share what they need to do if they don't pass an inspection? Andy: Yes, will educate them on what's needed to pass inspection.



6. Commissioner Pennington asked about the LPG sticker, Andy shared if they have a petroleum tank it needs to be placed and protected properly or they can be unsafe. Must have a fire suppression system in the truck.
7. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez noted there are only three or four companies that install the fire suppression system for hundreds of food trucks in the city.
8. Andy reiterated that TFD will not actively be patrolling for the stickers; however, they have to address any safety issues with LPG tanks.
9. Commissioner Linares asked Lexi if the City send out a mailer to those who have permits for the mobile businesses. Lexi will inquire.
  - a. Commissioner Chavez underscored that this is a city-wide issue, want to be proactive in supporting small businesses

**VI. Old Business** – no old businesses

**VII. New Business**

- a. Commissioner Chavez extended an invite to the Mexican Consulate event tomorrow night in OKC. If you didn't get a personal invite someone who did receive an invite can register for you. There is also a second event at La Fiesta de Tulsa.

**VIII. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. Public Comments:
  - i. Alex with Gilcrease Museum: Gilcrease has a large collection of historical and recent Latin American art, a portion of the museum's collection that has been understudied but that will change. Hiring an assistant curator of Latin American culture, on TU's employment portal.
  - ii. Councilor Dutton introduced herself. Would like to have closer with commission on ways to construct policy that is reflective of the Hispanic/Latinx community.
  - iii. Michelle Lara, Executive Director of Padres Unidos: Hosting a literacy assessment event on October 4.

**IX. Adjournment**

- a. Chairman Bejerano entertained a motion to adjourn.
  - i. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez motioned, and Commissioner Chavez seconded.
    1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.



# Get involved



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to volunteer?

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

Regular Meeting | October 9, 2025 | 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, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Fatima Linares, Mark Ohnesorge, Diana Pennington, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Gomez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Jacob Parra, Amanda Peregrina

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez

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

- a. Chairman Bejarano called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

#### **II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. As a quorum was not yet present, Chairman Bejarano did not call for a motion to approve meeting minutes.

#### **III. Guest Speakers: Dr. William Smith, Director of the Helmerich Center for American Research**

- a. Chairman Bejarano shared that the guest speaker is not able to attend today and will be rescheduled in January or February.

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

- a. Chairman Bejarano shared that he was put in contact with Emilee Taylor, Executive Director of Strategy and Data at Tulsa Public Schools (TPS). There is an opportunity for GTAHLAC to provide TPS with input on their next strategic plan. Input can be in the form of survey or attending a public meeting. Can also have Emilee as a guest speaker in January or February and utilize the commission meeting as a feedback session. Commissioners expressed interest in this opportunity.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

- a. Executive Committee
  - i. Chairman Bejarano shared the Executive Committee didn't meet, but they are working on guest speakers for the rest of the year.
  - ii. Commissioner Linares arrived at 5:39 pm.
- b. Education Committee
  - i. Commissioner Linares shared the Education Committee will meet next week to begin preparations for the Tomás Rivera awards.



- ii. Stephanie (Tulsa City County Library) and Commissioner Pennington are joining the committee.
- c. Community Advocacy Committee
  - i. Send any feedback on the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Workplace packet to Jackiez.
- d. Public Safety Committee
  - i. Commissioner Ohnesorge shared about several projects that members of the Public Safety Committee are involved in or spoke at.
  - ii. Tulsa Fire Department (TFD), Tulsa Police Department (TPD), and EMSA are collaborating on a car seat safety day on November 11 at Station 27, hosted by Safe Kids. Families will register in advance.
  - iii. Red Ribbon Week in the schools is the week of October 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - iv. TPD, TFD, and EMSA are all working to recruit more Hispanic and bilingual officers. About 75 TPD officers speak Spanish, but this is a small percentage of the total force and not enough to meet the need of the growing Spanish-speaking population.
  - v. Commissioner Chavez shared the committee will meet monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 11am virtually.
- e. Immigration Committee – no report

#### **VI. Old Business**

- a. Commissioner Chavez shared that City Council approved the Caja de Agua statue donation and it has been installed. The ribbon cutting will be on October 19 at the Tulsa Botanic Garden. Would love to have commission to have a presence.

#### **VII. New Business**

- a. Commissioner Martinez Herrera arrived at 5:45 pm.
- b. If you are interested in chairing the Nomination Committee, let Chairman Bejarano know as he will appoint the chair next month. Also share if you are interested in Chair or Vice Chair for 2026.

#### **VIII. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. Spanish Citizens Police Academy started this week. There were 75 applicants and could only take 30. Might host another cohort in the spring.
- b. Congratulations to Onyx for being accepted to the women's TFD training camp.
- c. Human Rights Commission's Fair Housing Committee is hosting a Fair Housing Summit for Veterans on November 6 at 1pm at Centennial Center.
- d. Department of Resilience and Equity now has a Spanish version of the flyer that showcases their department's work.
- e. Tulsa Global District is hosting Día de los Muertos activities on November 1.
- f. Eastside Rise's Fall Festival is this Saturday from 10 – 2.
- g. Public Comments:
  - i. Jose Ariza, Deputy Fire Marshall, introduced himself and shared his desire to serve the community.
  - ii. Onyx Montes: Tulsa Girl Power is hosting a series of workshops coming up that offers skill building for women.
- h. Commissioner Ariza arrived at 5:56. The Commission was then at quorum.



**IX. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to approve the September meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Commissioner Martinez Herrera)
  - ii. Motion carried, September minutes approved.

**X. Adjournment**

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to adjourn.
  - i. Commissioner Martinez Herrera motioned, and Commissioner Reina seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.



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

Regular Meeting | November 13, 2025 | 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, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Diana Pennington, Angelica Reina

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Gomez, Fatima Linares, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Mark Ohnesorge, Jacob Parra, Amanda Peregrina

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Ivan Patino-Cortez

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

- a. Chairman Bejarano called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

#### **II. Nominating Committee: Appoint Chair and Elect Two Other Members**

- a. Chairman Bejarano appointed Commissioner Reina as Chair of the Nominating Committee.
- b. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez expressed interested in serving on the Nominating Committee prior to the meeting. Chairman Bejarano also volunteered.
- c. As a quorum was not yet present, election of two other members was postponed to later in the meeting.

#### **III. Chair / Vice Chair Report**

- a. Chairman Bejarano shared an opportunity to join the Laureate advisory board. Commissioners should email Chairman Bejarano or Lexi if they are interested.
- b. Chairman Bejarano noted two open opportunities, New Commissioner Orientation and name tag ordering, for commissioners to pay attention to.
- c. Chairman Bejarano has been part of a working group looking at new fire safety regulations for food trucks. He elevated two events:
  - i. 11/17 at old State Farm headquarters: propane gas certification education, registration required.
  - ii. 12/8 at Hannah Hall: conversation with authors of bill and business owners to get more information and provide feedback for future changes to the bill, coordinated by Eastside Rise.
- d. Global Gathering at the Gathering Place on 12/27 is focused on cultural diversity of new year's celebrations. If you'd like to participate and table for GTAHLAC or any other



cultural group that would like to educate about new year's celebrations in your country, contact Chairman Bejarano.

- e. Commissioner Chavez arrived at 5:44 pm.
- f. Vice Chair Gonzalez shared about the Title V Commissions Chair and Vice Chair Quarterly meeting. Good discussion about goals, aspirations, pain points, opportunities, and ways to collaborate with other commissions.

#### **IV. End of Year Reflection: Annual Report**

- a. Chairman Bejarano led an exercise for commissioners reflect on the year, which will help writing the End of Year Report.
- b. 2025 Accomplishments
  - i. Tomas Rivera Awards
  - ii. Public Safety Committee has had good conversation about how changes in laws affect the community. Able to attend more community events.
  - iii. Good slate of speakers: Union Public Schools Superintendent, TPD Chief Larsen, Growing Together, El Centro
  - iv. 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Worksites (4AW) Playbook: Very close to be ready to print, will be ready to distribute before EOY
  - v. Successfully amended law that allows people to make corrections to birth certificates – worked with Dr. Dart (Tulsa Health Department) and Deputy Mayor Reyes
  - vi. Public attendance and comments at meetings
  - vii. A City Councilor attended a meeting
  - viii. Attended Caja de Agua ribbon cutting
- c. 2026 Goals
  - i. Distributing 4AW Playbook
  - ii. Continuation of identification resources: revisit survey
  - iii. Identify community events early in the year that GTAHLAC will table at. Possibly have a committee (such as Community Advocacy) take the lead on coordinating presence at events.
  - iv. Health topics or committee work
  - v. Future speakers: Tulsa Global Alliance, inTulsa Visa Network, TFD EMS Chief, TYPROS, Parent Child Center
- d. Commissioner Martinez Herrera arrived at 5:35 pm. The commission was then at quorum.

#### **V. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to approve the October meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Reina seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, October minutes approved.

#### **VI. Nominating Committee: Appoint Chair and Elect Two Other Members**

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to elect Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez and Chairman Bejarano and to the Nominating Committee.



- i. Commissioner Chavez made a motion, Commissioner Martinez Herrera seconded.
  - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
- ii. Motion carried, Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez and Chairman Bejarano and elected to the Nominating Committee.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

- a. Executive Committee – no report
- b. Education Committee
  - i. Commissioner Pennington shared the committee is meeting with Emilee Taylor from Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) to help bridge engagement with the Hispanic/Latinx committee on November 19 at 11am. Information about their public engagement is on TPS's website. Invited other commissioners to attend.
- c. Community Advocacy Committee
  - i. Vice Chair Gonzalez: Hope to have an informal gathering for the committee in December to understand the desire of the group (ie: advisory, working group, or other direction).
  - ii. 4AW Playbook is in a good place. Will have finishing touches complete in a couple weeks. Can distribute virtually and have resources to do an initial print run.
    - 1. Need translation support before the end of the year. Commissioners Reina and Pennington volunteered.
    - 2. Already have a list of restaurants that are interested in receiving the playbook. Will share outreach list with commissioners to add to.
- d. Public Safety Committee
  - i. Commissioner Chavez reported the committee met last week and had some new folks join. Held various discussions about engaging the community and utilizing interpreters across the Fire and Police Departments.
  - ii. No meeting in December, will reconvene in January 2026.
- e. Immigration Committee
  - i. Committee did not meet so there is no official report.
  - ii. Commissioner Ariza raised that in the counties outside of Tulsa, many people are being stopped and if they don't have a driver's license they are being booked to David L Moss and calling immigration to begin deportation proceedings. There is a lot of fear due to racial profiling.
    - 1. Commissioner Martinez Herrera added that Oklahoma Highway Patrol have made many immigration detentions.
    - 2. Andy: New law that gives officer discretion to cite a DUI as a felony instead of misdemeanor, which opens the door to have immigration involved.
    - 3. Commissioner Chavez suggested having someone from Tulsa County come speak to the commission.
  - iii. Commissioner Martinez Herrera shared about a forum COHO is hosting next Tuesday, will share information with commission. Will help folks build a readiness packet.



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

**IX. New Business** – no new business

**X. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. La Cosecha annual Christmas event on 12/18
- b. Commissioner Reina raised a question about having a committee focused on physical and mental health. Commissioner Pennington added that this is an area that the commission could make an impact. Vice Chair Gonzalez noted this could be a combined effort with the Community Advocacy Committee. Andy noted 211 of Eastern Oklahoma could be a good partner on this.
- c. Chairman Bejarano thanked commissioners for a great year.

**XI. Adjournment**

- a. Chairman Bejarano entertained a motion to adjourn.
  - i. Commissioner Chavez motioned, and Commissioner Ariza seconded.
    1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.