Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | September 10, 2026 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 10 North

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Carlos Bejarano, Chriss Chavez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Fatima Linares, Mark Ohnesorge, Diana Pennington, Amanda Peregrina

Commissioners Absent: Mimi Martinez Herrera, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Angelica Reina

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Mariana Sánchez

Liaisons Absent: 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 August meeting minutes.
      i. Vice Chair Chavez motioned, and Commissioner Ariza seconded.
         1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Commissioner Pennington)
      ii. Motion carried; August meeting minutes approved.

III. **Guest Speaker: Tulsa County Sheriff Vic Regalado**
   a. Chairwoman Gonzalez welcomed Tulsa County Sheriff Vic Regalado and shared a little about GTAHLAC's work. Hope this conversation will reignite open communication between the commission and Tulsa County so GTAHLAC can serve as a resource.
   b. Tulsa County Sheriff Vic Regalado thanked GTAHLAC for the opportunity to speak, bring honest information to the community, and have GTAHLAC as a resource. Hope to end with a better understanding of Tulsa County Sheriff's Office's (TCSO) role in immigration.
   c. TCSO has the longest running 287g program in Oklahoma, which is a partnership with ICE. Sheriff Regalado believes that local law enforcement should not engage in federal immigration enforcement.
      i. The 287g program largely takes place in the county jail, in which there are certified detention officers that run the program. If an individual is arrested and enters county jail, the 287g detention officers will question them and determine their citizenship status. If the individual is found to be undocumented, a retainer is placed on them, meaning they can't bond out and local charges will be addressed first. After local charges are addressed, the individual is referred to ICE and immigration court.

d. Three weeks ago, Sheriff Regalado was approached by ICE about a task force. The new task force allows deputies assigned to homeland security and engage in criminal investigation and interdiction unit to conduct their investigation and arrest individuals without having to wait for federal agents to arrive. These deputies do not engage in removal operations.
    i. Today, TCSO operates 287g in the jail and through limited task force with eleven deputies (out of 355) when conducting criminal investigations.
e. Sheriff Regalado spoke out against a new proposed law that would enable local law enforcement to engage in removal operations. Local law enforcement has a different mission and it's important for community to call if help is needed.
f. If an undocumented individual is arrested by TSCO, it's likely they will be detained.
g. In Northeast Oklahoma, neither TCSO nor Tulsa Police Department engage in removal operations; however, Oklahoma Highway Patrol engages in removal operations, especially at entry points.
h. Sheriff Regalado remarked that it's important for TCSO to maintain truthful communication. Even when the information may not be what communities want to hear, they have a right to understand what can and can't happen with their local law enforcement.
i. TCSO will help people who have family members currently in jail with detainers visit their family. They make exceptions for family members who are undocumented and are concerned about entering the jail to visit.
j. Community should feel they can still call a deputy and receive help.
k. TCSO deputies who are assigned to public service unit and Sheriff Regalado himself do a lot of community engagement. As an elected official Sheriff Regalado answers to the public and feels an obligation to be in community.
l. In about four weeks, TCSO is deploying a system that will real-time interpretation on individuals' cell phones. The system provides 142 languages and dialects. Talk to text will also allow deputies to communicate in the field.
m. Sheriff Regalado distributed a handout that highlighted how many individuals are currently held in jail on removal orders only.
n. Vice Chair Chavez exited the meeting at 5:55 pm.
o. Commission Discussion
    i. Commissioner Bejarano asked how TCSO measures success when it comes to immigrant communities. Sheriff Regalado responded that consistent communication has been amazing, he has an open-door policy and will provide an immediate answer to questions.
    ii. Commissioner Bejarano: Is there somewhere for people to reach out who have an experience that would be incongruent with the statements you've made? Sheriff: They should report to internal affairs and will be treated the same as any other report.
    iii. Chairwoman Gonzalez thanked Sheriff Regalado for the information he provided. She noted a theme of communication, and it seems a lot of communication is on an individual level. Are there resources online for people to quickly get clear

information? What is the best way for people to check accurate information quickly? Sheriff Regalado responded that TCSO's website has information about ICE, though it's not in depth enough to address outside of routine questions. May look into providing more detail online. He finds that people don't have difficulty getting ahold of him over the phone or in person at TCSO office. TCSO relies on groups like the commission to aid in communication.

iv. Sheriff Regalado noted that TCSO can't tell ICE what to do and ICE can't tell TSCO what to do.
v. Chairwoman Gonzalez wondered if there is an opportunity to create a community resource similar to GTAHLAC's 4th Amendment Playbook.
vi. Commissioner Ariza asked if people are able to locate their detained family members online. Sheriff Regalado: No, TCSO can't put federal inmate photos on their website or in jail net.
    1. Commissioner Ariza: What is the best way for someone to locate a family member who doesn't speak English?
    2. Sheriff Regalado: Call TCSO and they will locate individuals.
    3. Discussion ensued about what phone number community members can call, how they obtain information, and whether the process is accessible. Commissioner Bejarano suggested it would be helpful to publicly post the number to call. Deputy Sánchez noted that clerks in the jail lobby may or may not speak Spanish but can provide information. TCSO hopes their new tech will help with interpretation.
vii. Chairwoman Gonzalez: What programs or changes might be coming up that we should be aware of? Sheriff Regalado: Nothing from TCSO, and if anything changes, they will communicate.
viii. Commissioner Peregrina noted the definition of crime has changed and asked if TCSO pursue existing here undocumented as a crime. Sheriff Regalado responded no, TCSO does not.
ix. Commissioner Linares clarified if TCSO is present in the community such as at an event, community members should have no cause for concern. Sheriff Regalado said that is correct.
x. Chairwoman Gonzalez shared that other commissions are discussing opportunities to host community information sessions and asked if Sheriff Regalado and TCSO is willing to support. Sheriff Regalado responded yes, either he or TCSO deputies will attend.

p. Sheriff Regalado appreciates being here and knowing commissioners have a direct line with Tulsa County.

IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report

a. Chairwoman Gonzalez noted that part one of her goals for this year is for GTAHLAC to show up with community more. There will be two events this month, and commissioners should refer to the signup sheets. There are already some folks signed up for Fiesta de Tulsa and Festival Americas.

V. Action: Vote to Recommend Human Rights Commission Liaison for Appointment

a. Commissioner Peregrina was willing to represent GTAHLAC at Human Rights Commission (HRC); however, she has moved to Glenpool and is no longer eligible to serve.
b. Commissioner Peregrina nominated Commissioner Ariza to serve as GTAHLAC's HRC Liaison.
c. Chairwoman Gonzalez had also spoken with Commissioner Bejarano and nominated him to serve as GTAHLAC's HRC Liaison.
d. Commissioner Bejarano opted to step aside so Commissioner Ariza can be considered.
e. Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion to recommend Commissioner Ariza as GTAHLAC's HRC liaison.
    i. Commissioner Linares motioned, and Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
        1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
            a. Vice Chair Chavez was no longer present in the meeting.
    ii. Motion carried, Commissioner Ariza is recommended as GTAHLAC's HRC liaison.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee – no further report
b. Education Committee – no report
c. Community Advocacy Committee – no further report
d. Public Safety Committee
    i. Commissioner Ohnesorge: Council for Safe Neighborhoods postponed their gala and will host a public information forum instead.
    ii. Everyone on the committee will be at La Fiesta de Tulsa.
e. Immigration Committee
    i. Commissioner Ariza shared that Temporary Protected Status is expiring and encouraged community members to speak with an attorney to determine their options.
f. Business Engagement Committee
    i. Commissioner Bamaca reported that a vendor inspection event for petroleum, gas, and the Fire Marshall is scheduled on Sept. 22 and 23 at 12222 State Farm Blvd.
    ii. Soy Mas and Avanzando Juntos offer micro loans for businesses.

VII. Human Rights Commission Report – no report

VIII. Old Business – no

IX. New Business – no

X. Announcements / Public Comments

a. Chief Brooks announced as TPD's next Police Chief, Commissioner Ohnesorge can help arrange him speaking with GTAHLAC.

XI. Adjournment

a. Chairwoman Gonzalez entertained a motion to adjourn.
    i. Commissioner Peregrina motioned, Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
        1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
            a. Vice Chair Chavez was no longer present in the meeting.
    ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.