



**City of Bloomington
Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs**

**Wednesday, October 29th, 2025 @ 5:30-7:00 PM
Public Meeting Hooker Conference Room**

MINUTES

Attendance: Raquel Anderson, Claudia Lara, Marlo Libel, Javier Rosales, Jimena Holguín, Dinorah Sapp, Gabriela Puscama. Absent: Mariella Arredondo, José Fuentes.

Staff Liaison: Ximena Martinez

I. Call to order at 5:37 PM

II. Approval of September's meeting minutes: Approved

III. Guests/Public Comment

- **Courtney Daily & Isaac Azare**, Council Members
Holiday assistance program, looking for ways to support the program. The proposal they came up with is to do this through volunteer work. As council members, they can help and support us. No city time can be spent on this. Ximena shared that some organizations have stepped up to help, Amigos Club, Trinity Episcopal Church (transitioned to them).
- **Dr. Winston Markay, Ms. Harmon**, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and **Ms. DeWeese**, the director of strategic communications. See addendum

IV. LIAISON REPORT

- A. Holiday Assistance Program:** Letters & partnerships. The program will be done through Trinity Church, will assist them with the transition, and provide the know-how.
- B. Invitation to the Mayor:** November's meeting (Nov19)
- C. Next Meeting Rescheduled:** November 26th for November 19th
- D. Elections for Chair, ViceChair, and Secretary:** October meeting
 - **Claudia Lara** – Chair
 - **Jimena Holguin** – Vice Chair
 - **Dinorah Sapp** – Secretary

V. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. EDUCATION: Raquel, Dinorah, Mariella

- Address counselor BHSS
- Organize informational sessions with high school students and parents regarding college
- **Agenda with Dr. Winston:**
 - 1. **Welcome and Purpose (Dinorah):** Open and constructive conversation about ensuring all MCCSC students, especially those from immigrant or mixed-status families, feel safe, supported, and included.
 - 2. **Community Context:** Sharing concerns heard from families, including safety, access to information, and clarity about protocols.
 - 3. **Discussion Topics**

- **Safety Protocols for Staff:** Current guidance, training, and opportunities for standardized protocols across schools.
 - Discuss difficulties in providing information re: attendance
 - Have worked with the general council and attorneys for guidance
 - Trained the staff/administrators at schools re: actions to take and protocol to follow
 - Social workers trained
 - Spoke to students re: access to counseling support
 - Javier – Parents picked up, what has been established for the child when he is left alone? Response – social workers discuss emergency plans with parents
 - **Communication & Transparency:** Multilingual outreach and materials to ensure families understand their rights and available supports.
 - Have communicated with families
 - Have communicated with community leaders
 - Romeri serves as interpreter. Also have interpreter services via phone
 - **Attendance & Access to Learning:** Understanding attendance trends and flexible options for families who may feel unsafe.
 - Cannot provide this information re: confidentiality
 - Anecdotally, no noticeable dip in attendance
 - Asked us to contact them if the rumors continue
 - Online options (online academy), other technology tools (e.g., Canvas)
 - **Collaboration & Next Steps:** Exploring joint working groups, family information nights, and ways the Commission and MCCSC can partner effectively.
 - Asking families to ensure that they have informed the school who to contact in emergencies
 - CHLA offered help with translations, spreading the word, e.g., Boletín, Hola Bloomington
 - CHLA can help with interpretation
4. **Closing & Follow-Up:** Identifying next steps, a point person, and potential public statements of support for all families.
- Dinorah will be the point person for CHLA
 - Ms. Rose, as the point person for MCCSC

B. HEALTH SERVICES: Marlo, Jimena, Claudia

- Interpretation and translation within the health care providers, especially IU Health
- Access to Medical Interpretation - survey
- The **Mental Health Forum** follow-up and workshops.
 - October 23 forum – led by Claudia, small attendance (n=9), attendants shared their stressors, which was an excellent experience
 - Video committee to reach more people

C. PUBLIC RELATIONS: Javier, Mariella, Jimena

- **Foro Latino de Agencias** – Organize quarterly meetings with community agencies.
- **Informational/welcome sessions** twice a year covering transportation, safety, housing, health, and education. Potential locations include MCPL, CCL, churches, and Educational Centers.
- Issue of sustainability – develop materials – informational
- Community Plan re: immigration realities

D. Fundraising: Marlo, Raquel, tabled

E. Updates from prior meetings:

VI. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

VI. ADJOURNMENT at: 7:00 PM