

Commission on Hispanic and Latiné Affairs Meeting

Minutes for Wednesday, March 25, 2026, and 5:30 pm Meeting

This meeting was held in the Hooker Conference Room (Suite 245, City Hall, 401 N. Morton St).

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:35 pm.

Commission members present in person: Mariella Arredondo, Jimena Holguin, Claudia Lara, Dinorah Sapp, Gabriela Puscama.

Commission members present over Zoom: N/A

Commission members absent: Marlo Libel, Raquel Anderson, Javier Rosales, José Fuentes

City staff and elected officials present: Ximena Martinez

Were members of the public present: NO

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Commissioners present: Mariella Arredondo, Jimena Holguin, Claudia Lara, Dinorah Sapp, Gabriela Puscama

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Memoranda/Minutes

Claudia Lara moved to approve the agenda and minutes. Dinorah Sapp seconded the motion.

1. Senate Bill 76 (SB 76)

The Commission discussed Senate Bill 76 and agreed that all commissioners will read the full legislation carefully and prepare any questions or concerns that may need to be directed to the City Legal Department. In order to better understand the possible implications of the law for the Hispanic/Latino community, the Commission also agreed to seek guidance from legal and policy experts.

Action Items:

- **All Commissioners** will review the full text of SB 76 and formulate questions, if applicable, for the Legal Department.
- A Civic Engagement Subcommittee will be created, led by **Dinorah Sapp** and **Jimena Holguín**, based on their experience and interest in civic participation and public policy.

- The purpose of the subcommittee will include:
 - exploring ways to raise awareness at the City Council level about the importance, presence, and contributions of Bloomington’s Latino population;
 - identifying opportunities to strengthen Latino civic participation and representation.
- The Commission also discussed the possibility of launching a community awareness and civic engagement effort to encourage and support a Latino/a representative to pursue a future City Council seat, with the goal of improving representation.
- **Claudia** will look for legal experts through the ALMA conference/network.
- **Gabriela** will contact the Indiana Latino Government Commission for possible guidance or expert recommendations.
- **Jimena Holguín** will reach out to Latino legal experts and/or Indiana University law professors who may be willing to attend a future Commission meeting and provide analysis and perspective on this new law.

2. IUCU Scholarship Outreach

The Commission discussed outreach efforts for the IU Credit Union (IUCU) Scholarship and ways to encourage more Latino students to apply before the deadline.

Action Items:

- **Ximena** will send the scholarship flyer to the Amigos Club contacts at Bloomington High School South and Bloomington High School North.
- **Dinorah Sapp** will speak with Amigos Clubs at local high schools to encourage Latino students to apply for the scholarship.
- The scholarship opportunity will also be included in the Boletín Comunitario.
- Application Deadline: May 22
- Selection Committee Members:
 - **Mariella**
 - **Gabriela**
 - A third committee member is still pending

3. Mental Health Workshop

The Commission briefly discussed the upcoming Mental Health workshop and related outreach materials.

Action Item:

- **Jimena Holguín** will create the **flyer for the workshop**.

4. Google Calendar / Shared Drive / Annual Planning

The Commission discussed the use of the Google Calendar and shared Drive as tools to improve organization, coordination, and long-term planning across committees and initiatives. It was agreed that commissioners will begin submitting proposals and planning items connected to their subcommittees so that these can be organized into a shared calendar and annual work plan.

Action Items:

- **Commissioners** will submit subcommittee proposals, project ideas, key dates, and concrete planned activities.
- These items will be added to the shared calendar and incorporated into the Commission's annual agenda/work plan.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:36 pm.