

Commission on Hispanic and Latiné Affairs Meeting

Minutes for Wednesday, May 27, 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 **5:40 pm**.

Commission members present in person: **Mariella Arredondo, Marlo Libel, Claudia Lara, and Javier Rosales.**

Commission members present over Zoom: **Raquel Anderson, Gabriela Puscama**

Commission members absent: **José Fuentes, Jimena Holguin, Dinorah Sapp.**

City staff and elected officials present: **Ximena Martinez**

Were members of the public present: **YES**

- **Lucy Travis**, Executive Assistant with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, provided an overview of the Commission's work and responsibilities. She explained that the agency serves the entire state of Indiana and shared information regarding the current status of the Indiana Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs (ICHLA), noting that the Commission is currently on hold and that some of its responsibilities may be absorbed by other state committees and initiatives. **Action Items:**
 - The last meeting for this Commission is scheduled for June 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. **Claudia Lara** will attend the meeting in person and **Gabriela Puscama** will attend virtually.
- **Karla Ivette Galaviz**, from the Indiana University School of Public Health shared information about efforts to increase access to healthcare services for Hispanic community members and individuals living with HIV. Her team recently received funding for a mobile health clinic. Commissioners suggested exploring partnerships with local organizations, including HealthNet, Monroe Community Clinic, and the Monroe County Health Department. Commissioners also recommended considering outreach efforts at local Latino-owned businesses, including La Bonita and La Bodega, to increase community access to healthcare resources. **Action Items:**
 - According to the connections requested for Monroe County, **Claudia Lara** will connect her with El Centro Cultural Latino; **Javier Rosales** will connect

her with Centerstone; Ximena Martinez will invite her to participate in Fiesta del Otoño and will share contact information for HealthNet.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Commissioners present: **Mariella Arredondo, Marlo Libel, Claudia Lara, Javier Rosales, Raquel Anderson, Gabriela Puscama.**

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Memoranda/Minutes

Claudia Lara moved to approve the agenda and minutes. **Mariella Arredondo** approved the motion, and **Javier Rosales** seconded the motion.

REPORTS

1. IUCU Scholarship

The scholarship review subcommittee, consisting of Mariella Arredondo, Gabriela Puscama, and Jimena Holguín, met via Zoom on May 24, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Following its review of applications, the committee unanimously selected the recipient of the 2026 IUCU Hispanic and Latino Affairs Community Scholarship.

Action Item:

- **Ximena Martinez will communicate to IUCU about the committee's selection.**

2. Civic Engagement / Partnerships

Gabriela Puscama reported that she reached out to the Indiana Latino Affairs Commission and several Latino-serving organizations throughout Indiana to explore collaboration opportunities and potential presentations to the Commission on Hispanic and Latiné Affairs (CHLA). Several organizations have not yet responded. Those that have responded include:

- Indiana Commission of Hispanic and Latino Affairs (ICHLA) - Lucy Travis (Executive Assistant) attended May meeting.
- La Casa de Amistad - **Dara Marquez** (Director of Community Engagement) will attend **June meeting on Zoom**
- Somos Latinos Indy - **Sonya Cheigny** (Founder/Publisher) will attend **June meeting in person**
- Indianapolis Office of International and Latino Affairs (OILA) - **Ruth Morales** (Director) will attend **July meeting on Zoom**

Action Item:

- **Gabriela Puscama** will provide Ximena Martinez with a list and contact information for organizations that have not yet responded so that formal invitations can be sent.

Discussion:

The Commission discussed key questions to guide future conversations with partner organizations:

- What issues are currently impacting Latino communities in their regions?
- How have they addressed or responded to those challenges?
- What programs, initiatives, or strategies have been successful?
- What challenges has CHLA identified in Bloomington, and how has the Commission responded to them?
- Who should serve as the primary point of contact for ongoing collaboration?
- Share the Commission's annual report and related resources.
- Extend invitations to participate in Fiesta del Otoño.
- Explore fundraising opportunities and potential partnerships.

OLD BUSINESS**3. Mental Health Workshop (April 26)****Action Items:**

- **Gabriela Puscama** will coordinate with Luciana to schedule the next workshop, potentially in late summer (August), considering availability.

4. Senate Bill 76 (SB 76)

The Commission agreed to continue discussion on SB 76 and emphasized the importance of being well-informed on its implications. Commissioners will review the full legislation. The Commission will seek guidance from legal and policy experts to better understand potential impacts on the Hispanic and Latiné community.

Action Items:

- **All Commissioners** will review Mariella's summary and questions suggested for the Legal Department
- **Gabriela Puscama** will contact the Indiana Latino Affairs Commission for guidance or expert recommendations

- **Jimena Holguín** will reach out to Latino legal experts and/or Indiana University law faculty for potential participation in a future meeting
- **Claudia Lara** will follow up with contacts from the ALMA Conference network.
 - Claudia Lara reached out to the ALMA Conference with no response.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Education Subcommittee Planning

Mariella Arredondo sent key dates related to education initiatives (school registration, FAFSA, Century 21 Scholarship).

Action Items:

- MCCSC enrollment: spring 2027
- FAFSA: contact Lillian Casillas enero / febrero
- Century 21 century scholars : create flyer

6. Latiné Recognition Awards

The Commission agreed to revisit and further discuss this initiative at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 pm.