

Commission on Hispanic and Latiné Affairs Meeting

Minutes for Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 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 **5:36 pm**. Commission members present in person: **Claudia Lara, Mariella Arredondo, Marlo Libel, Raquel Anderson, and Dinorah Sapp**. Commission members present over Zoom: **Gabriela Puscama**. Commission members absent: **José Fuentes, Jimena Holguin, and Javier Rosales**. City staff and elected officials present: **Ximena Martinez**

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

- **Ruth Morales, Director of the Indianapolis Office of International and Latino Affairs** (participating via Zoom), shared information about the work of her office, which for more than 20 years has provided guidance and support to the Mayor's Office and served as a liaison between the administration and the international and Latino communities. She explained that the office works closely with a Community Leaders Council composed of 26 members who serve as representatives and connections with different sectors of the community. She also shared information about the Welcoming Cities initiative, the Mayor's Latino Heritage Awards, a recognition program that has been held for four consecutive years and is scheduled for October 15 this year, as well as other community outreach programs, including initiatives focused on supporting students and families.
- **Sonya Chevigny, Somos Latinos Indy** (in person), shared information about a platform dedicated to providing information and promoting events, programs, and resources available to the Spanish-speaking community throughout Indiana. She explained the organization's efforts to increase access to community information and connect Latino residents with available opportunities and services.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Commissioners present: **Claudia Lara, Mariella Arredondo, Marlo Libel, Raquel Anderson, and Dinorah Sapp**.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Memoranda/Minutes

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

REPORTS

1. Staff

- **La Fiesta del Otoño:** Mayor Thomson will be attending the event. Claudia Lara and Gabriela Puscama will coordinate the recognition of the YAAS Award winner.
- **MCCSC:** Invitation received to participate in the Ambassadors Program.
- **CHLA August 26 Meeting:** Marissa Parr-Scott will serve as the staff liaison for this meeting.
- **CHLA September 30 Meeting:** Mayor Thomson will attend for approximately 15 minutes to greet the Commissioners. Marlo Libel and Claudia Lara will coordinate this opportunity.

2. Health Subcommittee

- **Second Mental Health Forum:** Originally scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, from 5:30–7:00 p.m., the forum was canceled and will be rescheduled at a later date.
- **Healthy Eating Workshop for Families:** Planned for October 2026. Jimena Olguin will be responsible for coordinating this workshop.
- **Next Mental Health Workshop with Luciana:** Planned for November 2026. Claudia Lara will coordinate this event.

3. Education Subcommittee

- **MCCSC Enrollment, FAFSA, and 21st Century Scholars Updates:** Raquel Anderson and Dinorah Sapp reported that they met with Lillian Casillas. The tentative dates for the FAFSA workshop are February 16, 17, 18, or 19, 2027. They also requested scheduling a January episode of *Hola Bloomington* to promote the workshop and including information in the *Boletín Comunitario*.

4. Public Relations / Civic Engagement Subcommittee

- **Senate Bill 76 (SB 76):** The Commission agreed that it would be beneficial to invite a representative from the Legal Department to provide information and address questions, including: *Does SB 76 impact us? How does it limit our work?*
- **Latiné Recognition Awards:** This topic will be discussed during the next meeting.

Adjournment: 7:01 p.m.