

Commission on Hispanic and Latiné Affairs Meeting

Minutes for Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 5:30-7:00 pm

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: **Mariella Arredondo, Marlo Libel, Jimena Holguin, and Javier Rosales**. Commission members present over Zoom: **Gabriela Puscama**. Commission members absent: **Claudia Lara, José Fuentes, Raquel Anderson, and Dinorah Sapp**. City staff and elected officials present: **Marissa Parr-Scott**.

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

Board Member	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term
Mariella Arredondo	Mayor	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Jimena Holguin	Mayor	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Claudia Lara	Mayor	6/26/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Marlo Libel	Mayor	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Dinorah Sapp	Common Councils	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Raquel Anderson	Common Councils	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Javier Rosales	Common Council	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Jose Fuentes	Common Councils	5/7/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Gabriela Puscama	Common Councils	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 – 1/31/2028

Were members of the public present: **NO**

Roll Call:

Marlo, Javier, Mariella, Jimena. On zoom: Gabriela

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Memoranda/Minutes

Jimena Holguin moved to approve the agenda and minutes. Marlo Libel approved the motion, and Mariella Arredondo seconded the motion.

Reports

1. Staff

A. Young Women Leadership Summit - Planning Committee Opportunity

Discussion Notes: The 2026 Young Women's Leadership Summit is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at City Hall. MCCSC has

confirmed the date and will assist with student registration and school outreach. Planning will begin with selection of the annual theme, using feedback from students who participated in prior summits. The planning committee will then identify community women who may be invited as speakers.

Commission members were invited to join the planning committee. Additional Hispanic/Latina representation was encouraged to help strengthen outreach and ensure Latina students see the summit as intended for them as well as other students. Planning meetings may be held virtually, with scheduling based on committee availability.

The summit is designed primarily for Black and brown middle- and high-school girls/female-identifying students, while remaining open to all. Discussion emphasized speakers sharing authentic experiences, including overcoming barriers and believing in oneself, rather than focusing primarily on resource presentations.

2. Health Subcommittee

A. Healthy Eating Workshop for Families with Verónica Sambra: October 2026.

Discussion Notes: No additional update was reported during the meeting.

B. Next Mental Health Workshop with Luciana: November 2026.

Discussion Notes: No additional update was reported during the meeting.

3. Education Subcommittee

A. MCCSC enrollment, FAFSA & Century 21 Century Scholars initiatives.

Discussion Notes: No new subcommittee update was reported on the listed initiatives.

The Commission revisited concerns previously raised with MCCSC about student attendance/truancy and whether attendance data are being reviewed by student population. Members discussed possible follow-up, including inviting the superintendent back for a future conversation and exploring whether non-identifiable, disaggregated data may be available through the Indiana Department of Education.

4. Public Relations / Civic Engagement

A. SB 76 Update – Legal Department Discussion: Pending presentation and Q&A with Legal Department representative regarding SB 76 and its potential impact on CHLA.

Discussion Notes: Gabriela reported that Ruth Morales from the Mayor's Office of International and Latino Affairs connected her with Brianna Broberg of Welcoming Indiana/Welcoming America. Gabriela will follow up with Brianna about a possible presentation to the Commission and ask whether SB 76 has been discussed in relation to their community or legal work.

Members also discussed preparing a focused question for the Mayor's upcoming

visit about the Commission's role, available City support, and appropriate guardrails when advocating for community members and communicating with outside partners. Mariella will draft possible questions for review before the meeting.

B. Latiné Recognition Awards – Planning Discussion: Initial discussion to begin developing the framework, timeline, and next steps for the awards. Commissioners are encouraged to bring ideas and questions. Marissa Parr-Scott will be available for guidance.

Discussion Notes: Marissa Parr-Scott recommended starting with a clear award name, eligibility criteria, and nomination parameters. She offered to share examples of the Commission on the Status of Women's application and rubric and to connect the Commission with a local awards vendor.

Members discussed potentially recognizing both a younger and an older community member. Presenting the award(s) at Fiesta was suggested as a practical option because the community and event infrastructure would already be in place.

A preliminary timeline was discussed: develop the award framework by spring 2027, open nominations around early July, allow approximately 45 days for nominations, select recipients in August, and recognize them at Fiesta. The final structure and timeline remain to be developed.

Adjournment: 7:01 p.m.