



# ICLA

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

## Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 31, 2020 | 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

### Call to Order & Introductions

#### Commissioners Present

- Jeannette Brown, Chair
- Marlu Abarca, Vice-Chair
- Alfonzo Perez
- Caleb Knutson
- Valerie Nolte

#### Commissioners Absent

- Lorena Gingerich, Secretary
- Gilbert Nuñez
- San Wong, Exoficio

#### Department of Human Right Staff Present

- Monica Stone, DHR Deputy Director, by phone
- Sonia Reyes, Office of Latino Affairs
- Cecilia Martinez, Latinos Can

#### Public Members Present

- Maria Ramos, United Community Health Care
- Mayra Lopez, United Community Health Care
- Anna Maria Formichella, Buena Vista University
- Emilia Marroquin, School Board Member
- Mike Porsch, Mayor
- Mayra Martinez, Storm Lake City Council
- Joanne Alvarez, Community Member
- Stacey Cole, Storm Lake Schools Superintendent

### Public Comment

- Abarca provided public members an overview of the history and duties of the commission, as well as an overview of the past and upcoming activities.
- Mayra Lopez share their upcoming initiatives and events. Spanish Caucus, Complete Count Committee, Immigrant Community Response Team and their new LULAC chapter. She shared that they would like to get more support to be able to do more.
- Members share their concern for students in K-12 and college students being discriminated and pinned by schools to go only into vocational training programs and not offering other paths.
- Mike Porsch shared the desire to get more Latinos involved with the city and to attend events they provide for the community. The commission provided ideas, one of them was to hire someone full time to do Latino outreach on behalf of the city.
- Other community members shared that the problem with jobs in Storm Lake is all the microaggressions that Latino employees suffer, and that there's no accountability.

- Anna Maria Formichella shared that the school is looking into becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution. They have a Latino Student Group – Raises. They only have one full time faculty and one that is part time.

#### **Office of Latino Affairs and CAS updates**

Reyes provided those in attendance with the Office of Latino Affairs Report and shared information about the Iowa Talent Bank.

Reyes also reported that LSI is going to open a center to help sponsors of children detained at the border.

#### **Approval of:**

**Meeting minutes from 8/8/2019**

**Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

**ICLA meetings for FY 2020-2021**

*Motion: Knutson-with the amendment of adding the goal of Opening a Latino Center in Des Moines as a five-year goal and to change some dates to the meetings calendar.*

*Second: Nolte*

*All in favor*

#### **• Updates on Commission Initiatives**

##### **a. Hall of Fame (10/17/2020 at the Des Moines Art Center)**

- The 2020 Iowa Latino Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at the Des Moines Art Center.
- Brown proposed adding a Latino LGBTQ Award to the celebration.

*Motion: Knutson*

*Second: Abarca*

*All in Favor*

##### **b. PILA – Association of Iowa Latinx Professionals**

- Knutson reported that all the past events have been very successful. He and a community member are starting a PILA-Latinos You Got to Know project to highlight Latinos around the state who are doing great work.

##### **c. FALO – Friends of the Commission and Office of Latino Affairs**

- Brown reported that FALO is currently looking for new members.
- FALO will finance the Commissions IQCC Coalition's purchase of a tablecloth for booths, t-shirts and paying a venue to have a networking event.

##### **d. Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition**

Abarca reported on the past event by IQCC and share that there will be a networking event in March.

##### **e. Day on the Hill (3/9/2020)**

- Date: 3/9/2020
- There will be trainings, opportunities for table sponsorships.

f. **DHR Board**

Brown gave an overview of her duties as a representative of the Latino Affairs Commission.

- **Addressing Community Needs**

- Voter Registration
- Caucus Trainings
- Networking Events with PILA and IQCC
- Procedure to respond to community needs

The above items were discussed led by Abarca.

- **Adjourned at 12:45 PM**

UPCOMING COMMISSION EVENTS

Latino Day on the Hill | 03/09/2020 | Iowa State Capitol

Commission Meeting | 3/09/2020 | Des Moines

Commission Meeting | 05/08/2020 | Muscatine

<b>Proposed Meeting Dates for FY 2020-2021</b>		
July 10, 2020	Sioux City	Commission Meeting
September 11, 2020	Ottumwa	Commission Meeting
October 17, 2020	Des Moines	Iowa Latino Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
January 29, 2021	Iowa City	Commission Meeting
March 2021	Des Moines	Latino Day on the Hill
March 2021	Des Moines	Commission Meeting
May 21, 2021	Dubuque	Commission Meeting