



Meeting Agenda

Friday, March 10, 2022 · 1:00 – 2:00pm

I. Welcome & Introductions

Commissioners Present:

Caleb Knutson
Dalila Avila Sajadian
Marlu Abarca
Louis Moreno
Himar Hernandez
Jose Ayala

Commissioners Absent

Lorena Gingerich

Staff:

Sonia Reyes
San Wong
Caroline Barret

Public Members:

Jesus Lopez
Karen Ruiz
Paula Placencia

II. Review and Vote on Commission Statement of Support Regarding East High School Shooting

- Caroline Barret explained the difference between lobbying and advocating.
- Commissioner Ayala shared that the communities need action and hands on help.

A. STATEMENT

Motion: Himar Hernandez
Second: Louis Moreno
All in Favor
Motion Passed

III. Public Comment:

- A. Jesus Lopez mentioned that SROs are not what students need in school.
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IV. Adjourn

STATEMENT

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Statement
March 10, 2022

The Commission of Latino Affairs would like to extend their condolences to the students, faculty, staff, and families that were affected by the shooting at East High School this week. The Commission firmly believes that safety is key to children's success. It is for this reason that we express our unwavering support for sensible gun legislation in Iowa, and against the reinstatement of school resource officers.

While the effects of this incident will remain with our students and community, it is essential that Iowans understand that school shootings cannot be prevented by the presence of School Resource Officers (SROs). In fact, studies show that the presence of SROs on campus are detrimental to the safety and welfare of our children. SROs have historically criminalized youth, and continue to present a danger to marginalized students in Des Moines Public Schools and beyond.

The Commission recommends the following steps to heal after Monday's event, and in order to help prevent future shootings:

- Investing in Mental Health — Mental Health continues to be underfunded in Iowa. Investing in mental health means that more Iowans will have access to cultural appropriate resources that will prepare them to heal from events like this, but will also prepare them to be safe gun owners.
- Reinstate the requirement for Iowans, by law, to have a permit to purchase and carry a handgun — when Iowans apply for a permit, a mandatory background check may be able to keep guns out of the hands of people that should not have them, including those under the age of 21.

[Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs](#) | [Iowa Department of Human Rights](#)

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