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***Governor's Commission on Hispanic and Latin American Community Affairs***  
***3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Commission Meeting***  
***Virtual Zoom Meeting***

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*  
*6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

**Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

**Ernesto Chanona, Chair**  
Lorena De Pombo, Member  
Veronica Estrada, Member  
Lena Hernandez, Member  
Stephanie Landaverde, Member  
Dr. Maria Ramos Olazagasti, Member  
Jennifer Rios  
Nitzalis Rivera, Member  
Katie Simbala, Member  
Javier Toro

**Commissioners not in Attendance:**

Alicia Altamirano, Member  
**Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez, Vice Chair**  
Victoria Gomez Lorenzo, Member  
Yuliana Macey, Member  
Gabriel Moreno, Esq., Member

**GOCI Staff:**

Gregory Yancey, Chief of Staff (GOCI)  
Silvia Decja, Administrative Director (GOCI)  
Cheryl Madigan, Executive Assistant (GOCI)

**Presenters:**

Mary Kane  
Abbi Ludwig  
Grason Wiggins

**I. Call to Order:**

Ernesto Chanona, Chair – Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**II. Opening Remarks:**

Chair Ernesto Chanona welcomed everyone and went over meeting procedures. He welcomed the presenters from the MD Chamber of Commerce.

**III. Presentation by MD Chambe of Commerce (44 minutes):**

Mary Kane, Abbi Ludwig and Grason Wiggins presented their information on Competitiveness (Trends & Insights). Their mission is to advance inclusive partnerships for Maryland where all businesses and their communities thrive. See the following links for more information:

<https://www.mdchamber.org/news/economic-data/>

<https://www.mdchamber.org/2025/08/19/2025-competitiveness-data-preview/>

<https://www.mdchamber.org/2025/09/10/maryland-business-creation-and-survival-challenge/>

<https://www.mdchamber.org/2025/09/23/maryland-business-friendliness-2025/>



**IV. Motion to approve the minutes from the commission meetings 07/08/24 and 08/11/25.**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Vote</b>
<b>Approval of the minutes</b>	<b>Katie Simbala</b>	<b>Veronica Estrada</b>	<b>7Y-0N-1A</b>

**V. Working Groups:**

- a) ROUNDTABLES – This is tabled until Hispanic Heritage Month is over.
- b) HAPCOA – MOU (Faith in Blue) –COS Greg Yancey stated there is a hearing schedule in October, so we should wait to see what happens.

**VI. New Business:**

- a) Carroll County Shelter – “Night by Night”. Possible dates are October 3<sup>rd</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. This could be a partnership. Commissioner Javier Toro is to send COS Greg Yancey, AD Silvia Decja and EA Cheryl Madigan more information.

**VII. Adjournment:**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Vote</b>
<b>No quorum to hold motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>