



***Governor's Commission on Hispanic and Latin American Community Affairs
SPS I - Commission Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting***

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance:

Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez, Vice Chair
Veronica Estrada, Member
Lorena De Pombo, Member
Lena Hernandez, Member
Stephanie Landaverde, Member
Victoria Gomez Lorenzo, Member
Yuliana Macey, Member
Julian Perez
Dr. Maria Ramos Olazagasti, Member
Nitzalis Rivera, Member
Jennifer Rios
Katie Simbala, Member
Javier Toro

Commissioners not in Attendance:

Katie Simbala, Member

GOCI Staff:

Silvia Decja, Administrative Director (GOCI)
Cheryl Madigan, Executive Assistant (GOCI)

I. Call to Order:

Chair Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez – Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Opening Remarks:

Chair Gaby Argoti-Fernandez and AD Silvia Decja provided welcoming remarks to all and wishes everyone a great new year. They both welcomed the commission's new member, **Commissioner Julian Perez**. He provided greetings to all and is dedicated to the work of the commission.

III. Motion to approve the minutes from the commission meeting 11/18/25.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of the minutes for 11/18/2025	Lena Hernandez	Maria Ramos Olazafasti	8Y - 0N - 1A

IV. 2026 Strategic Planning Discussion:

Vice Chair Victoria Gomez Lozano stated that this year's goal is to continue the Roundtables for the remaining counties. Other idea is to have a survey to recognize businesses in the Hispanic & Latin American communities and focusing on the Hispanic Heritage Month. **AD Silvia Decja** discussed the current Top Priorities that the commission is aligning their work on. The commission agreed to complete a new survey, which includes new priorities. **Commissioner Lean Hernandez** would like the commission



to consider the results so far from the Roundtables that have taken place when they complete the survey. The new results could have impact on the commission's Mission & Vision statements.

V. Mission and Vision Statement:

Vice Chair, Gomez Lozano asked the commission if they have any recommendations for changes. **Chair Argoti-Fernandez** asked the commissioners to think about this topic and bring their suggestions to the next meeting.

VI. Committees:

Chair Argoti-Fernandez asked the commission to view what committees they are on and to email the Chair, AD, and EA any changes within one week. **AD Decja** recommended that each committee should have at least 3 members, a commissioner can serve on more than one committee. **Chair Argoti-Fernandez** mentioned that the committees have been on hold, since the Roundtables have been taking place, but commissioners should be at least checking in with their committee. **AD Decja** asked the commission to think if they want to keep the Legislation committee or vote to have it removed.

VI. Working Groups:

- a. **MOU (Medical Equipment) - Discussion:** **AD Decja** suggested having a closed session during the next meeting concerning this topic. **Chair Argoti-Fernandez** stated that this will determine if the commission would like to continue with the MOU.
- b. **Roundtables (Updates):** **Commissioner Lena Hernandez** stated that first initial report of the first five roundtables should be completed by the end of February. To finish the rest of the roundtables, assistance is needed from the commissioners to sign up to participate as moderators, assistant moderators, notetakers, and timekeepers. Need community leaders' information placed on the Tracker so we can send out invitations. **Chair Argoti-Fernandez extended the invitation to all commissioners to attend the planning meetings.** **AD Decja** mentioned that GOCI management suggested not to invite other commissioners, it could be conflict of interest. Invitees should be relevant to the H&L communities but not inviting any political people.
- c. **Maryland 250 Celebration:** **Chair Argoti-Fernandez** provided a suggestion to have a multi-culture event with the other commissions. Also, she asked the commissioners to bring other ideas to the next meeting.
- d. **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration:** **Chair Argoti-Fernandez** stressed that they plan way ahead for this event and all events. **AD Decja** stated that the event will be at Carroll County Community College, which was voted on last year. All events sponsorship funds must be received at least 30 days prior to the event. If not all the funds are received by the 30-day deadline, the event will be canceled. A budget will need to be created for each event and when that is received, a sponsorship letter will be created. **EA Madigan** stated that dates for the events will also need to be established. Hopefully, the commission will be able to bring their ideas to the next SPS II meeting.

VII. Bylaws Discussion:

AD Decja stated that the template is still being updated and hopefully it will be ready soon to forward to the commissions.

VIII. Adjournment:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to adjourn at 7:13 p.m.	Dr. Jennifer Rios	Veronica Estrada	11Y - 0N - 0A