



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

*Tuesday, February 17, 2026
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Commissioners not in Attendance:

Veronica Estrada, Member
Nitzalis Rivera, Member
Javier Toro

GOCI Staff:

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

Presenter or Guest:

Michele Johnson

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Opening Remarks:

Chair Gaby Argoti-Fernandez provided welcoming remarks.

III. Motion to approve the minutes from the commission meeting 01/20/26.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of the minutes for 01/20/2026	Victoria Gomez Lorenzo	Maria Ramos Olazafasti	9Y - 0N - 0A

IV. MD 250 Commission:

Michele Johnson, Director of the MD Two Fifty Commission provided a presentation on what MD 250 Celebration is.

V. 2026 Top Priorities Results from Survey:

AD Silvia Decja provided the results from the survey.

- ❖ Making the State of Maryland a desirable and affordable home for residents of all demographics
- ❖ Ending child poverty in the State of Maryland
- ❖ Connecting Marylanders to jobs



VI. Mission and Vision Statement:

Chair Argoti-Fernandez asked the commission to email the Chair, AD and EA if they have any suggestions for changes. Commissioner Maria Ramos-Olazagasti suggested to remove the word “advocate” from the mission and vision statements. “Represent or Support” are recommendations to replace the word “advocate”. The chair will clean up these statements.

VII. Committees:

- a. **Business & Economic Dev. – Commissioner Veronica Estrada** was not present to provide an update.
- b. **Community – Commissioner Lena Hernandez** stated they are working on the Roundtable Discussions.
- c. **Education –** Need Chair for this committee, no update provided.
- d. **Health & Housing – Commissioner Yuliana Macey** provided no updates.

VIII. Working Groups:

- a. **Roundtables (Updates): Commissioner Lena Hernandez** stated that they are on the second round of the discussions. The commission submitted the halfway analysis report on the roundtable discussions that have taken place and they are waiting for GOCI’s approval to be placed on letterhead. She encourages commissioners to sit in at these discussions to hear what the communities are saying and asks for volunteers for future discussions. She also asked if they might know of anyone to invite to the other counties that have upcoming discussions.
- b. **Maryland 250 Celebration: Chair Argoti-Fernandez** suggestion to have a multi-culture event with the other commissions of GOCI. The Office of Immigrant Affairs, unit of GOCI will be joining in this collaboration. There is a possibility that the Maryland’s Women Commission and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture might also join. The event could occur within the first two weeks in September. It would be a celebration that would showcase food and cultural performances.

Motion to create a working group for the MD 250 Multi Cultural event in partnership with the other GOCI commissions.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to create a working group for the MD 250 Multi Cultural event in partnership with the other GOCI commissions.	Lena Hernandez	Maria Ramos Olazafasti	9Y - 0N - 0A

- c. **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration: AD Silvia Decja** stated that this event will be at Carroll County Community College. The available dates will be September 30 or October 1. Members of this working group will be decided in March. Commissioner Simbala asked the commission to think of ideas for a better flow of the program.

Motion on Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration event to be held on September 30th or October 1st.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion on Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration event to be held on September 30 th or October 1 st .	Lorena De Pombo	Maria Ramos Olazafasti	8Y - 0N - 0A



IX. New/Old Business:

- a. Health Fair Proposal: Commissioner Yuliana Macey** presented her proposal for a health fair in Anne Arundel County at Marshall Hope at no cost for the venue. Annapolis City will work with us and there are MCOs that want to be a part of the event. Possible date would be the beginning of June, and the capacity of attendees would be around 150–200.

Motion on to create a working group for the Health Fair in Anne Arundel County.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion on to create a working group for the Health Fair in Anne Arundel County.	Stephanie Landaverde	Lorena De Pombo	8Y - 0N - 0A

- b. Sponsorship Letter and Levels Discussion: AD Silvia Decja** went over the budget expectations and sponsorship letter. All sponsorship must be received at least one month prior to the event date.

Motion to create a budget of \$8,500.00 for Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration event.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to create a budget of \$8,500.00 for Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration event.	Maria Ramos-Olazagasti	Victoria Gomez Lozano	8Y - 0N - 0A

Motion to create a budget of \$6,500.00 for the Health Fair event.

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to create a budget of \$6,500.00 for the Health Fair event.	Lorena De Pombo	Victoria Gomez Lozano	8Y - 0N - 0A

- c. MOU (Medical Equipment) Discussion: Chair Gaby Argoti-Fernandez** stated the MOU partnership wouldn't continue, and the commission didn't provide any responses.

VIII. Adjournment:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.	Katie Simbala	Lena Hernandez	8Y - 0N - 0A