



County of Santa Cruz

Latino Affairs Commission

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

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Board of Supervisors

Latino Affairs Commission 2014-2015 Biennial Report

Dear Members of the Board:

It is with pleasure that I forward this report to you.

I. ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

The Latino Affairs Commission was established April 7, 1992 and created an important and historical opportunity to advocate for the needs of the Latino community. Latinos continue to constitute the largest ethnic minority group in Santa Cruz County. The Latino Affairs Commission (LAC) was established by ordinance no. 4186 and added to the Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 2.117 on May 11, 1992.

The Commission exercises the following responsibilities in its efforts to ensure that the interests of the County's Latino population are protected and promoted:

- A. Respond to the interests of the Latino community, including public and private agencies, on concerns and issues affecting the needs of the Latino residents in the County of Santa Cruz.
- B. Collect critical data and information from both public and private agencies relating to the needs of the growing Latino community.
- C. Advise and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on relevant issues and matters concerning the Latino community.
- D. Monitor the various services made available to Latino residents by

public and private agencies within the County and help ensure the efficient delivery of those services.

- E. Advise and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding socioeconomic needs of low income Latinos, including the County allocation of resources to County programs and community program funding.

II. MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATIONS

During reporting years 2014-2015, regular meetings were scheduled bi-monthly. All meetings convened at 6:00 p.m. Meetings were held at the United Way conference room in Capitola, at the Watsonville Library and at the Santa Cruz County Government Center located at 701 Ocean Street. Starting in 2015, all meetings were held on the first Wednesday of the month in February, April, August and October. The Commission will continue this practice to promote a regular meeting time throughout the community.

II. COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Latino Affairs Commission consists of nine commissioners, five from the county and two each at-large for Santa Cruz and Watsonville. At the end of 2015, the Commission had seven seated members: four (4) members appointed by the Board of Supervisors; the City of Santa Cruz appointed one of their two members; the City of Watsonville appointed two members.

First District: Antonia Franco

Second District: Liseth Guizar

Third District: Vacant

Fourth District: Brianna Del Franco

Fifth District: Yolanda Perez-Logan

An additional four (4) members are nominated by the cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz:

City of Santa Cruz: David Ortiz and Vacant

City of Watsonville: Rebecca Garcia and Patricia Guevara

The following Commissioners completed their terms, resigned, or were replaced in the last two year period: Vivian Vargas, Claudia Llamas-Padilla, Monica Galvan, Aquilles Borge, and Francisco Dias.

IV. COMMISSION STAFF

Mary Thuerwachter, Commissions Coordinator, staffs the Latino Affairs Commission.

V. ATTENDANCE – The 2014 and 2015 attendance reports are attached.

VI. GOALS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2014-2015

1. For Hispanic Heritage month September 2014, the Commission mounted an exhibit on the Community Wall at the Government Center at 701 Ocean Street honoring individuals and groups who provided outstanding service to the Latino community:

- Felix Robles – retired Cabrillo Educator
- Ana Ventura Phares – former Watsonville Mayor, promoter of open government and community participation
- Jovenes SANOS – Promoting youth as leaders to strive for healthy eating and a physically active community
- Aztecas Soccer - Connects at-risk youth with a meaningful soccer team experience as a positive alternative to detention and promotes greater community safety.
- Gabriela Bravo - Latina Artist, poet and role model
- Dr. Jeffrey Solinas – Physician at Plazita Medical Center
- The Honorable John Salazar, Judge, Superior Court, Santa Cruz County

2. For Hispanic Heritage month September 2015, the Commission mounted an exhibit on the Community Wall at the Government Center at 701 Ocean Street focusing on youth groups in Santa Cruz County. This is a list of the groups participating:

- Barrios Unidos – Juvenile Offenders - Mural
- Youth Now – After school Student Center that provides a safe space, as well as, no-cost tutoring and academic support
- Youth City Council - Watsonville and Santa Cruz – engages youth in local government and community
- Digital Nest – high tech training for youth and collaborative space
- Pajaro Valley High School Dream Club – supporting undocumented students to fight for humans rights and educate about the Dreamer movement
- SACNAS _ Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science - fostering the success of URM's (underrepresented minorities) in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics).
- Friday Night Live
- Alcance - to provide youth and adults with employment services, work skills development and community engagement.

2. Continue monitoring of the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) task force project.

Commissioner Yolanda Perez-Logan, Assistant Division Director for the Probation Department, provided bi-monthly updates on the department's work with the Criminal Justice Council's Disproportionate Minority Contact Project. Highlights include on-going collaboration and work between Probation staff, law enforcement agencies and other community members to improve relations with youth in Santa Cruz County, and participation in the "Turning a Curve of Youth Violence", Santa Cruz County Community Coalition to Overcome Racism (SCCCOR) and Santa Cruz County Safety Task Force. The DMC project staff also worked to improve the Risk Assessment Instrument, developed a DMC Data Dictionary, met with the community over several related issues such as community direct files and worked with stakeholders to re-vitalize the Juvenile Justice Council.

3. Continue to support community organizations and the County through the co-sponsorship of the local annual Citizenship and Immigration Forum, the Bi-National Health Week, the Watsonville Cesar Chavez Event, Stop the Silence Walk in Watsonville and other events/ activities that inform and educate the entire community on issues affecting the Latino community.

In 2014 and 2015, LAC members co-sponsored and actively participated in the Watsonville Cesar Chavez Youth & Adult Awards event and the Bi-National Health Week.

Endorsed the Strategic Action Plan developed by the Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce of the Criminal Justice Council of Santa Cruz County.

4. Commissioners attended and/or participated in community meetings that give visibility to the Commission, the County and its mission;

LAC commissioners attended many community meetings regarding health, safety, higher education, housing and immigration.

In 2014, Commissioner Garcia reported on her on-going participation with the Tri-County Latino Elected Officials organization. And, in 2015, she began participation in the Santa Cruz County Health in All Policies Project in South County. Commissioner Perez-Logan reported on the Turning the Curve of Youth Violence Conference, which is now the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force. She also acted as liaison to the Criminal Justice Council. Commissioner Perez-Logan also participated: Keeping Kids in School (KKIS) Initiative promoting school attendance and success; Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Project that supports treating children as victims not criminals when contact with Law Enforcement Agencies occurs.

5. Receive and disseminate information regarding higher education and future job opportunities for local Latino students in Santa Cruz County.

In 2013, LAC launched their website: www.scclatinoaffairs.org. It provides the mission, goals, members, past reports, meeting times and agendas, along with local events of interest and a link to the Santa Cruz County Employment job opportunities site. During 2015, it has been reconfigured to make it mobile device friendly.

6. Commissioners regularly communicated with the Supervisor and/or City Council member who appointed/nominated him or her through meetings and e-mail to provide updates on Latino Affairs Commission related issues.

7. *Review the 2013-2016 Santa Cruz County Equal Employment and Cultural Competency Plan*

In 2014 and 2015, LAC reviewed the EEO and Cultural Competency plan with the recommendation to continue hiring bilingual (English and Spanish) staff as needed to ensure efficient delivery of services and programs to the Santa Cruz County community.

VII. FUTURE GOALS FOR 2014-2015

1. Attend and participate in community meetings that pertain to the Commission and its mission.
2. Continue ongoing review of Disproportionate Minority Contact task force project.
3. Promote economic development for the Santa Cruz County community.
4. Meet with elected officials to promote college readiness.
5. Continue to support community organizations and the County through the co-sponsorship of the local annual Citizenship and Immigration Forum, the Bi-National Health Week, the Watsonville Cesar Chavez Event, Stop the Silence Walk in Watsonville and other events/activities that inform and educate the entire community on issues affecting the Latino community.
6. Prepare an exhibit for the Community Wall in the County Building to raise awareness of Hispanic Heritage month in September 2016 and 2017.

Sincerely,



Mary Thuerwachter
Commissions Coordinator

Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission
Attendance of Meetings for 2015

Commissioner/ Supervisor	1/15	2/4	5/6	8/5	10/7
Yolanda Perez Logan Supervisor McPherson	X	X	X	X	X
Vivian Vargas City of Santa Cruz	X	--	--	--	--
Claudia Llamas- Padilla Supervisor Coonerty	X	X	X	X	X
Antonia Franco Supervisor Friend	--	--	--	X	X
Liseth Guizar Supervisor Friend	X	A	X	X	X
Monica Galvan, Chair Supervisor Leopold	E	X	--	--	--
Brianna Del Franco Supervisor Caput	E	E	U	X	X
Rebecca Garcia City of Watsonville	X	X	X	X	E
City of Santa Cruz	V	V	V	V	V
David Ortiz III City of Santa Cruz	E	X	X	E	E
Patricia Guevara City of Watsonville	--	--	--	X	X

Codes: X=Present E=Excused Absence U-Unexcused
V=Vacancy --not on commission

Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission
Attendance of Meetings for 2014

Commissioner/ Supervisor	January	April	July	September
Yolanda Perez Logan Supervisor Stone	X	X	X	S
Vivian Vargas* Chair City of Santa Cruz	X	X	E	S
Claudia Llamas- Padilla Supervisor Coonerty	X	X	X	S
Liseth Guizar** Supervisor Friend	X	E	X	S
Monica Galvan Supervisor Leopold	X	X	X	E
Francisco Diaz Supervisor Caput	U	U	--	--
Rebecca Garcia City of Watsonville	X	X	X	S
David Ortiz City of Santa Cruz	X		X	S
Aquiles Borge City of Watsonville	U	U	--	--

Codes: X=Present E=Excused Absence U-Unexcused
S – Setting up Exhibit for Hispanic Heritage Month
--not a commissioner

* CHAIR

** VICE-CHAIR