



Inajo Davis Chappell    Jeff Hastings    Eben O. (Sandy) McNair, IV    Robert S. Frost    Pat McDonald    Anthony W. Perlatti  
Chairwoman    Member    Member    Member    Director    Deputy Director

### **Spanish- Language Advisory Board Minutes**

March 18, 2013, 5:00 PM

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m. and was held at the Esperanza Inc. Board Room, 3104 Clark Ave., Cleveland, Ohio

#### **Attending:**

Magda Gómez, Chairwoman  
Ivelisse Roig, Bilingual Coordinator:  
Dennis Anderson, Community Outreach Manager  
Ron Berger, Member  
Pablo Castro II, Member  
Dharma Valentín  
Lorna McLain  
Pat McDonald- Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Director  
Ricardo Pena, Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, Voter Registration Agency Coordinator  
Anthony Alto-Young Latino Network  
Juan Molina Crespo- Director of the Hispanic Alliance  
Michelle L Heyer- Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Christy McCormick –Phone –Department of Justice-Washington

#### **Absent:**

Marilyn Bagley, Member  
Javier Morales-Ortíz, Member  
Luis Gómez, Member  
Adrian Maldonado, Member

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome:** Chairwoman Gomez welcomed the attendees.

#### **Agenda Item 2: review and approval of minutes from 01/07/2013:**

The Board voted unanimously to approve the January 07, 2013 board meeting minutes. However, Juan Molina Crespo informed the Board that in future correspondence his name should appear as Molina Crespo, not Crespo Molina, as indicated in the January 07, 2013 meeting minutes.

#### **Agenda item 3: Old Business & Updates:**

Bilingual Coordinator Ivelisse Roig provided a summary of the May 7<sup>th</sup> Special Election: The cities in the election are: Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Brooklyn, Lakewood, Linndale, Newburgh Heights, North Royalton, Olmsted Falls, Parma, Richmond Heights, Solon, Walton Hills, and Warrensville Heights. The Election will have 24 Candidates: 2-



Parma City Council Ward 9, Democratic Primary, 5- Westlake City Council Ward 2, Nonpartisan Primary, 17- Linndale Charter Commission, Nonpartisan, 16 Issues, 11 Municipalities, 4 School Districts, and 1 Library District. Brooklyn had two bilingual precincts in the past Presidential Election. Roig stated it is likely the two Brooklyn precincts would participate in the May 7<sup>th</sup> Election. Fifteen bilingual poll workers were recruited; their training is going to be on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Spanish Language Advisory Board Recommendations Summary:**

Bilingual Coordinator Roig circulated a sample of the recommendations format. The presentation format suggested for the summary was Power Point. Positive feedback was provided by the Advisory Board Members. The Bilingual Coordinator and the Chairwoman Magda Gómez will continue to work together on the summary. Director McDonald stated that it would be very helpful learning about the cost associated with the bilingual services when presenting the summary.

The Spanish Language Advisory Board added to the recommendation summary. They suggested maintaining the current services, to have quantified reports for Hispanic voter turnout, work together, have the Bilingual Coordinator get more involved in the community. Director McDonald agreed and stated that he would like to see Bilingual Coordinator out at least 3 days a week and to work with the Spanish Advisory Board for suggestions on that effort.

#### **Hispanic Voter Turnout Report:**

At the prior board meeting, Board Members requested a voter turnout report. Dennis Anderson, Community Outreach Manager, stated he would need the surname analysis listing the voters in order compare it to the voter turnout on the last November Election. Christy McCormick of the U.S. Department of Justice stated that the list of surnames they used for their surname analysis is from the 1980 Census. McCormick, stated the DOJ Hispanic Surname listing might not be available for release to the CCBOE, however, she stated she would check into the matter.

#### **Bilingual Election Program Transition Plan for after March 30<sup>th</sup> of 2014:**

Magda Gomez, Advisory Committee Chair and the board members had questions in regards to what is going to happen with the requirements listed in the consent decree after the expiration date on March 2014. Their questions included: What does this date means for the Advisory Board and the services for LEP such as: providing Spanish language materials, Bilingual Poll worker training ... in Cuyahoga County thereafter the end of the agreement with the DOJ?

Michelle Heyer of the U.S. Attorney's Office stated, nothing prevents the Advisory Board going forward, and said the CCBOE may continue to implement the requirements of the decree, that the expectation is for the services to continue and not decrease. Heyer stated, the CCBOE should continue to enforce the services, without court supervision or federal observers. Spanish Advisory Co-Chair, Pablo Castro had a concern as far as implications with the law if the CCBOE stops providing the services. Hayer stated if the CCBOE stops they could return to Federal Supervision.

#### **Update from U.S. Attorney's Office on Federal decree:**

Christy McCormick, Voting Rights Division Attorney, United States Department of Justice, conducted a conference call to allow members of the Advisory Board to ask questions concerning compliance with the consent decree between the Board of Elections (BOE) and the department of Justice. The US Attorney Michelle Hayer was in attendance to provide an update in the Voting 4 e law.

## **Agenda item 4: New Business:**

### **Board of Elections Announcements:**

- The Bilingual Coordinator circulated a bio of the new Deputy Director Tony Perlatti.
- Dennis Anderson announced that a Primary Election will be held prior the November General Election. In regards to the new political boundaries stating, we do not know yet which wards we are losing, rumors are that is one from the east and one from the west and that this information will be official on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The City Council hired a private company to do the boundaries.
- Board member Rob Frost has replaced Board Member Debbie Sutherland who has stepped down to run for re-election for Mayor of Bay Village.

### **New Advisory Board Members Recruitment:**

Was tabled for next meeting

### **Agenda item 5: Subcommittees-Updates:**

### **Bilingual Poll Worker Recruitment:**

Bilingual coordinator mentioned that on March 13 a focus group for Bilingual Poll Workers was held. A brief report will be sent to the members via email.

### **Community Outreach and Voter Education:**

No reports at this time

### **Translations:**

No updates at this time

## **Agenda item 6: Misc. News & Closing Remarks:**

### **Chair and Co-Chair:**

Co-Chair Castro thanked staff, community members, Advisory Board members Christy McCormick and Michelle Heyer for their time and being present at this meeting.

Next Advisory Meeting will be on June 3, the time will be moved to 5:30. This meeting will be held at:

Esperanza Inc. Board Room  
3104 Clark Ave  
Cleveland, 44109

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.