

**Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Meeting called to order: 9:03am

Board Members Present: A. Burst, M. Decunto, R. Caldera, T. Jimenez, E. Pantoja, J. Silva, J. Cuetos, T. Echevarry, and M. Wright

Absent Board Members (Excused): N/A

Staff Present: N/A

Guests: Meredith Moore, Leon Carrero, Mario Medina, Sonja Alvarez,

- I. **Welcome:** 9:03 AM Meeting was called to order by A. Burst.
- II. **Minutes Approval** – The minutes for November meeting were approved by 8 votes. T. Jimenez abstained from voting.
(T. Echevarry motion; J. Silva second)
- III. **Fiscal and Executive Updates:** N/A

IV. Committee Reports

a. Education

C. Echevarry reported: On **November 30th**, C. Echevarry attended the **Cybersecurity Forum** hosted by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce with over 100 attendees representing educational institutions and businesses. According to the 2016 Ponemon Institute Report, the average cost of a data breach for a company is \$4 million. The price paid to obtain a stolen record containing sensitive information? \$158 per record. The event focused on how and why information is breached and what businesses of all sizes can do to protect their firm.

C. Echevarry reported: **December 1st**, C. Echevarry attended the **Society of Human Resource Management Legal Update Chapter Meeting**. Each year, employment laws change at a very rapid rate. The update, presented by prominent Jacksonville employment law attorneys provided attendees with an analysis and interpretation of the current legal and legislative updates pertaining to: the new I-9 form, protected concerted activity and changes to the EEOC's position statement procedures. The New "Smart Form I-9" presentation by Giselle Carson of Marks Gray, P.A. discussed how immigration law is one of the most prominent legal issues in the United States at this time. Employers across all industries and of all sizes

are affected. More than ever before, businesses are having a difficult time keeping up with the most current information concerning immigration regulations, including employment verification and Form I-9 changes. Ever since the current version of the Form I-9 expired on March 31, 2016, employers have been waiting for the release of the new "smart" Form I-9. The form has just been released and employers will have until January 21, 2017 to plan the internal rollout of the form, train the staff, implement a new I-9 process and update policies and procedures.

C. Echevarry reported: **Upcoming Event: January 21, 2017 School Choice Expo** will be held at the Prime Osborn Convention Center (C. Echevarry will attend the event) from 11:00AM – 3:00PM.

The event is held by Duval County Public Schools and all area parents and community members are invited. It is anticipated that over 17,000 will be in attendance and offers visitors the best opportunity to learn about magnet programs, career academies, charter schools, high school acceleration programs and neighborhood schools for all grade levels. Teachers, principals and students from every school will be on hand to talk with parents and students about their academic offerings. Vendors supportive of education will also have exhibits. These schools will showcase their innovative programs and quality services that promote student achievement, and student performances consisting of choirs, bands, drama, dance, and musical theater. Additional education centric vendors and exhibitors will be on display.

C. Echevarry reported: This event will be a great opportunity to make connections between MHAAB and the Jacksonville community. MHAAB flyers will be given out to vendors and school officials. Information will be collected to collaborate on events pertaining to education.

J. Silva reported: Attended the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Conference, November 30th-December 2nd @ St. Petersburg, FL Well attended event with over 300+ representatives of colleges and universities across the nation. Much was discussed about state-wide versus federal education and advocacy campaigns.

Discussing included how to work closer with the business and workforce community, elected officials, K-12 unified school districts and Superintendents. A central takeaway is creating a continuous thread in our messaging: How to impact the most amount of students: by increasing affordability and reducing academic barriers – including language barriers

J. Silva reported on how to create rapid-entry for students into the workforce – working with business partners to create a smooth transition (internships/work study programs
Focusing on Early College Academies and Dual Enrollment Programs: STEM education and innovative programs - Debt-Free College Promise presentation and building it from the ground up: Use of local partners (Mayor's office, industry, foundations, nonprofits); Using community and college affordability resources already in existence; Using grants and capital campaign programs.

J. Silva reported: Year-round Pell Grant for low-income or eligible students: College debt for our college students can be a burden. Students with financial aid are three times more likely to complete a degree and least likely to drop out.

Letter to House/Senate appropriators asking for consideration of year-round Pell in the next Continuing Resolution funding the government until March 31, 2017.

J. Silva reported the Pell Program surplus should be used for students most in need, our working students that attend school year-round

Data points: As of 2014, of the working age population in Northeast Florida, only **36%** have a two- or four-year degree, which ranks the six-county Jacksonville metropolitan area 72nd among the 100-most populated regions in the country.

In STEM: There are currently more than 55,000 unfilled STEM jobs in Florida, and 9,217 job openings in our Workforce Development Area 8 – including Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

In the First Coast alone, there are 1,500 manufacturing companies generating more than 30,000 jobs.

Experienced graduates receive an average starting pay of \$22/per hour.

b. Health and Public Safety

E. Pantoja reported: 11/15- Mayo Clinic sponsored Pastora Lucy Bonfante, a local Hispanic Pastor from Roca de Salvacion, to join the rest of the Mayo Team to attend a Health Churches conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. The purpose was to learn more about Health Ministries and receive updates on National Health issues affecting minorities.

E. Pantoja reported: 12/10- A community event sponsored by I'm a Star Foundation took place at the baseball grounds on Philip Randolph Blvd. This

event included health screenings and various activities for all ages. This organization is a non-profit organization that specializes in empowering and transforming dis-engaged youths to become solution-oriented leaders in their respective schools and communities. Participants develop service learning projects to help students, school districts and communities deal with bullying, childhood obesity, teenage suicide, health and nutrition, and other barriers to success. Unfortunately, these issues have a stronghold on our Hispanic school children.

E. Pantoja reported: 12/01- Attended the Jacksonville Hispanic Leadership meeting. Meeting took place at Havana Jax. It was very well attended. Approximately 40-45 local leaders were present. The main message was to continue networking with one another and encourage the vision that together we can do more to positively affect our City.

E. Pantoja reported: 1/19- Official unveiling of the Hispanic Health Report will take place at Havana Jax at 6:00 PM. It will be delivered by Kristina Wilson, PhD, from the Florida Department of Health.

M. Wright reported: November 29th -Florida Kid-Care Presentation at Southside Estates Elementary School, 9775 Ivey Rd, Jacksonville, 32246. Time: 3:30 pm. Meeting with ESOL parents, 20 attendees. Contact: Joanne Ortiz.

M. Wright reported: December 3rd - Free Asthma workshop at The Players Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's Hospital, 3563 Phillips Highway, Building E, Suite 502. Time: 10 am. Four Spanish Speaking parents attended. Contact: Marivi Wright

M. Wright reported: December 7th – Health Care Access TV interview with Univision, at 8787 Baypine Rd. Jacksonville, 32256. Contact: Lisandra Alvarez.

M. Wright reported: January 20 – Tentative Meeting with Leaders from Hispanic Churches at Baptist Downtown to inform them of services of Baptist/Wolfson Hospital.

M. Decunto reported giving talks on Domestic Violence to parents at Head Start Program to increase awareness of services of local shelters such as Hubbard House and Quigley House.

M. Decunto reported giving 3 talks last month and providing support to Hispanic Families that normally would not have access to information about these services available to them in Clay County and Duval County.

c. Economic and Faith Based

T. Jimenez reported having attended on 12/6 event with Gov. Scott discussing deepening of the port and economic benefits to Duval.

T. Jimenez reported attending event in the Shad Khan suite discussing increasing real estate and business in Jax.

T. Jimenez reported meeting with Elaine Brown Mayor of Neptune Beach. Discussed Holiday event called "No Empty Stockings" to expand program partnering with Police Chief Pike. Event tonight will give ½ of proceeds at restaurants at the beach.

V. COJ staff Report: N/A

VI. Old Business: N/A

VII. New Business

- a. **R. Caldera** reported WONC will be 3 days during end of March instead of 4. Fri-Sun. First meeting was 12/8.
- b. **R. Caldera** reported resigning from the board, having submitted letter to the city.
- c. **J. Cuetos** requested for Members to prepare items to have for 1/10 planning meeting.
- d. **A. Burst** reported having communicated from Mayor's office Sharyn Conway who stated having meeting today to review Mayor's schedule to schedule

VIII. Guests

- a. **Leon Carrero** presented Hispanic Registration and Turnout Trends Revised Post-General Election. Results displayed 80% increase of Hispanic Registered voters between 2006-2016. See report attached.
- b. **Meredith Moore** from FSCJ ESOL program reported: reported Hispanic attendance at Deerwood location. Offer services to undocumented (tourist visa included)/documented students. Out of 5700 students, 300 are undoc/tourist visa students. Students are 16yrs and above, designed for students entering the work force and looking to continue education. \$30 for 2 semesters. Last semesters students highest percentages were: 7% Haiti, 5% Cuba Colombia - out of 1000, 296 were Spanish speakers.

A. FSCJ ESOL Program Advisory Board/Council: Has had resource fair downtown campus, with several

community partners. Meetings are 4 x year to help exchange ideas. Offered to assist MHAAB and Voter Registrations efforts to create workshops at the college. Also helps promotes other English programs due to large demand of services.

- c. **Mario Medina** shared personal reflections on his experience as Puerto Rican member of the community.
- d. **Sonja Alvarez** discussed efforts to start women's group called Asociaion de Mujeres Latinas to increase awareness of women's needs including Breast Cancer awareness.

IX. Reminders:

- a. Next Meeting will be Planning Meeting– January 10, 2016, 8-11pm at Mayor's Meeting Room 4th floor.

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:16am

Minutes Submitted by: M. Decunto 12/16/16