

## MHAAB Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2017

Location: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Mayor's Meeting Room - City Hall

Meeting called to order at 9:03am

Members in attendance: Marivi Wright, Mario Decunto, Jose Cuetos, Jen Silva, Alicia Burst, and Angel Santiago

Attended by phone: Cristina Echeverry

COJ representatives: Dr. Gaffney Director of Boards and Commission

Guest: Ana Johnson, Immigration Counselor with Catholic Charities and Rebecca Black, Immigration Atty.

Action upon minutes:

June Minutes approved unanimously by board.

July Minutes approved unanimously by board.

Chair announced Tomas Jimenez reported not being able to attend due to a death in the family.

Chair introduced Angel Santiago with JSO as new MHAAB member.

Chair introduced Ana Johnson, Immigration Counselor with Catholic Charities. Ms. Johnson reported details about her position working solely with Hispanic immigrants due to large population. However, Ms. Johnson stated being trained to work with all immigrant groups. Ms. Johnson reported helping families adjust to new political climate which has recently caused challenges to immigrants with mixed status, such as undocumented parents with children who are citizens. Ms. Johnson discussed wanting to partner with MHAAB member Angel Santiago who offered to help connect Ms. Johnson with JSO International Affairs unit. Ms. Johnson reported helping families make an emergency plan to be prepared if the family is separated / parents deported.

Dr. Gaffney thanked Ms. Johnson for supporting immigrants and emphasizing need for immigrant services after having a personal experience helping immigrants in Jax.

A.Silva connected Ms. Johnson with Tayloe McDonald, Director strategic planning and public affairs with Delores Barr Weaver policy center which works with human trafficking.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Health and Public Safety:**

M. Decunto reported assisting Hispanic event coordinator Arlene Vedal with Jax Community Fair. M. Decunto stated having connected Ms. Vedal with Veterans group organizers to help increase Hispanic Veteran's representation at the event. M. Decunto discussed plans to send information to MHAAB members.

M. Wright reported meeting July 13<sup>th</sup> with the ARNP of the Mission House in Jacksonville. The Mission provides healthcare for the uninsured and underserved regardless of their immigration status.

M. Wright reported meeting July 26<sup>th</sup> with the coordinator for the Center for Language and Culture. That meeting was to decide upon the topics and dates of the presentations that will take place at the Center for Language and Culture during the 2017-2018 school year. All the presentations will be done in Spanish.

Wright reported Every Tuesday of the month- Car seat inspections are done in Spanish at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

### **Education**

C. Echeverry reported assisting with ATD recipients with Hispanic Chamber.

J. Silva reported assisting with ATD recipients, and reported interviews with candidates were inspiring. Date of ATD/Hispanic Gala is planned for Sept 29. J. Silva reported information on 3 more scholarships through Kimberly Daniels FL Rep. through Edward Waters College.

J. Silva also reported having a scholarship Golf Tournament on Sept 18 to raise money for Edward Waters scholarships.

### **Economic and Faith Based Communities:**

J. Cuetos reported meeting with Hope For Housing which provides education to families, credit counseling, and helps educate potential homebuyers. J. Cuetos reported helping the group to create a Spanish event for Hispanic Home buyers. Next event is Aug 12 at 263 River Hill Dr, Jax.

J. Cuetos requested for members to send him content on events in the community so he can update Facebook page.

### **Old Business**

Chair reported HLA awards will be October 10<sup>th</sup> and requested for applications for Hispanic Leadership Awards to MHAAB coj.net email.

Chair reported meeting with sponsors to plan next printing of “La Guia.”

**New Business:**

Chair reported city is currently working to attain a new liaison due to Rosario Lacayo taking a new position outside of the city.

Chair encouraged members of MHAAB to take part in Hispanic Leadership group meetings at Havana Jax at 12pm on Thursdays to help support Hispanics in considering entering politics.

Chair assigned members to take responsibility to call contacts in “La Guia” to verify each service mentioned in the guide is currently available.

M. Decunto requested for members to call each phone number assigned to them in “La Guia” and confirm if the service has Spanish speaking assistance so this can be notated in the guide.

Dr. Gaffney recommended to contact Supervisor of Elections to discuss placing an ad.

Meeting adjourned 10:00am