

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

January 21, 1977

(Date)

To: Governor Dixie Lee Ray

From: Marty Martinez

Subject: Follow-up on the Washington State Commission on Mexican American Affairs

After discussing the matter with Mr. Butterworth, Mr. Fritz, and Commissioner Ray Baca, we are including the following for your consideration.

I will continue working to better establish the Commission in order that it may function as intended by law.

Attached are the following:

- A. Senate Bill No. 394
- B. Washington State Commission on Mexican-American Affairs Board Members.
- C. Suggested new members and reappointments
- D. Final structure and categories of new board of commissioners.

CHAPTER 34

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 398]

WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION ON MEXICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AN ACT Relating to state government; and establishing the Washington commission on Mexican-American affairs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The legislature declares that the public policy of this state is to insure equal opportunity for all of its citizens. The legislature finds that Mexican-Americans and other Spanish speaking Americans have unique and special problems. It is the purpose of this act to improve the well-being of Mexican-Americans and other Spanish speaking Americans by insuring their participation in the fields of government, business, and education. The legislature further finds that it is necessary to aid Mexican-Americans and other Spanish speaking Americans in obtaining governmental services in order to promote the health, safety and welfare of all the residents of this state. Therefore the legislature deems it necessary to create a commission to carry out the purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is created a Washington state commission on Mexican-American affairs.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The commission shall consist of eleven members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The membership shall include:

- (a) Two members from workers in the agricultural field;
- (b) Two members from the general populace of the Spanish speaking population;
- (c) One member from the field of education;
- (d) One member from professional services; and
- (e) One member from among elected trade union officials.
- (f) Four members from the Mexican-American community in the state.

(2) The members shall hold office commencing July 1, 1971 for four years and until their successors are chosen and qualified. Four of the initial appointees shall be appointed for two-year terms and three shall be appointed for four-year terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

(3) Members shall receive twenty-five dollars per diem for each day or major portion thereof plus reimbursement for actual travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in the same manner as provided for state officials generally in chapter 53.03 RCW as now or hereafter amended.

(4) Six members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The commission shall:

- (1) Elect one of its members to serve as chairman;
- (2) Appoint a full time executive secretary;
- (3) Appoint a staff who shall be state employees pursuant to Title 41 RCW; and
- (4) Adopt rules and regulations pursuant to chapter 34.04 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The commission shall advise state departments and agencies regarding appropriate action to be taken to help assure that state programs are providing the assistance needed by Mexican-Americans and other Spanish speaking Americans.

(2) The commission shall further advise such departments and agencies on the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs focusing on the special problems and needs of Mexican-Americans and other Spanish speaking Americans.

(3) Each state department and agency shall appoint one staff member to an interagency advisory council on Mexican-American affairs. The advisory council shall give technical assistance to the commission in order that the commission may carry out the purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. In carrying out its duties the commission may establish such relationships with local governments and private industry as may be needed to promote equal opportunity for Mexican-Americans in government, education and employment.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Passed the Senate April 13, 1971.

Passed the House April 12, 1971.

Approved by the Governor April 21, 1971.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 21, 1971.

WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION ON MEXICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

The following are board members whose terms expire in July 1977.

Guadalupe Zuniga

Rudy Cortez

Eddie Esparza

Max Perez

2 David Garcia

The following are board members who were reappointed in 1975 and whose terms expire in July 1, 1979, but not confirmed by the Senate.

✓ Thomas Cerna

✓ Alfred Diaz

✓ Keo Caspestany

✓ Leonardo Ruiz

✓ Ray Baca

The following board member's term expired in July 1975 and is currently vacant.

✓ Margaret Zamudio

The following are suggested members to be sent to the Senate for confirmation.

Olivia Cuellar

Emilio Benevidez

Dr. Ruben Marti

1 Ray Baca

3 Leonardo Ruiz

Dave Palomarez

The following are suggested members to be sent to the Senate for confirmation.

A. Two members from workers in the agriculture field:

1. David Palomarez
2. Olivia Cuellar

B. Two members from the general populace of the Spanish Speaking population:

1. Emilio Benavidez
2. Leonardo Ruiz

c. One member from the field of education:

1. Dr. Rubin Marti

D. One member from the Mexican-American Community in the state:

1. Ray Baca

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Emilio Benavidez

Mr. Benavidez is retired from the military, presently employed with the Weyerhaeuser Corporation as a mail room supervisor. He is highly active in community affairs, former State Chairman of the American G.I. Forum, Washington State, and on various committees with the National Office, will receive A.A. Tacoma Community College this year. Mr. Benavidez also serves on the Weyerhaeuser Foundation.

Dr. Ruben Marti

Dr. Marti has been highly active in education, is credited with the establishment of various English As A Second Language projects, and presently employed with the Department of Personnel.

Olivia Cuellar

Farm worker and housewife from Bellingham, also been involved in women and farm workers affairs.

David Palomarez

Presently Farm Worker in Granger, active in community affairs.

Leonardo Ruiz

Employed with Northwest Rural Opportunities in the Moses Lake Office. Suggest he be reappointed.

Ray Baca

Employed by Employment Security in Tacoma. Is State Secretary for the American G.I. Forum. Suggest he be reappointed.

WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION ON MEXICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

II. Suggested new members and reappointments.

- A. Two members from workers in the agricultural field:
 - 1. David Palomarez
 - 2. Olivia Cuellar
- B. Two members from the general populace of the Spanish Speaking population:
 - 1. Emilio Benavidez
 - 2. Leonardo Ruiz
- C. One member from the field of education:
 - 1. Dr. Rueben Marti
- D. One member from Professional Services:
 - 1. Rudy Cortez
- E. One member from among elected trade union officials:
 - 1. David Garcia
- F. Four members from the Mexican-American Community in the State:
 - 1. Eddy Esparza
 - 2. Lupe Zuniga
 - 3. Ray Baca
 - 4. Max Perez