



Irene Gomez-Bethke Papers.

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URBAN COALITION OF MINNEAPOLIS
CHICANO-LATINO CAUCUS
JUNE 8, 1978

MINUTES

- I. Felino de la Pena was elected to the UCM Board of Directors to serve as the third representative of the UCM Chicano-Latino Caucus.
- II. UCM Chicano-Latino Caucus voted to meet with the UCM Indian and Black Caucuses separately to get clarification on their positions relative to the city desegregation plan. The Caucus, after weighing both positions, will be in a better position to take a stand on the issue.

It is still unclear to the community how desegregation will affect its youngsters. The community is spread throughout the city; and, therefore, is not going to face the serious displacement problems faced by the Indian community. It is the Caucus' opinion that the Minneapolis Public Schools are failing the Chicano-Latino community. They don't teach our youngsters about their culture or traditions and language. They have been made to feel inferior and embarrassed that they are Latinos. The drop-out rate is high for Latinos in the District, and there is some question about whether the public schools will even be able to deal effectively with these concerns. An alternative school for Latinos may have to be an option that is pursued.

Jose Gaitan and Rafael Esparza will write a position statement on the failure of the Minneapolis Public Schools to educate our children properly. The statement will be published in the Centro Cultural Chicano newsletter.

- III. Irene Gomez de Bethke gave a report on the activities of the Chicano-Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor of Minneapolis. So far the Committee has met with Otis Smith, the Affirmative Action Officer for the City of Minneapolis; Gerald Singer, Chairman of the Minneapolis Civil Service Commission; and Victor Propes, the Director of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Singer were not very positive about the state of affirmative action in Minneapolis. Mr. Smith indicated that there were too many problems with the system to make his efforts effective, his staff being too small. Mr. Singer was generally pessimistic about the Rule of 3 helping in the effort to hire more Latinos.

Mr. Propes indicated that there were no Latinos on his staff, no Latinos in the Civil Rights Commission, but that a new structure of advisory committees may provide a way for Latinos to make their concerns known in a policy-making way. Ms. Bethke encouraged the Caucus to encourage members of the community to apply for positions on the Advisory Committee.

Ms. Bethke also indicated that a special meeting of the Committee would be held Monday, June 12th, at 6:30 p.m., in the Mayor's office. The meeting will be with a Mr. Brustad of the MHRA, who will be proposing some possible buildings available for a Chicano-Latino community center.

Resolution for adoption by the UCM Board at its next meeting:

The UCM Board of Directors goes on record as stating its disappointment with the affirmative action policy in city hiring, especially as it relates to the Chicano-Latino community. The Board urges the Mayor to make affirmative action in the hiring of people of color a top priority and that he employ every device at his disposal to improve city hiring relative to people of color.

- IV. Jose Gaitan proposed a state-wide Chicano-Latino political convention to take place in September. The proposed two day convention would define position statements on issues and would endorse candidates for the two Senate seats and the Governor. The candidates from both parties would be invited to address the convention. Jose sees many hurdles relative to funding and outreach, which can only be addressed by getting a planning committee set up now. He encourages all people interested in helping with the convention to contact him.

Resolution to be passed by the UCM Board at its next meeting:

The UCM Board of Directors recognizes and respects the right of Indian people to self determination. We recognize the current Federal legislation which if enacted would strip the Indian community of all its treaty rights and privileges. We hereby state firmly and strongly our opposition to these bills and any efforts to abrogate any treaties currently existing between the Indian community and the United States of America. We wholeheartedly support the organized effort to stop the bills, "The Longest Walk," and would offer whatever assistance it could lend in this effort.



MEMORANDUM

TO: UCM Chicano/Latino Caucus
FROM: Arturo Pérez *af*
RE: Caucus Meeting
DATE: March 23, 1979

At our Caucus meeting of March 22, 1979, some very disturbing information concerning the United Way needs assessment of the Minneapolis Latino community was related.

The community had originally been led to believe that the United Way was going to do a comprehensive needs assessment of the community. In a meeting in January, United Way said they could only do a limited needs assessment. As late as last week, they said they could only do a surface survey of community needs because of staff and fiscal constraints. Now they claim they cannot do a survey either. Bill Marsella, who was the United Way contact person in their Research Department, has been promoted out of that Department. This means that with him out of the Research Department, they no longer have the capability to do even a surface survey.

Given this turn of events, the Caucus felt that since Centro Cultural Chicano had already submitted its proposal to the United Way, and since some kind of study on the needs of the Minneapolis community would enhance Centro's chances of getting funded, it would be a good idea to contact Ed Duren at the University of Minnesota to see where his data collection project is at. Hopefully, if he can complete a needs survey of the Minneapolis Latino community by June, the information can be presented to United Way in support of Centro's proposal.

The action steps adopted by the Caucus were:

1. Call Ed Duren to find out where he is at on his survey.
2. Contact United Way to determine if they will accept Duren's survey results.
3. Develop a lobbying strategy for the funding of Centro through the United Way structure.
4. Get the names of the members of the United Way new Program Committee.
5. Get the list of United Way contributors.

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All of these action steps are to be completed by the next meeting of the UCM Chicano/Latino Caucus. That meeting will take place Thursday, March 29th, 6:30 p.m., at the UCM offices, 1009 Nicollet Mall.

We sincerely hope that all Caucus members will be able to attend this very important meeting. Please contact Cathy Allen at the UCM office, 348-8550, to indicate if you will be able to attend.

/cda



MEMORANDUM

TO: UCM Chicano/Latino Caucus

FROM: Arturo Pérez *af*

RE: Summary of Chicano/Latino Caucus Meeting, 3/8/79

DATE: March 9, 1979

The Caucus spent most of the meeting discussing the positives and negatives of having the United Way of Minneapolis do a needs assessment of the Minneapolis Chicano/Latino community. The main reasons for having United Way do the study were, a) United Way has never responded to the needs of the Chicano/Latino community and should do so, and b) it had been assumed that United Way would use their own money and staff to conduct the study.

However, it was revealed that United Way would not use money from their existing budget but would seek out foundation grants to do the work. Second, United Way was not interested in doing a comprehensive needs assessment, but would limit it to one or two issue areas. Third, some members of the UCM Board had raised questions about the competency of United Way research.

After much discussion, the Caucus decided that it would recommend to the UCM Board of Directors that the United Way may be urged to fund the UCM, out of their existing 1979 budget, to conduct a needs assessment of the Minneapolis Chicano/Latino community. It was also recommended that the UCM Chicano/Latino Caucus be the coordinating body for the study. The issue of adding ad hoc members to the Caucus for the study was tabled until the next Caucus meeting.

Caucus Chairman Donn J. Vargas stated that he would be drafting a resolution concerning the Caucus' decision regarding the needs assessment. Any Caucus member wanting to give his or her input into the formulation of the resolution is urged to contact Mr. Vargas before Monday, March 12, 1979.

The next meeting of the UCM Chicano/Latino Caucus will take place on Thursday, March 22, 1979, 6:30 p.m., at the UCM offices, 1009 Nicollet Mall.

/cda