

MAYOR'S HISPANIC AMERICAN ADVISORY BOARD (MHAAB)



MHAAB MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Main Library/First Floor Lounge/303 N Laura Street

Mission: *"The main purpose of the Board is to advocate on behalf of the Hispanic American Community and to provide a means by which the City may obtain information, guidance and advice on the issues facing the Hispanic American Community"*

Members Present: Pablo Diaz De Sandi, Nicole Landa, Carmen Martinez, Anamaria Contreras, Aida Seeraj & Sabrina Marcos Smith

Staff Present and Outreach Coordinator: Kara Tucker, Tereese Goodloe, & Yanira "YaYa" Cardona

Guest Present: Mario Decunto, Katia Medina (VP Prospera), Sofie, Vince Caicedo, Joslyn Rayes, Silva Almond, Marti Ortezt, Diana Sandoval, Juby Balton, Officer Gonzalez

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Approximately at 12:00pm by Pablo Diaz De Sandi

II. Staff Updates: Kara Tucker, Board Liaison.

- Annual Report – please send any information you want featured
- Bio updates – send to Kara & Tereese
 - Kara will confirm who's missing
- Guest Speakers – please let us know in advance
- Open seats – will review applications

III. Motion to approve Agenda:

- *Moved by: Aida Seeraj, Second by: Anamaria Contreras*
- Guests are given the opportunity to address Board regarding interest in Board Membership:

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- **Katia Medina** – VP Prospera, Central & NE Florida Region, gave background and current info about Prospera, Julby in charge of the Jacksonville area. Interest in the Board is for business collaboration with Prospera
- **Vince Caicedo** – Manager at Supreme Lending, very involved in the Hispanic community, one of the members of the Latin Tailgate, understand time commitment on the Board, want to really give back to the community
- **Silva Almond** – Heart is with Human Trafficking, goal is education

IV. Outreach Coordinator updates: Yanira “YaYa” Cardona

- JSEB meeting – cancelled today, will pick up again in March
 - due to Mayor’s Budget meeting
- Community Resource Guide – still updating
- Mayor’s Town Hall dates
 - February 18th – Atlantic Coast High School
 - March 4th - Riverside High School
- Citizenship Drive at World of Nations – Please share
 - Must register
 - Legal fees free but will have to pay state fees
 - Contact Reyes legal on IG
 - Safe space – no worries of being arrested
 - Need volunteers
- Baptist Hospital – accepting/welcoming and making immigrants feel safe will not ask citizenship question prior to treatment like other hospitals
 - Per Officer Gonzalez, can decline to answer citizenship questions and still receive treatment at other hospitals, etc.
 - Same at, WeCare Jax
 - Volunteers in Medicine
 - Inspire to Rise, don’t ask but provides services

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- Child Welfare League - collect info advice on meet-up locations if child gets deported.

V. Guest Presentation:

- Silva Almond – presented on Human Trafficking
- Vince Caicedo – Local Mortgage Professional, spoke about affordable housing for Hispanics through Supreme Lending and Flight Builders,
 - Will build 200 new constructions homes
 - Will pay some closing cost
 - Affordable Housing Summit – April (more info to come).

VI. Subcommittee's – Action Items for Chair of each:

- Select a different meeting date from the main meeting
- If need more members, ask now
- Hispanic Job Fair - moved to Social Media & Business Subcommittee
- Will reassign Public Safety, Veterans & Faith at next meeting
- Social media access still needed

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- *Moved by: Sabrina Marcos Smith to approve minutes from: January 14, 2025. Second by: Dr. Carmen Martinez.*

VIII. Events: Please go if able to go to - Highlight for Report

- **Affordable housing for Hispanics**
- **Sex Trafficking**
- **Get Covered Jax** – YaYa working on workshops & community guide – google link where Board members can send info to add to the guide
- **Community Guide/Resource Guide** – in process of being updated
- **Health Fair** – Jax Community Fair, April 19th – Arlene working with YaYa, sponsors will get 1 year membership with the Mexican Chambers

IX. Old Business:

- **Town Hall** – Financial Workshop – Subcommittee item
- MHAAB** – will have a table at the event

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- **Caesar Chavez Day – Mario Decunto**
 - Monday, March 31, 2025, Caesar Chavez birthday
 - National Day but not a Holiday
 - Help change working conditions
 - 1. Looking for a speaker – possibly a Hispanic Astronaut
- **Hispanic working with COJ** – what can we do to challenge or balance out that we want to see more Hispanics working for the City of Jacksonville
 - Put in the yearly report as a recommendation

X. Adjourn – by Vice Chair

Chair: Zergihno Roell Garcia | Vice-Chair: Pablo Diaz De Sandi

Members: Anamaria Contreras | Nicole Landa | Jorge Lopez

Dr. Carmen Martinez | Jose Morales | Aida Seeraj | Sabrina Marcos Smith

City of Jacksonville (904) 255-5466