



Hispanic Advisory Committee Minutes

May 19, 2025

Chair Alberto Munoz opened the Meeting at 7:02pm. Committee member(s) present were Jesse Roa and Carolina Delgado. Jessica De La Cruz and Maryanna Hardin were excused. Also present were Council representatives Maria Duron and Jeff Kelso, as well as staff representative City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Meeting Minutes

Alberto announced that the newest members of the Committee were unable to vote on this item as they were not members of the committee last month during the meeting. Alberto moved and Jesse seconded to approve the April meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously with Alberto and Jesse in favor.

Unity in the Community Event

Julie Puzey stated this annual event was originally held in 2023 as a way to celebrate different cultures in the community and as a reminder to us all that although we may be different, we are also unique and traveling on the same road to find a common place towards hope and peace. The itinerary consisted of eight speakers and eight different musical numbers of all different ethnic groups and ages, with a shared message of peace, unity, and community. Although the event will not be held this year, Julie stated she has faith that people will continue to come together to build bridges of dialogue and peace, and have the event continue next year.

Jesse suggested that this event be combined with the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration next year and Julie stated she thought this would be a great idea.

The Committee thanked Julie for attending, celebrating differences, and her inspiration in this effort.

Atkinson Staffing Information

Presenter did not attend.

Review 2025 Committee Goals and Calendar Events

Events to include:

1. ASAP: Immigration/Know Your Rights (organizers)
 - COMPLETED – Held event on February 16th
 - There was some discussion regarding holding another event and how and where to advertise to encourage participation, such as going to: laundry mats, churches, and other community events. Maria spoke regarding the lack of attendance at these events stating all Spanish speaking families were invited to attend two events at the School District with this information through Parent Square which sends emails, text messages, and voice recordings of the event, and both times, only about 15 people showed up. Although this is very valuable information, people are just not showing up.
2. May 4: Cinco de Mayo (booth/volunteer)
 - COMPLETED- Jeff stated he attended this event and will continue to volunteer in the future as well.
3. Saturday, August 16th Melon Fest (booth)
 - No updates to report



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4. August: Back to School Event at Harrison Park with Made to Thrive (booth/volunteer)
 - No updates to report
5. Sept 15 - Oct 15: Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration (organizers)
 - Alberto stated the Committee will meet soon to organize the event and encouraged everyone who is interested in helping to contact HAC members to be included in planning meetings.
6. Oct 31 – Nov 1: Dia de Los Muertos (booth)
 - No update to report

Goals to include:

1. Efforts to increase the Latino Vote
 - No update to report
2. Marketing HAC and their meetings to attain more public meeting attendance by:
 - Completed- Alberto stated this will be tied into the events HAC is volunteering at and organizing to spread the word about HAC.

Closing Comments

Public Comments

Rosalba Salinas, WaFD Bank- stated she was disappointed that HAC did not advertise their Cinco de Mayo event at her bank and other banks and credit unions to spread the word about this event and is equally disappointed that the only person she saw from HAC at the Cinco de Mayo event was Jeff as all HAC members should have been there to represent Hispanic events. Rosalba stated she is equally dissatisfied that this is the first time she has heard about the Dia de Los Muertos event and HAC is not doing enough to advertise these events.

Committee members stated although HAC members want to engage the public and attend all events throughout the City, it is not always possible to do so, although they do try to attend and volunteer when they can.

Lilly stated both Cinco de Mayo and Dia de Los Muertos events are not events organized by the City or HAC specifically. These events are organized by the Cinco de Mayo and Juntos groups and encouraged Rosalba to contact each group with advertisement suggestions; and stated HAC members are volunteers and not required to attend any or all community events. The Committee discusses these events as a way to publicize the events in hopes they will reach a broader audience.

Rosalba asked if HAC does not organize all of these events, what do they do?

Lilly pulled up the HAC webpage on the City's website <https://www.hermiston.gov/bc-hac> and read aloud the first paragraph explaining HAC's formation goals.

Alberto stated he will try to do a better job communicating, during meetings, that these events are not HAC or City events so there is less public confusion.



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Zaira Sanchez, Oregon Rural Action- stated she and other Oregon Rural Action members attended the recent May Day Rally held in Salem, although she originally felt scared to attend the event, she immediately felt safe, happy, and free as event organizers did a good job coordinating the event spaces with police as security. She immediately asked herself what can we- the Community and City- do in Hermiston to feel safe with law enforcement, as less people are attending events because the community does not have that kind of relationship with our local Police Department and Sheriff's Department. Zaira stated Juntos recently cancelled their Dia de Los Ninos event in April at EOTEC as the PD would not attend the event. The PD has also not given any information on their stance and involvement with immigration enforcement, and also remembers Sheriff Rowan, at previous HAC meetings, stating he supports deportations (previous meeting minutes with Sheriff Rowan are attached). Zaira asked that local law enforcement work with the Hispanic population to strengthen its relationship.

Maria spoke regarding the Police Departments webpage that addresses immigration at: <https://www.hermiston.gov/police/page/immigration-law-enforcement> as Lilly displayed the page on the screens.

Alberto stated when he became Chair, Chief Jason Edmiston immediately reached out to him and the two of them met with his Captains and asked what can law enforcement do to strengthen their relationship with the Hispanic community. Chief Edmiston also spoke to Alberto about the statement displayed on the website regarding immigration and encouraged him to reach out to Chief Edmiston anytime. It was made clear to him that PD Officials are genuine and supportive of maintaining and growing good relationships between the PD and Hispanic Community.

Jeff stated he has been on many ride-a-longs with many different police officers at HPD. During these times, officers have never asked immigration status questions, and he has never witnessed racism or bias of any kind. Jeff stated he is very proud of the professionalism of HPD Officials.

Committee Comments

Jesse spoke regarding Dulas Latinas and their regular meetings held at the Methodist Church, Earth Day, Community Gardens in Boardman, Juneteenth Celebration at McKenzie Park. (All of these events are not City or HAC events.)

Alberto thanked Carolina for her desire to participate in HAC and asked her to introduce herself.

Carolina thanked the City for allowing her to be a part of HAC stating she is very honored and excited to be involved and help achieve what is needed. Originally from San Diego California, Carolina moved to Hermiston in search for a better place to raise her family. Carolina is involved with Stepping Stones Alliance and also has a passion in and for the faith community.

Youth Representatives

None present.



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City Representatives

Maria and Jeff spoke regarding:

- The many Committees the City has, and encouraged members in the audience to apply for those
- The efforts the Parks and Recreation Department is making to:
 - Include the public in the renaming of the most recent park
 - City Tree Inventory
 - 2nd Grade Swim Lessons, and open swim, and swim lessons throughout the summer
- City Budget Committee Meeting
- Library Remodel Updates
- Health, Aquatic, and Wellness Center continued discussions with community organizations and other area partnerships
- City Council Meeting and encouraged the public to attend
- EOTEC RV Park and how Amazon will be paying for the entire construction
- Maryanna's sincere apology as she was ill and could not make it to this meeting

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Alberto stated the next meeting is yet to be determined as HAC will be taking the summer off to plan the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31pm.

Chairman Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Committee member Mark Gomolski was also present. Committee member Hector Ramirez was excused. Also present were Council Representatives Manuel Gutierrez and Roy Barron and City Representatives Chief Edmiston and Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Jade McDowell of the East Oregonian was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes

Mark G. moved and Roy seconded to approve minutes of the May 21st, Hispanic Advisory Committee Meeting. There were no meetings in June, July, and August. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Rowan Measure 105

Sheriff Rowan stated he, along with another 17 sheriffs throughout Oregon, is supporting Measure 105. His support for this measure is due to the fact that the current law does not allow agencies to communicate with each other, and when someone, regardless of status, has committed heinous crimes, agencies should be able to communicate with each other without concern of civil penalty.

In his 30-year career, while performing duties of a police officer, he has never asked for immigration status, especially not of the victims; and he believes Councilor Gutierrez would be able to contest to this as Councilor Gutierrez worked translating for the Sheriff's Office for many years. The support for this measure is to help stop criminal behavior. If this measure had been implemented prior, a high volume of crime would not have occurred.

Sheriff Rowan stated he and the Sheriff's Department's only interest is to apprehend those who have criminal intent and are violating the law, those who are committing heinous crimes such as: sex abuse, rape, drug offenses, murder, assaults, etc.; not those who come here wanting a better life; those, he welcomes with open arms.

As the Sheriff, he should be able to communicate with federal partners to provide them with basic information. There has been some misconception about why he is in favor of removing the profiling law, and this is not what this is about. There are some very robust profiling laws on the books that will continue to be on the books. In July of 2018, both the Sheriff's Office and Hermiston Police Department are required, by law, to gather "Stop Data" with the intention of creating safety measures in place so profiling isn't part of the make-up of policing.

Public Comment

Mark Sargent, 81202 Cooney Lane- Would like more information about the Sanctuary City law and Measure 105.

Sheriff Rowan stated the state of Oregon is a Sanctuary State, what this means is that when an individual has committed crimes many local law enforcement agencies will not share that information with federal partners in fear of retribution or civil lawsuit being filed against their agency; this is due to a 2014 federal court ruling, Olivares v. Clackamas County. In this case, an individual was being held in Clackamas County on local charges. As a result of those local charges, it gained the attention of Immigration Services and ICE placed an immigration hold on that individual. Clackamas County did nothing different than what any other Sheriff's Office across the state would have done, it was treated like any other warrant issued from any other jurisdiction holding the inmate until transfer arrangements could be made by the other jurisdiction. However, Olivares sued Clackamas County stating they did not have the authority to hold him, the additional 19 hours they did, on the immigration detainer while immigration services continued their deportation procedures. The Courts sided with Olivares, and ordered Clackamas County to pay

Olivares over \$170,000. Measure 105 will allow agencies to communicate with each other in situations like these, where criminals are victimizing people over and over again.

Dick Sargent, 915 E Pine- asked how agencies cooperate and coordinate with each other now and how it will change if this measure is passed.

Sheriff Rowan stated because of the states sanctuary status, he has been “rolling the dice” on communicating situations like: child sex abuse, assaults, and rape as we cannot allow people like that to victimize our county, regardless of where they come from. Passing the measure will allow open lines of communication with other law enforcement agencies.

Jacklyn Ridge, Stanfield- Stated reading information regarding these topics indicate that if the state keeps its sanctuary status, people would not be able to be stopped, detained, or interrogated just because someone thinks that they are an undocumented immigrant and law enforcement can still maintain due process for those who are committing crimes and asked if Sheriff Rowan disagrees with these statements.

Sheriff Rowan said yes he disagrees to an extent as he knows law enforcement is not simply stopping individuals if they think they may have questionable status in this county. There are also other laws that protect individuals from profiling as well. As mentioned prior (Olivares v. Clackamas County) the law makes it prohibitive or very risky for agencies to communicate to further a deportation process for criminals and that is why he is in support of Measure 105.

Brenda Flores, Stanfield- Stated Oregon became a sanctuary state due to racial profiling; and, although Sheriff Rowan stated he would not racially profile, how is he sure that others will not as well.

Sheriff Rowan stated he is not sure how the law came to be; however, as stated earlier, in July of 2018, both the Sheriff's Office and Hermiston Police Department are required, by law, to gather “Stop Data” with the intention of creating safety measures in place so profiling isn't part of the make-up of policing. This information will be going to a third party for formal study to see if there are any issues; there are also other laws that protect against profiling as well. Again, the main drive behind this bill is to be able to communicate to other agencies.

Mr. Sanchez, Hermiston- stated this is a complicated situation; most of us want to live in peace, but it's difficult for Hispanics when racial profiling exists. Asked why can't the Sheriff's Office do what is needed without the new law.

Sheriff Rowan stated again, that it comes down to being able to communicate and share information with other agencies that can help remove those who are committing significant crimes: sexually abusing and raping children and adults, trafficking drugs, committing assaults and homicides. When it comes to safety, there should not be anything that restricts officers from doing their jobs, and again, many crimes would not have been committed if this law had been implemented prior. There are complaint processes in place if someone believes they have been profiled, and he always has an open door policy, do not just assume that someone is being racially profiled and listen to rumors.

Mark G. thanked Sheriff Rowan for sharing this information as there is quite a bit of fear regarding this topic and stated, for safety reason, agencies must be able to communicate and share vital information, like the local Dispatch Center. We have to remember instances like 9/11 when agencies weren't communicating with each other. Mark G. thanked all law enforcement personal for their dedication and service. Mark asked for County updates.

Sheriff Rowan shared updates to include:

- Hiring another deputy, making 18 deputies in total. When he started in 1989, there were only 7 patrol deputies, when he took Office, in 2013, there were still only 7 patrol deputies and now they have 18
- Increased jail population
- Consolidated dispatch services
- Many other innovative processes and happenings to deliver better service to the community
- Always willing to come before this Committee to discuss the Sheriff's Office and how we can come together to provide a higher level of public safety in Umatilla County.

Roy stated according to the 2016 minutes, when Sheriff Rowan came before the Committee seeking reelection, he did not share this same opinion and stated he supported the current administration in regards to sanctuary state status, and this measure would potentially remove the sanctuary status (2016 minutes attached).

Sheriff Rowan stated he does not believe he spoke regarding this specific issue or sanctuary status, however, as a law enforcement officer, it is his job to support and enforce the Oregon Revised Statute's (ORS's) that are in place. The only way to make this situation better, regardless if it's going against the grain, is to make changes through this initiative process. He understands why Oregon became a Sanctuary State, when INS, now known as ICE, would round-up people everywhere; however, when the law is being interpreted to allow for communication, it goes against good-sense. Again, this will have no impact on law abiding people.

Roy stated according to the 2017 minutes, Sheriff Rowan stated his Office is able to communicate with federal officials if the person has committed a crime, is that correct (2017 minutes attached).

Sheriff Rowan stated again, over the last few years this keeps changing and makes it more and more difficult to communicate and/or be faced with significant penalties if we do communicate.

Brenda Flores, Stanfield- stated the sanctuary law has clear guidance on how local law enforcement can work with the federal agents when a criminal is undocumented, so she does not understand how it's difficult for law enforcement to communicate with each other.

Sheriff Rowan stated again, that this is because of how the law is interpreted; look at the Olivares v. Clackamas County case, Clackamas County was sanctioned for allowing that communication to move forward. Since this time, 2014, there have been more laws that have come into effect that is making communication more difficult or be faced with sanctions, like Clackamas County. Sheriff Rowan stated he believes the purpose for becoming a sanctuary state was to prevent those big round-ups that were occurring and prevent local law enforcement from aiding them, and he would never participate in these types of activities; but when it comes to criminals in Umatilla County, those strings need to be removed and we need to be able to communicate without sanctions.

Virginia Rome-Garcia, 435 E Sunset Dr, Hermiston- asked how those driving without a license and insurance would be impacted by this law. Would they be considered criminals for these types of infractions or the build-up of these types of infractions.

Sheriff Rowan stated this Measure, to him, means that he will be able to communicate criminal behavior not infractions, which is what driving without a license is. A person can receive multiple infractions for this, but it does not rise to the criminal element for serious offenders. He would be in support of a different measure that just allows for communication with or without specific guidelines about when communication is allowed. We need to be able to communicate rapes, sex abuse, assaults, homicides, etc.

Ms. Gomez, 545 Ridgeway Ave, Hermiston- asked Sheriff Rowan why repeal Measure 105 if you've been communicating with ICE, and if you're not familiar with this Measure, why are you trying to repeal it.

Sheriff Rowan stated he is very family with Measure 105. Again, the reason for the repeal is to be able to communicate with ICE without the fear of sanctions. The County struggles day in and day out to financially support the functions provided without the threat of larger civil lawsuits being filed against the County for something like this. Again, as public safety officers we must assess and mitigate risk, and we will be able to do this with this Measure.

Nasario Rivera, 31017 Joy Lane- stated Sherriff Rowan made an assumption that sanctuary status stated due to raids 30 years ago when in fact it was because of racial profiling where four officers approached four men at a restaurant and asked for their legal status without a warrant.

Roy stated he does not understand if Sheriff Rowan says he is very familiar with Measure 105, so he should know the implications to the Latino and Hispanic community; asked if Sheriff Rowan discussed any of this with any Latino community or leaders in the County beforehand.

Sheriff Rowan stated about a year ago, he had conversations with ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) who were trying to put some safety measures into place regarding some of President Trumps intentions. At that time, he spoke with many Latinos who supported having a safe community and wanting to remove criminals from the Country. They supported him moving forward with this process. Everyone wants to live in a safe community and he wants to be able to say that he has done everything in his power to try to accomplish this so that some crimes can be avoided.

Jose stated he understands that Sheriff Rowan is trying to keep the community he cares about safe and what a burden that is to law enforcement officials.

Manuel stated he was once a Reserve Officer, during that time he remembers many homicide cases that he worked where Latinos were the criminals; he remembers many instances where large amounts of drugs were seized from Latinos. When working at Child Welfare, he saw more than four times the amount of child sex abuse cases where the criminal/abuser was Latino than when the criminal/abuser was white. He completely agrees with Sheriff Rowan on this issue. This County should not be allowing criminals from other counties to remain here and continue committing crimes, poisoning our children with drugs, and sexually abusing our children. They should have their due process and, if found guilty, deported to whatever country they came from. Manuel asked Sheriff Rowan if there would still be due process or if the suspected criminals would just be deported immediately.

Sheriff Rowan stated there has to be and will continue to be due process. This is necessary to have a conviction on their record and pay their debt to society. Years ago, when these types of criminals were about to be released from custody, the Sheriff's Office and/or the Department of Justice, would contact ICE and ICE would decide if they wanted to pick them up for deportation; now, that line of communication is no longer allowed.

Liliana Gomez, Hermiston- asked within the last year, what is the undocumented criminal statistics that he would have liked to be able to communicate with ICE about.

Sheriff Rowan stated about four in the last year. Although this is not a significant number, it can be.

Mr. Rodriguez, Stanfield – stated he has lived in the area for over 60 years and has seen the community change with more hispanics moving in the area, more names being listed in the criminal section of the newspaper. Many people spoke a lot about profiling, but it happens on both sides. He has worked with Hispanics his entire life and they always talk negatively about the gringos and cops. This is a liberal issue within the Country. Our laws were created through the Constitution and they have worked very well; it is unnerving that some people want to change it all. Profiling isn't the issue, it's about everyone working and trusting each other to build a safe community. The law is the law, obey the law. We do not want illegal criminals here.

Kit Morgan, Redeemer Church of Pendleton- Measure 105

Kit read the proposed Measure and stated he and the Redeemer Church will oppose any laws that will increase hardship to people here. In the 1980's, sanctuary status was overwhelmingly supported by both democrats and republicans opposing racial profiling, if this statute is repealed, it will open the door to racial profiling and give people concern when needing to call the police. 1 in 10 people in Umatilla County are foreign born and should not be questioned about where they are from when calling the Police or Sheriff. He agrees with Sheriff Rowan and likes it when people follow the law and are held accountable when they don't. There was earlier testimony stating law enforcements hands are tied by this current situation; from what he understands, all law enforcement needs to make an arrest is probable cause that a crime was committed. And, a conviction will be on their record and be sentenced to jail or prison if they can show, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the person is guilty without regards to what their status is in this county. The idea that someone who is undocumented and commits crimes is somehow above the law, is not well taken.

Kit read "ORS 181.A8.2A" stating Oregon will not use state money to apprehend persons whose only violation of the law is that they are foreign born. It also goes on to say that law enforcement officials may still exchange information with other US agencies in order to verify immigration status of a person if the person is arrested for any criminal offence, or request criminal investigation information. Therefore, law enforcement is able to work with federal immigration. Stated we do not need to go back to a time in our history when people are fearful of calling law enforcement if they are a victim of crime and they should not have to worry about looking a certain way and therefore being asked about their immigration status.

Public Comment

Reverend Charlotte Wills, Priest at the Redeemer Church, 241 SE 2nd St, Pendleton– Stated she read the Olivares v. Clackamas County case and the how she understood it was that issue was not that the agencies exchanged information, it was that the county detained the person solely on an immigration warrant that was not a federal warrant signed by a federal judge. She is not sure if she read it properly so encourages others to read the case summary for themselves. Stated this is why their church is against this Measure as it places undue fear into the hearts of people they want to help, foster, and protect.

Roy stated although they have opposite opinions, he respects the Sheriffs strong personal opinion and beliefs; however, he fears the unintended consequence that this may create. Although everyone is striving to do what's right and he trusts the Umatilla County Sheriff's Department and Hermiston Police Department, he's not sure about other agencies. Someone who frequently gets pulled over for driving without a license will eventually receive a misdemeanor. He would prefer if there were a threshold set, ie: a Misdemeanor A or higher then communication could be allowed. He feels this would be middle ground and there would be a safe guard for undocumented persons who are trying to live a better life. It is important that if there are criminals, committing crimes and hurting people that they be deported, if they reach that threshold; however, this Measure leaves too much gray area that he is uncomfortable with. He is constantly asked by the Latino community regarding similar immigration issues and he's been happy to say that the Sheriff and Police Chief understand these issues and what it means to the Latino community.

It's difficult when you reassure people that things are going to be alright with them, their families, and others in the community, when this Measure creates fear and distrust.

Kit stated for several years, the County has had a very robust federal immigration enforcement and it's not just harden criminal: murders and child molesters that are being rounded-up and deported, it's normal working people with families, who pay taxes. These are the people who are getting caught up in this. Are Oregonians going to allow local law enforcement to potentially help in this. This is an important question that has to be asked if this Measure is going to pass.

Brenda Flores, Stanfield- Stated this Measure is supported by three Representatives who are backed by Oregonians for Immigration Reform that supported Measure 88 and took away licenses for undocumented immigrants. Representative Mike Nearman is Vice President of this organization that is known as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. This Measure is racial profiling. Sanctuary communities are safe and if we take them away it will cause stress. We should research this Measure as the media doesn't always tell us what it is or we are told something else.

Vice Chair Nomination

Jose moved and Mark G. seconded to nominate Mark G. as the Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Nomination

Mark G. moved and Jose seconded to nominate Jose as Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Closing Comments

City Representative

Chief Edmiston encouraged the public to go on a ride-a-long with a police officer. The process will open your eyes about law enforcement and crime.

Sheriff Rowan agreed and said the Sheriff's Office also has ride-a-longs availed.

Mark G. agreed the said he went on a ride-a-long at the Hermiston Police Department and it truly opened his eyes. These officers care about their community and until you are with them and see a small bit of what they do on a daily basis, it makes you appreciate that they are the first and only defense in our communities. They do a good job keeping us safe and thanked every first responder and military person throughout our county.

Manuel stated the City will have the Aquatic Center open until October to allow the High Schools Girls Swim Team to practice.

Roy stated Mobile Vending permits have been dumped from 3 to 6, with temporary permits issued for 90-days. Harkenrider Center held their ribbon cutting event for their opening on Saturday. The Harkenrider Center will open to the public the first week in October.

Public Comment

Nasario Rivera stated he is with Good Shephard and they are preparing for their Health Assessment. They will be randomly mailing out letters and ask how they can better help the community. There will be a separate survey for Hispanics. Family Health and Fitness Day will be held at the High School this Saturday from 9am to 2:00pm.

Jacklyn Ridge, Stanfield- stated she is a volunteer with the Jaime McLeod-Skinner Campaign. She has flyers available to those with business who would be willing to provide these to their patrons.

Maria Duron, Hermiston School District (HSD) gave information regarding:

- Free breakfast is now available for every student, HSD has over 5,700 students
- Thanked City of Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department for water safety lessons that they administered to all 2nd grade students within the District
- Thanked the Hermiston Sports Boosters for purchasing the new visitor bleachers in Kennison Stadium
- Parents have until Oct 9th to fill out a free or reduced lunch school form
- The entire State of Oregon will be focusing on school attendance and how absences impact students
- Host a meet and greet for the Interim Superintendent on Monday, September 24th from 6:00pm to 6:30pm in the library at Desert View elementary

Melody Bustillos, Hermiston School District gave information regarding:

- HSD, for the 3rd year in a row will be paying for every senior to take the SAT during the school day on Wednesday, October 10th
- College Application Week will be October 1-5th. There is also focus on Career opportunities as well
- Saturday, September 29th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, HSD will have its first Generation College Workshop at the High School. Will need volunteers to help students. Generation College helps students who will be the first in their family to go to college

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2018 at 7:00pm at City Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm.

Chairperson Eddie De La Cruz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Committee members present were Manuel Gutierrez, Claudia Jimenez, Bryan Medelez, and Clara Beas-Fitzgerald. Hector Ramirez and Jesus Rome were excused. City representatives present were Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Sergeant Scott Clark, Officer Erica Sandoval, and Executive Assistant Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Media Present was Jade McDowell of the East Oregonian. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes

Manuel moved and Clara seconded to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Fire Department

Retired Hermiston Fire Chief Pat Hart stated instead of continuing with separate districts, the Fire Department is trying to form a new combined Fire District for Stanfield and Hermiston. Mr. Hart asked the public to vote yes for Measures 30-108 and 30-109 to form a new district and dissolve the previous district and stated both measures must pass in order to move forward. Emergency services for fire and ambulance are running on delays as there is not enough funding to support the number of staff members needed to service the area and to purchase equipment that is needed. Mr. Hart stated residents who live in the City limits of Hermiston will see their tax rate increase, but due to state law restricting the amount of taxes levied, property owners in Hermiston will not have to pay more. Residents living out of city limits can expect to pay an additional \$.55 per \$1,000 if approved. Mr. Hart passed out brochures regarding the information presented.

Oregon Rising

Dr. Fred Maiocco Superintendent of the Hermiston School District introduced translator Christina, and the Executive Director of the Confederation of School Administrators Craig Hawkins, who traveled from Salem to be here and thanked the Committee for allowing them to present today. Dr. Maiocco and Mr. Hawkins stated it is time for Oregonians to discuss the kinds of schools and education people want for their children. They stated that for many years, the focus has been on what we can do with the scarce resources we have, and our children deserve more than that, and we, as a community, should be dreaming and planning on what we should do without limitations not on what can do with what we have.

Dr. Maiocco and Mr. Hawkins stated the Oregon Rising program launched six days ago and Hermiston is the first Community that has been presented with this information; they are asking that the community participate in a brief survey regarding what they would like to see in their children's educational future. The survey can be found on the School Districts website, and on Oregon Rising's Facebook, twitter, and Instagram sites. Participants have until June 21st to fill out a survey online.

Mr. Hawkins stated after gathering all the information throughout the state, they will be able to report back regarding all of the results sometime in the Fall, as well as giving the report to the legislature.

Dr. Maiocco stated he is willing to present this information to any organization or group of people that would like more information regarding this project.

Manuel asked what the School District does to assist students with autism.

Dr. Maiocco stated the School District has many special programs to help children and families with special needs, and many families choose to move to Hermiston because of the comprehensive program that specifically deals with the special needs children. Dr. Maiocco stated a Special Education Linkage Fair will be held for the public on April 26th at Sunset Elementary School and information can also be found on the School Districts website.

Sheriff Terry Rowan

Sheriff Terry Rowan thanked the Committee for allowing him the opportunity to speak with the Committee and stated he is here for two purposes: one, seeking Sheriff Reelection for next year, and two: to present the Committee and public with the Annual Umatilla County Sheriff's Office Progress Report.

Sheriff Rowan recognized Andrea and Sophia Gispert for their academic achievements and tremendous accomplishments as they have both received Presidential Scholarships. Sheriff Rowan stated he wants to continue to protect and help individuals live a life that makes a positive difference in our community, and like the Federal Government, he will not support the deportation of law-abiding people. Sheriff Rowan stated he has an open door policy and encourages the leaders of the Hispanic Community to contact him directly with any questions or concerns they may have.

Sheriff Rowan gave information regarding how the Sheriff's Department ran prior to his appointment, current operations, accomplishments, and how he plans to continuing progression not only within the Sheriff's Department, but with community partners as well.

Members from the audience stated they have called the Sheriff's Department for various issues, from miscellaneous complaints to theft, and either officers do not respond, or it can take upto three days to have officer contact. Audience members also asked what bilingual services were offered.

Sheriff Rowan stated officers respond to calls based on the severity of the situation, not first come first serve; and it can take an officer some time to have contact, as there are very few Sheriff Department Officers for the area that is being served. Sheriff Rowan stated if callers are not receiving contact from officers, please let him know. Sheriff Rowan stated there are 17 Hispanic Sheriff Department staff members with 14 employees and 3 volunteers; out of those 17, 12 are bilingual. Sheriff Rowan stated there are always translation services available and assured that at no time should any questions of legal residency ever be asked, if there is, please contact him immediately.

Eddie recommended the Sheriff's Department/County form a Committee like HAC for better communication and invited him to speak at La Voz radio station.

Closing Comments**Committee**

Clara invited the public to attend the *Listen to Her* tour that will be held at BMCC in Pendleton on April 27th @ 5:30pm. Dinner, child car, and translation services will be available.

Manuel stated he is very happy to announce many Hispanic students applied for the Good Shephard Community Health Foundation Scholarship to study in a medical field.

City Representative

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated night construction will continue through July on Hwy 395. The public is invited to EOTEC's Open House where food and tours will be offered on Friday, May 13th from 3pm to 7pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 16th, at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm

Chairman Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Committee members present were Mark Gomolski, Hector Ramirez, Jesus Rome, and Roy Nayar Barron. Council Representatives Manuel Gutierrez (arrived at 7:11pm) and Clara Beas-Fitzgerald were present, as well as City Representatives Mark Morgan, Chief Edmiston, and Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes

Mark Gomolski moved and Hector seconded to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Cinco de Mayo Señoritas

Cinco de Mayo President Clara Beas-Fitzgerald introduced the three winners of the Cinco de Mayo Señorita Contest: in first place, Natali Armenta; in second place, Daisy Cardenas; and in third place, Jaleslie Torres. All three winners expressed their gratitude towards all who voted for them, and their excitement to be part of the Cinco de Mayo Señoritas.

Catholic Charities- Immigration Presentation

Emily and Karen from Catholic Charities presented immigration information stating they wanted to address recent rumors regarding President Trump, misinformation that has been circulating, changes that have been made, other expected changes, and reviewing different types of legal status, which are:

Legal Permanent Resident, which can never be taken away; U-Visa, which are very difficult to be taken away; and DACA, which can be taken away at any time. Currently, President Trump has stated he will revoking DACA and implementing a new program similar to DACA, but has not done so yet.

(Councilor Manuel Gutierrez arrived at 7:11pm)

Under President Trump, there has been more of a focus from ICE enforcement for undocumented criminals than before. And, although, the focus is on undocumented criminals, undocumented bystanders can also be affected. So, it is important to understand, that people you associate with, or that live with you, can greatly negatively affect you and your family.

Emily and Karen gave information regarding:

- Knowing your immigration rights.
- ICE enforcement must have a warrant or have permission from the residents of that home to enter.
- Getting in the habit of asking who is at the door before opening it.
- Having the right to remain silent and stating you will be silent until you have an attorney.
- Knowing you do not have to answer questions regarding your immigration status.
- But, if you are here legally, you should always carry your ID showing immigration proof.
- You do not have to give your name to any officer, but the officer can keep you until identity can be established.
- Passport and Matrícula Consular Cards are proof that you do not have legal status.
- Knowing you can call the police if you are concerned about who is at the door.
- If there is someone in the home that ICE is looking for, by that person not leaving the home, it can affect the rest of the persons in the home.
- Do not speak about your immigration status to anyone.
- Do not lie about your immigration status, as this can be worse.
- Speak with an immigration attorney if you have an immigration deportation notice.

- Although, law enforcement may not communicate with ICE regarding legal status, ICE can still check jail rosters and individuals can be detained from that information.
- Please avoid ALL criminal charges, specifically DUI's.

Emily and Karen stated if parents are concerned about deportation, the family should create an Emergency Plan so that others can temporarily take care of their children. Oregon Law Center can help facilitate short-term custody arrangement. The forms are simple and do not need to be filled out by an attorney or signed by a notary.

And, although there are a lot of people who want to help undocumented immigrants, there are also a lot of people who like to take advantage of undocumented immigrants as well. Please make sure the attorney is an immigration attorney and their bar number can be verified. Also, remember, notary's are not attorneys. Catholic Charities also provides many free or low cost services depending on each case. The closest Catholic Charities office is in Portland, but phone consultations are available.

Please remember there are always a lot of rumors about what is happening regarding immigration. Please do not get news or information from fb/social media. You can always call Catholic Charities to get up to date information about changes to the law.

Sheriff Rowan- Law Enforcement Immigration Presentation

Sheriff Rowan stated a safe community is his top priority. In 1987, a federal law came into effect that prohibits law enforcement from helping ICE in any immigration investigation. Therefore, you will not see police officers going door to door with ICE agents helping in immigration investigations. Law enforcement will *only* help ICE when undocumented immigrants have committed crimes. And being an illegal resident/undocumented immigrant is not considered a crime.

Officers and the County Jail will not hold a person past their release date and time without a judicial warrant as this is a 4th amendment right violation. 8 out of 10 times Ice does not take action when the County Jail has contacted ICE regarding detainees. ICE has come to Umatilla County Jail twice since 2014 to deport detainees; once for a very heinous rape and sex abuse case; and the second, for a very large marijuana grow operation. Sheriff Rowan stated those are the type of people we don't want here. As a sheriff, I have to balance the law with public safety. Sometimes the law allows us to communicate with ICE, but that does not mean law enforcement has to follow their lead.

Sheriff Rowan gave information regarding:

- The Constitution states you have the right to be secure in your home; with that being said, ICE cannot enter your home just because you answer the door.
- Law enforcement can detain an individual(s) if that person does not have proof of identity until law enforcement can identify that person(s) or until they have confidence that the information that they are providing is legitimate/has been verified.
- The Matrícula Consular Cards are acceptable forms of ID.
- ICE does not have to contact local law enforcement when they are in the area.
- Typically ICE agents wear jackets that say "ICE", they also have a badge that identifies them and a gun. Sheriff Rowan has never seen ICE agents "undercover" or in regular clothes.

Sheriff Rowan stated law enforcement is about protecting people. And will leave his business cards in the back if anyone would like to contact him with questions.

Chief Edmiston echoed Sheriff Rowan's comments and stated safety is also his top priority, opening a door is not legal consent to enter, local law enforcement are not required to enforce federal laws, law enforcement wants and needs people to cooperate with law enforcement to help keep people safe, and arrests are public information that must to be shared not to be mean, but because it's considered public record.

Mark Gomolski and the Committee thanked Catholic Charities, Sheriff Rowan and Chief Edmiston for attending and presenting information and stated it's important for people to hear the truth about these issues instead of hearing rumors on social media, etc.

Closing Comments

City Representative

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated there will be a Special City Council Meeting, tomorrow at 6:30pm, to determine if the Parks and Recreation Department will manage the Hermiston Conference Center going forward in 2018.

There is also a Festival Street Design Committee Meeting tomorrow at 4:30pm as well.

The Harkenrider Center groundbreaking will be on Wednesday, April 26th at 12:30pm behind the Library.

Please Keep reminding people about the FREE bus system.

Councilor Beas-Fitzgerald stated the Cinco de Mayo celebration will be a 2-day event, May 6th and 7th, at Butte Park. There will be a parade, music, dancing, a car giveaway, food, and so much more for the entire family to enjoy. Councilor Beas-Fitzgerald encouraged everyone to attend.

Committee Comments

Hector stated three churches participated in a downtown clean-up event that cleaned areas in downtown, around the railroad, washed cars, and helped with the Recycling Day Event that the Parks and Recreation Department headed. Hector encouraged everyone to help keep it our community clean by volunteering, because Hermiston is Where life is sweet.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 15th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm.