

**LATINO ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2006**

**PREPARED BY:**

**MR. AURELIANO MARÍA DE SOTO  
&  
MS. GLORIA RIVERA QUIÑONES**

**APRIL 16, 2007**



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Dear City Council Members and Mayor of Minneapolis:

As Chair and Vice-Chair, it is an honor to represent our community and to stand before you as we guide the Latino Advisory Committee in the task of being not only the voice of the community in city government, but the voice of city government in the Hispanic community.

Every month a group of Hispanic people come together with the hope of providing representation for their community. Our goal is to help the elected officials of the City of Minneapolis closely examine policies which impact the Latina/o Community and to articulate the Hispanic community's needs to our elected officials. We attempt to accomplish these tasks by studying the concerns the community communicates to the Latino Advisory Committee membership, sharing ideas to develop recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, and being available to both entities so that our presence is beneficial not only to the communication between the City and Hispanic Community, but also to assist in the creation of a positive and strong relationship between the City and the Hispanic population of Minneapolis. We, the members of the Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council, are also members of a community which each day in greater is size, and which also each day, is in more need of access.

We are well aware that the Latina/o Community does not exist independently and in isolation. We recognize that in order to make a difference, we must work hand-in-hand with you, our elected officials. With this goal in mind, the members of the Latino Advisory Committee dedicated last year to better understand City policies and objectives and focus our attention to also better understand our roles and responsibilities. We hope for your continued support and interest as we continue to focus on improving the standard of life for the Hispanic people of Minneapolis.

We would like to share the work of the committee embodied here in our annual report of the Latino Advisory Committee for the year 2006.

Gloria Liliana Rivera Quiñones  
Chair  
and  
Rosita Balch  
Vice Chair  
Latino Advisory Committee

Queridos Miembros del Concilio Municipal y Querido Alcalde:

Como Presidenta y Vicepresidenta, es un honor representar a nuestra comunidad y estar frente a ustedes mientras guiamos el Comité Latino de Asesoramiento con el esfuerzo de no solo servir como voz de la comunidad en el gobierno municipal, si no también el servir como voz del gobierno municipal en la comunidad Hispana.

Todos los meses un grupo de hispanos se reúnen con la esperanza de representar a su comunidad. Nuestra meta es la de ayudar a los oficiales elegidos de la Ciudad de Minneapolis a estudiar aquellas pólizas cuales impactan a la comunidad Latina(o) y el de comunicar las necesidades de la comunidad Hispana a nuestros oficiales elegidos. Nosotros tratamos de efectuar estas labores estudiando las inquietudes comunicadas por la comunidad a nuestra membresía, compartiendo ideas con el fin de desarrollar recomendaciones al Alcalde y el Concilio Municipal, y estando disponibles para a ambos interesados con el propósito de que nuestra presencia sea de beneficio no solo a la comunicación entre la Ciudad y la Comunidad Hispana, pero también para ayudar en la creación de una fuerte y positiva relación entre la Ciudad y el pueblo Hispano de Minneapolis. Nosotros, los miembros del Comité Latino de Asesoramiento al Alcalde y Concilio Municipal, también somos miembros de una comunidad que cada día es más grande en tamaño, y así mismo cada día, se encuentra más necesitada de acceso.

Nosotros tenemos el conocimiento de que la Comunidad Latino(a) no existe independientemente y aislada. Reconocemos que para poder hacer la diferencia, nosotros necesitamos trabajar de mano en mano con ustedes, nuestros oficiales elegidos. Con esta meta en mente, los miembros del Comité Latino de Asesoramiento dedico el año pasado al mejor entendimiento de las pólizas y objetivas de la Ciudad y enfocamos nuestra atención al mejor entendimiento de nuestras responsabilidades y roles. Deseamos su continuo apoyo e interés tal como continuamos nuestro enfoque en mejorar el estándar de vida de pueblo Hispano de Minneapolis.

Queremos mostrarles el trabajo del Comité incorporado aquí en nuestro informe de gestión del Comité Latino de Asesoramiento del año 2006.

Gloria Liliana Rivera Quiñones

Presidenta

y

Rosita Balch

Vicepresidenta

Comité Latino de Asesoramiento al Alcalde y Concilio Municipal de Minneapolis

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The committee would like to take this opportunity to express special gratitude to Mr. Aureliano María DeSoto and Ms. Gloria Rivera Quiñones for their dedication and hard work in generating this report. The preparers of this report would like to convey their appreciation to the committee staff, Ms. Vicenta del Carmen Valero for her assistance in gathering information, sending reminders and assisting the preparers in finalizing the report for submission. This report would not be possible without the invaluable advice and guidance of Mr. Michael K. Browne, Civil Rights Interim Director.

## INTRODUCTION

The Latino Advisory Committee (LAC) was established by Resolution 99R-442 in 1999 to advise the Mayor and City Council on issues and concerns pertaining to the city's Spanish-speaking and Latina/o populations. The LAC was originally the Chicano/Latino Advisory Committee, established by Resolution 91R-007 in 1991. The Committee consists of 15 members confirmed by the City Council. The purpose and charge of the committee is, as stated in Resolution 99R-442:

*Committee shall advise the Mayor and the City Council on the nature of issues and needs confronting the Spanish speaking people in the City; provide assistance in evaluating City programs as they pertain to the Latino community; provide input to the City's long-range planning, promote economic, cultural and social development for the Spanish speaking community; and serve as a referral to assist Spanish speaking people to secure access to City agencies and programs to make the City system more accessible to the Latino communities.*

Since the founding of the LAC in 1999, Latinas and Latinos have become the largest racial-ethnic minority in the United States.\* Similarly, patterns of networked migration and relocation of historic Chicano communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area have increased the visibility of a diverse and vibrant Latina/o community in Minneapolis: a poly-linguistic, multi-racial, and diverse generational community with a variety of national origins, home languages, and immigration histories.

Minneapolis is one of the few major metropolitan centers in the United States to sustain a Latino Advisory Committee within the structure of city government, and as such represents forward and progressive thinking as well as speaks to the commitment of the City towards open dialogue, consultation, and giving voice to an important and growing segment of its constituency.

This report grounds its analysis of past and future activities in the six goals of City of Minneapolis passed by the City Council in July 2006—

A Safe Place to Call Home - Housing, Health, and Safety  
One Minneapolis - Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Equal Input  
Lifelong Learning Second to None - Schools, Libraries, and Innovation  
Connected Communities - Great Spaces and Places, Thriving Neighborhoods  
Enriched Environment - Greenspace, Arts, Sustainability  
A Premier Destination - Visitors, Investment, and Vitality

We use this paradigm because firstly it speaks to the way in which the City itself imagines its mission towards its citizens, and secondly because it provides a vital rubric upon which the committee can measure its activities and projects, in serving both as a voice for Latina/o communities in the City of Minneapolis as well as in City government.

For the sake of inclusiveness and respect for the diversity in our community, the writers use the terms Latina/o and Hispanic interchangeably throughout the report.

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\* US Census Press Release, Jul. 1, 2004.

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES IN 2006

*Thematic Summary:* The LAC spent a considerable amount of time and energy discussing three key issues facing the Latina/o community, in particular those concerning:

1. Community education around civil rights and access;
2. Educational access for at-risk Latina/o youth; and
3. The role of policing in Latina/o Spanish language communities in the City (the committee had a productive and useful meeting with Police Chief Dolan in the fall of 2006).

In some ways, these thematic topics consistently reflect concerns within the Latina/o community and for Hispanic individuals in relation to the role and function of government, in particular as they relate to the most vulnerable populations within the community, namely undocumented workers, undereducated, illiterate and partially literate people, and those without access to economic, educational, and social capital.

These issues do not represent the totality of issues and concerns to the Latina/o community, but do embody those that seem the most pressing, and as such the LAC serves as a governmental forum for the discussion of these issues in a critical and pertinent manner.

The following activities of the LAC for 2006 are organized under the six goals of the City of Minneapolis. They represent both actions and discussions within the committee on various issues pertain that in part or whole to Latinas/os in Minneapolis.

### ***A Safe Place to Call Home/Housing, Health, and Safety***

The Committee addressed several issues of relevance to the safety of Hispanics in the City of Minneapolis, including the need to maintain a *cordon sanitaire* around policing objectives and federal immigration law, and to reiterate the importance of police department neutrality regarding immigration status to the safety of the City's neighborhoods, as well as the cooperation of the City's undocumented population with the police department in criminal investigations. Out of these discussions arose the concern for greater communication and input of the LAC in the selection of a new police chief, for which the committee consulted with and advised the Mayor's Office, partially through the creation of a Police Chief Forum Subcommittee

The need and desire to create more positive and effective relationships between the immigrant community (specifically the Spanish-speaking community) and the City's police force resulted in an effort to meet with (then-interim) Police Chief Timothy Dolan to initiate a dialogue, which occurred in the fall of 2006. The LAC hopes to build upon this positive foundation as it moves into the future.

Additionally, the LAC engaged in a series of conversations regarding the importance of publicizing employment and labor laws to the community in bilingual and accessible formats, as well as considered crime intervention proposals targeted at the City's Latina/o youth, specifically the viability of after-school and anti-gang programs.

### ***One Minneapolis/Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Equal Input***

The LAC considered the need to develop a strategic plan to address: health, education, youth and governmental operations, as well as educating the Hispanic community about City legislation and policy. How to do this effectively and in cooperation with others departments in city government resulted in some productive conversations and potential action plans for the future. As well, the committee discussed potential programs to promote the hiring and retention of Latina/o professionals in city government and businesses.

Some topics, while outside the scope of either the LAC or the City of Minneapolis' purview, were nevertheless, a concern and sparked debate in committee meetings, specifically the need for comprehensive immigration reform and the need of action at higher levels of government. While recognizing the limited power of city government to address these larger policy challenges, the LAC affirmed the idea that City officials can continue to promote policies or activities to support the Dream Act, maintain ordinances prohibiting city employees from inquiring about immigration status or acting as agents for federal immigration authorities, and consider ways in which city government could assist the Latina/o community in obtaining driver licenses, addressing this issue with the City Intergovernmental Relations Program.

Other programmatic activity discussed within the committee was geared towards the development of partnerships with public and nonprofit organizations, and churches, as well as creating a business incubator that helps develop the Latino Community. The role of education in this process (and the Dream Act) was emphasized, with the LAC noting that increasing educational opportunities for Latinas/os could also potentially increase economic development in the City of Minneapolis. The importance of holding public forums, sponsored by the LAC, to address these and other pressing issues was put forth as a viable action plan for the upcoming year.

### ***Lifelong Learning Second to None/Schools, Libraries, and Innovation***

Increasing access and retention of Latina/o students across the educational spectrum from K-12 to post-secondary institutions was a primary concern of the committee, including strategies to address the poor graduation and retention rates of Latina/o students at the K-12 level. Public support of the Dream Act, as well as cooperative and productive discussion with other city agencies, was supported as a possible initial solution to addressing these problems.

### ***Connected Communities/Great Spaces and Places, Thriving Neighborhoods***

Making the City of Minneapolis economically viable for Latina/o citizens was frequently discussed, including ideas of how the City could foster economic success for Latina/o communities through both partnerships with public, nonprofit organizations and churches, promoting the hiring and retention of Latina/o professionals in city government and businesses, and using public forums to educate the community on city policies, civil rights, employment law, and the city's formal mechanisms against discrimination.

### ***Enriched Environment/Greenspace, Arts, Sustainability***

As part of its charge, the LAC considered ways to productively engage Latina/o youth, specifically with an eye towards crime prevention and educational retention. The need for dedicated and directed after-school activities targeted at Latina/o youth remained a central point of discussion, as well as the potential development of arts programs to engage Hispanic artists and cultural producers and present their work within the larger arts community of the city and region.

### ***A Premier Destination/Visitors, Investment, and Vitality***

Given that economic viability and success is crucial to the stability, safety, and long-term integration of the City's Latina/o communities, different responses and methodologies as to how to accomplish this economic empowerment were discussed by the LAC. Especially given the explosive growth of the Latina/o community in Minneapolis over the last twenty years, which the committee discussed through a presentation, different areas and foci of concern revealed themselves. The committee addressed specific concerns about taxi licensure, again with an emphasis on community education and empowerment as to the rules and policies of obtaining licensure by the City. Creating business incubators and supportive programs and policies to empower the Hispanic community economically were thought to be of importance, as well as the continual effort of the City to foster diversity through programs and policies that supported the hiring, retention, and promotion of Latina/o professionals across the public, private, and corporate economic and institutional spectrums, as well as ensuring that Hispanic residents of Minneapolis were aware of City policies and procedures designed to protect them against racial discrimination and as workers and employees.

In an effort to broaden the City's cultural and economic connections to Latin America, sister-city projects with Bogotá (Colombia), Morelos (Mexico), and Cuernavaca (Mexico) were supported and promoted by the committee.

## FUTURE DIRECTION AND PLANNING

The LAC confronts several challenges as it faces the future. The membership believes strongly in the importance and vitality of the LAC and its relation to city government. One of the primary goals of the LAC as it moves into the future is how to become more visible and valuable as an asset to the Mayor and the City Council. One of the difficulties facing the LAC has been an uneven membership team, and a change in membership personnel in the middle of 2006 augured productive discussions as new members brought their interests and energy to the table. Through the process of discussion, the committee has been moving towards supporting a series of modest yet important projects for the future, including:

- A series of bilingual public conversations on issues and concerns of the Hispanic community in Minneapolis, with the issuing of reports on these conversations to the Mayor and City Council.
- Engaging more actively with city government in an advising role to city agencies especially regarding policies and programs which need input from the city's diverse Hispanic constituents, as well as making ourselves accessible to the Mayor's office, City Council members, and City agencies.
- Continuing to strengthen the committee's role as advisor for the City's Latina/o community and accessible connection to city government, including the diffusion of committee reports, the publication of committee meetings to the community, and the consistent invitation of input from the Hispanic community to the committee's goals and projects.
- To develop a closer relationship with the Office of the Mayor, including a designated liaison from the Mayor's Office to the Committee.
- To develop a closer relationship with the City Council, including a designated liaison from the Council to the Committee.
- Advocate the fulfillment of city goals towards equal access, outreach, and advocacy for Spanish-speaking Hispanics, including the funding/support of Spanish-language/bilingual services, in all key areas, especially in city publications and in the work of the Minneapolis Civilian Police Review Authority.
- Continue to develop a strong working relationship with the Minneapolis Police Department, capitalizing on the productive dialogues the committee has begun with Police Chief Timothy Dolan.
- To explore developing cooperative projects with city government, the police department, and city non-profit agencies to create and sustain extracurricular programs, learning environments/events, and activities to engage youth.

- To begin exploring a public program to inform Spanish-speaking Latinas/os of the employment law and their rights and responsibilities as workers/employees.
- To work more closely with associated city agencies on all matters that possibly impact Latina/o communities and individuals in the City of Minneapolis.

## APPENDIX A

### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

#### 2006-2007 MEMBERS

##### *Rosita Balch - Vice Chair*



A Colombian living in the Twin Cities, Ms. Rosita Balch shares her passion for social justice and enthusiasm for community building while working with immigrants, students, teachers and community organizations. Ms. Balch studied Library Science in De La Salle University in Bogotá. Before coming to Minnesota, she worked for two years in Japan promoting Colombia's emerald and coffee markets. Ms. Balch has worked at the Resource Center of the Americas since 1998 and is now the Community Outreach Coordinator. She is also the coordinator of the Minnesota chapter of the Colombia Support Network. As a witness to the injustices in her own country, Ms. Balch works tirelessly to connect people, educate and organize efforts toward social and economic justice in the Americas and in our local community. She believes that we must speak up about the injustices we witness, or we become accomplices to the atrocities perpetrated against people. In Ms. Balch's own words, "Only by acting on our moral obligations we will make a better world for our children." Her hard work and dedication to social justice earned Ms. Balch the Women's Leadership Award, in 2004 from the Minnesota Women's Consortium; the "Bridging Cultures Award, in 2006 from Joyce Preschool; and in 2005 she was featured in "Women of Lake Street," by Macalester and Minnesota Historical Society. She is an active member of the Latino Youth Development Collaborative and the Community Advisory Committee – Mental Health Collective.

##### *Luisa Cabello Hansel*



Pastor Luisa Cabello Hansel has over thirty years experience working with Hispanic community of the Minneapolis, the Bronx, Philadelphia and México. A native of Chile, Pastor Cabello Hansel serves the Latino community in Phillips and Longfellow neighborhoods. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Settlement House and Centro Nueva Creación in Philadelphia, and a member of the Social Ministry Committee of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A mother of two children in the Minneapolis Public Schools, Pastor Cabello Hansel lives in Ward 9.

***Aureliano Maria DeSoto***



Aureliano DeSoto was born and raised in Los Angeles, and is a product of its public K-12 schools. He received his BA from Yale University in 1990 and his PhD from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2000. He has served on the teaching faculty of the University of California, the California State University, and Bard College. He moved to Minneapolis in 2005 to assume the position of Assistant Professor of Ethnic and Religious Studies at Metropolitan State University, the comprehensive regional Research Two University serving the Twin Cities metropolitan region, with campuses in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

He is particularly interested in issues pertaining to education and educational access at all levels, police-community relations, and language accessibility for the Latina/o community. He lives in Lowry Hill East, in Minneapolis's Ward 10.

***Edna Herlitz***



Ms. Edna Herlitz is a business owner and Realtor with 19 years of experience. A proud native of Panama, Ms. Herlitz is the owner of "Edna Realty" which is a South Minneapolis landmark on the corner of First Avenue South and Lake Street. Her business has served the home buying public since 1998. She has served as a board member of the Minneapolis Area Association of Realtors and currently serves as a community representative for the Restorative Justice Program (Whittier Neighborhood). As a Minneapolis resident, Edna focuses on issues that face the growing Hispanic community within the Metro Area.

***Victor Martínez-Ramos***



Mr. Victor Martinez-Ramos graduated from the University of México and Lodz a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration and Political Science. He also has accumulated post-graduate studies from the University of Minnesota in Business and Public Affairs. He is a Minnesota Supreme Court licensed interpreter and a Licensed Minnesota Realtor. A resident of Minneapolis since 1980, Mr. Martinez-Ramos joined the Latino Advisory Committee to help voice some the concerns which plague the Hispanic Community of Minneapolis. His experience from his community work brings much valued knowledge in the areas of health, education and immigration issues.

***Gloria Liliana Rivera Quiñones, Chair***



Ms. Gloria Liliana Rivera Quiñones is a native of Colombia. A highly accomplished creative thinker with domestic and international experience in communities and growth organization, Ms. Rivera Quiñones is a decisive leader with proven success in the areas of research and development consulting, strategic planning and problem solving. She is currently in the process of obtaining her Certificate in Community Development from Metropolitan State University (Saint Paul – Minnesota). She holds a Master in Studies in Analysis of Political, Economic and International Issues from the Academia Diplomática San Carlos (Bogotá – Colombia), a Bachelors Degree in Political Science and Government from the Universidad del Rosario (Bogotá – Colombia) and a Certificate in Context Analysis: Universidad Nacional de Colombia. (Bogotá – Colombia). Her dedication to the Hispanic community has been demonstrated by her past volunteer endeavors at the Minneapolis Information Centers of "Casa de Esperanza" (2005 – 2006), and currently as Coordinator of the Hispanic Social Justice Ministry, at St. Stephen Church.

**2005-2006 MEMBERS**

**Jacqueline Belzer  
James E. Carlson Otero  
Sharifa Elaraj  
Lorna Grauvilardell**

**Miguel Martinez  
Hector Martinez  
Angel Morales, Jr.  
Luis Paucar**

## COMMITTEE STAFF

### *Michael K. Browne, Interim Director, Civil Rights Department*



Michael K. Browne joined the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department in 2004, and lives in Minneapolis' Ward 5. In 2005 he was appointed to the position of Director of Enforcement and Community Outreach, and in 2006, Mayor R.T. Rybak appointed him Interim Director of Civil Rights, and has worked with the Latino Advisory Committee since that time. Mr. Browne is responsible for the day-to-day management of the department, as well as forming Departmental policies and strategies.

Before joining the Civil Rights Department, Mr. Browne was a practicing attorney, and his legal career includes work in the areas of civil rights, criminal defense, housing, consumer and employment law. Mr. Browne was also a bilingual Staff Attorney with the non-profit community law office of Centro Legal, Inc., in St. Paul, Minnesota. Additionally, he was also one of twenty young professionals nationwide to receive a fellowship with the Robert Bosch Foundation "Future Leaders of America – Program Year XIX (2002/2003)" in Germany ([www.cdsintl.org](http://www.cdsintl.org)), where he focused primarily on criminal law reform, comparative criminal law and police misconduct.

Mr. Browne earned his law degree from Hamline University, School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth in Spanish. He was trained at Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government in Strategic Management of Regulatory and Enforcement Agencies, and in 2006, Hamline University, School of Law awarded him the Most Distinguished New Alumni Award.

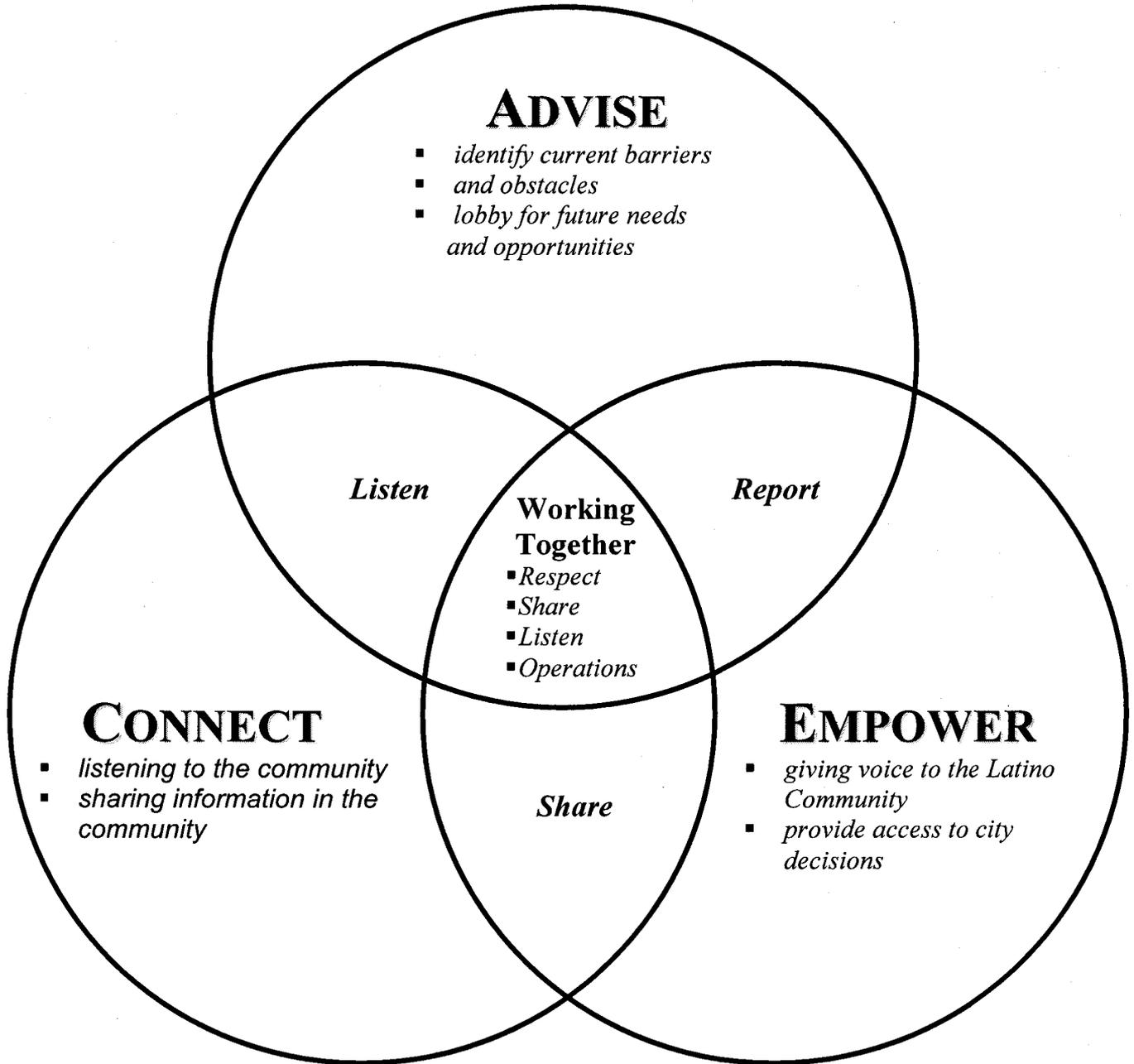
### *Vicenta del Carmen Valero, Bilingual Program Aid-Spanish, Multicultural Services Department*



Ms. Valero has been the committee's staff liaison for the past two years. She has worked as a Spanish Interpreter/Liaison for the Multicultural Services Department since November of 2002. Before coming to the City, she was in charge of the Assured Care Program for Hennepin County and a Spanish Medical Interpreter at HCMC. During her employment at HCMC, she developed and implemented the hospital's Spanish Line and helped centralize the Interpreter Services Program for the Social Work Department. Ms. Valero was born in Spain, raised in El Salvador and Los Angeles, California. Currently she is a resident of Shingle Creek Neighborhood in North Minneapolis. Ms. Valero has enjoyed being part of the Hispanic community as it grows and thrives in Minneapolis since her arrival in 1990. Her experience working and living with different Hispanic/Latino nationalities and cultures affords Ms. Valero a unique perspective into the emergent Hispanic community of Minneapolis.

APPENDIX B

**The Mayor's and City Council's  
Latino Advisory Committee**



APPENDIX C

**SPANISH SPEAKING RESIDENTS  
ACCESSING CITY SERVICES  
THROUGH MULTICULTURAL SERVICES**

January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>Number of Encounters</b>
55430	140
55412	254
55411	297
55418	351
55413	111
55405	46
55401	2
55402	2
55415	8
55403	6
55414	5
55454	14
55404	248
55416	11
55408	421
55407	1109
55406	205
55410	14
55409	281
55417	151
55419	92
Contact Generated by City Departments	611
Total	4379

# LATINOS/AS IN MINNESOTA

<b>Census Population 2000</b>	<b>Census Foreign-Born Population 2000</b>	<b>School Enrollment 2003-2004</b>	<b>State Demographic Center Estimate of Population</b>	<b>Limited English Estimate (Wilder Research Survey)</b>
143,382	57,573	38,643	175,000	21%

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**Sources:**

“Estimates of Selected Immigrant Populations in Minnesota: 2004,” Minnesota State Demographic Center, June, 2004.

“Minnesota’s Immigrant Populations Continue to Increase,” Media Release, Minnesota Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis, June 17, 2004.

Mattessich, Paul, “Speaking For Themselves: A Survey of Hispanic, Hmong, Russian and Somali Immigrants in Minneapolis-St. Paul,” Wilder Research Center, November, 2000.

# **SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOODS "PORTS OF ENTRY"**

- Since 1980, the Latino community in Minneapolis has increased in size by 523 percent.
- Phillips and Whittier neighborhoods are described as "ports of entry" for Latinos.
- In 2000, 17.0 percent of the Latino population in Hennepin County – or approximately one of every five Latinos -- lived in two neighborhoods in South Minneapolis.
- Neighborhoods in South Minneapolis have experienced an influx of Mexican immigrants.
- Northeast Minneapolis' Central and University neighborhoods have a growing Ecuadorian and Peruvian community

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Source: Hennepin County Office of Planning and Development