

Sayers, Margery

From: Cristina Oviedo <crisovi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 12:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony in Support of bill CB-49-2022
Attachments: Testimony in support of Alianza Commisiion .pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon,

Attached please find my written testimony in support of bill CB-49-2022

Please let me know if there's anything else I need to provide, or feel free to reach out with any questions.

Cris Oviedo

"We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love." Mother Teresa

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[Dragon Digital Radio](#)

July 16th 2022

Dear Howard County Council Members,

My name is Cris Oviedo, a Howard County resident for over 15 years, latina immigrant, wife, mother of two, and latina advocate.

I write today in support of bill CB-49-2022 which looks to establish La Alianza Latina Commission.

Back in 2020 I had the privilege to join the Alianza Latina Workgroup, which was created under an executive order by County Executive Calvin Ball with the purpose to identify needs and barriers of the latino community in Howard County, and to make recommendations to government on ways to “promote the values of diversity and civility, and to work with County agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other interested community groups to facilitate an environment of inclusion, communication, understanding and respect throughout the County”.

Through this experience I validated some of the barriers I already knew existed for my community, like language, transportation, food access, immigration, limited health resources, difficulties navigating the educational system, just to name a few. But I also learned about other issues that were not apparent to me, like the lack of continuous representation for latinos within our local government and the direct impact this has on how we serve, or not serve, our comunidad latina through the decisions being made at the different county levels.

Having a temporary group like Alianza Latina allowed latinos to be involved in initiatives like the creation of the maternity partnership program established under the current fiscal year that benefits all mothers in Howard County, it allowed our members to voice the need for more hispanic liaisons in our school system and that resulted in 7 new positions at HCPSS added for FY 2023, it allowed us to connect, inform, and support initiatives around workforce and business development that understand the unique needs our community has, it allowed us to come together and join boards to ensure our community has a seat and voice at the table.

The proposed bill recognizes the importance of permanent representation at the county level, it recognizes la comunidad latina of Howard County as a vital piece of the county’s success and uniqueness, it validates latinos, accepts us, welcomes us, and empowers us to continue to participate and contribute as active and worthy members of this beautiful county we call our home.

I ask you to approve CB-49-2022 to ensure that our growing comunidad has a permanent voice and seat at the table, so that county can make decisions with latinos in mind, understanding and supporting our unique needs, so that we may develop and foster a strong relationship between comunidad and government for the benefit of all Howard County residents, because when we help, support, protect, and empower 1 person, we help, support, protect, and empower all.

Finally I want to thank you, because in recent past decisions you’ve already demonstrated that you care for our comunidad latina, that you see, hear, and care for mi gente. I ask you to do it again, to pass this bill and create this commission so we can continue the good works that have already started with your support.

Gracias,

Cris Oviedo

Sayers, Margery

From: Cos, Sandy <scos@howardcc.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL - Affidavit to Speak
Attachments: Group_Representative_Affidavit_Digital1.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

From: Sayers, Margery <msayers@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 2:15 PM
Subject: EXTERNAL - Affidavit to Speak

You don't often get email from msayers@howardcountymd.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCC. Do not click links or open attachments unless you expect the email and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon

You have signed up to speak on behalf of an organization at the Public Hearing on Monday, July 18. Please submit the attached affidavit no later than 4pm today.

Margery

*Margery Sayers
Executive Assistant
Howard County Council
410-313-0832*



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Sandy Cos, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

La Alianza Latina Workgroup to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB49-2022 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Sandy Cos

Signature: Sandy Cos

Digitally signed by Sandy Cos
Date: 2022.07.18 15:24:03 -04'00'

Date: 7/18/2022

Organization: La Alianza Latina Workgroup

Organization Address: _____

Number of Members: 17

Name of Chair/President: Danielle Duran Baron and Cris Oviedo

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.



HOWARD COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Nina Basu, Commissioner
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Lynda Earle, Commissioner
Bob Ford, Commissioner
Joan Hash, Commissioner
Peter Hwang, Commissioner
Tiffany Releford, Commissioner
Gabriel Terrasa, Commissioner
Kui Zhao, Commissioner

July 18, 2022

Dear County Council Members:

The Howard County Human Rights Commission strongly supports and urges the passage of CB49-2022, which creates a La Alianza Latina Commission. This bill follows the recommendation of the La Alianza Latina Workgroup, which was formed by the County Executive in November 2019. For eighteen months, the La Alianza Latina Workgroup worked to evaluate systemic and programmatic needs for Latinxs in Howard County. In its March 2021 final report, the La Alianza Latina Workgroup recommended the formation of a permanent Commission to continue to address the needs of the Latinx community.

Establishing a permanent La Alianza Latina Commission will ensure the Latinx community has a consistent voice in the Howard County government and the larger community. The La Alianza Latina Commission will be able to continue and build upon the important work of the La Alianza Latina Workgroup. This will help promote the interests of the Latinx community in our County. It will also help combat discrimination against members of this community, thus fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. Therefore, we urge the County Council to pass and the County Executive to sign CB49-2022.

Sincerely,

Scott Markow, Chairperson