

Law 1-86**District of Columbia Latino Community Development Act**

In the Council of the District of Columbia, September 29, 1976:

To establish an office on Latino affairs and a Commission on Latino Community Development.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA THAT:

[Sec. 100. Short title.] This act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Latino Community Development Act."

TITLE I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Sec. 101. Purpose. It is the intent of the Council of the District of Columbia that the District Government shall ensure that a full range of health, education, employment and social services shall be available to the Latino community in the District of Columbia. The planning and monitoring of programs undertaken by the Office on Latino Affairs and the Commission in partnership with members of the Latino community, families, community leaders, private agencies and the District of Columbia Government, shall serve as an impetus to making the Latino community an integral part of the District of Columbia community.

TITLE II. DEFINITIONS.

Sec. 201. Definitions. For the purposes of this act the term:

(a) "Office" means the Office on Latino Affairs created by section 301 of this act.

(b) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Office of Latino Affairs.

(c) "Commission" means the Commission on Latino Community Development created by section 401 of this act.

(d) "Latino" or "Latino Community" shall mean the people of Spanish origin who are residents of the District of Columbia.

(e) "Services to the Latino Community" means those services designed to provide assistance, including but not limited to, nutritional programs, transportation services, health and financial assistance, employment and housing programs, recreational opportunities, information, referral and counseling services.

(f) "Council" means the Council of the District of Columbia.

TITLE III. OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS.

Sec. 301. Establishment. There is established within the executive office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia an Office on Latino Affairs. The Office shall provide within the District of Columbia government a single administrative unit, responsible to the Mayor, to administer such programs as shall be delegated to it by the Mayor, the Council and the Commission, to promote the welfare of the Latino community.

Sec. 302. Staffing of Office. The Office shall be headed by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Mayor from a list of three or more names submitted to him or her by the Commission. The Director shall devote his or her full time to the duties of the Office. His or her annual compensation shall be fixed in accordance with chapter 51 of Title 5, United States Code (relating to the classification of government employees and related matters), but shall be not lower than a GS 15, step one. He or she shall have such staff as is approved in the District of Columbia budget and Federal or private grants, plus any temporary staff approved by the Office of Budget and Management Systems.

Sec. 303. Functions of director. In order to carry out the purpose of this act, the Director shall:

- (1) Serve as an advocate for the Latino community in the District of Columbia.
- (2) Assist community organizations and the Commissions in developing and submitting grant applications.
- (3) Provide information and technical assistance with respect to programs and services for the Latino community to the Mayor, the Commission on Latino Community Development, the Council, other District of Columbia agencies and departments, and the community.
- (4) Respond to recommendations and policy statements from the Commission within thirty days of written submission unless extended by mutual agreement of the Commission and the Office.
- (5) File an annual report on the operation of the Office with the Mayor, the Council and the Commission.
- (6) Identify areas of need for service or improvement of service and bring them to the attention of the Mayor and Commission, with suggestions for meeting such needs, including conducting or funding research and demonstration projects to test such suggestions.
- (7) Carry responsibility for assuring necessary control, evaluation, audit and reporting on programs funded through the Office.
- (8) Accept volunteer services and funds from the public and private sector to supplement the budget in carrying out the planning duties and responsibilities of the Office.
- (9) Meet with the Spanish Program Coordinators within each department and agency of the District of Columbia government having such offices as a group, at least once a month to coordinate activities within the government involving the Latino community.

Sec. 304. Spanish Program Coordinator. All District of Columbia government agencies with at least five hundred employees shall have a Spanish

Program Coordinator who shall devote at least one-fourth time to developing and implementing policies and programs in their agencies that insure that the intent of this act as set forth in section 101 is carried out. The Spanish Program Coordinator shall meet with the Director of the Office of Latino Affairs at least once a month to assist the Director in coordinating plans and policies which are beneficial to the Latino community of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 305. Transfer of positions and funds. The Office of Spanish Affairs presently located within the Department of Human Resources is abolished, and all positions presently allocated to this Division are hereby authorized to be transferred to the new Office created under section 301 of this act; and all unexpended funds presently allocated to this Division are authorized to be transferred to the new Office created under such section 301.

Sec. 306. Order repealed. Organization Order No. 26 (D.C. Code, title 1, Appendix), C.O. No. 70-284, July 30, 1970 is hereby repealed.

TITLE IV. COMMISSION ON LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Sec. 401. Establishment. There is hereby established in the executive office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia a Commission on Latino Community Development to advise the Mayor, the Director of the Office on Latino Affairs, the Council and the public concerning the views and needs of the Latino community in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 402. Membership of Commission. The Commission shall consist of fifteen public (voting) members appointed by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council. There shall also be the following ex-officio non-voting members: The Directors of the Department of Human Resources, Department of Housing and Community Development, Recreation, Department of Transportation, Department of Manpower, the Librarian of the District of Columbia Public Library, the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Force and the Director of the Department of Economic Development.

Sec. 403. Qualifications for membership. Members shall be appointed with due consideration for representation from established public, non-profit and voluntary community organizations and agencies concerned with the Latino community and members of the general public who have given evidence of particular dedication to, and knowledge of the needs of the Latino community. The membership of the Commission shall have at least two resident aliens.

Sec. 404. Terms of office. Members of the Commission shall serve terms of three years except, that, of the initial membership, five shall be appointed for a term of three years, five for a term of two years, and five for one year. Members may be reappointed but may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Sec. 405. Appointments to vacancies. When a vacancy develops on the Commission, the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council shall appoint

a successor to fill the unexpired portion of the term. No member may continue to serve beyond the expiration date of his or her term. If within sixty calendar days of submission of a nomination for the Commission the Council fails to act, the nomination shall be deemed confirmed.

Sec. 406. Rules of procedure. The Commission shall develop its own rules of procedure except they shall provide the Commission shall meet at least every other month. The meetings shall be held in those areas of the District of Columbia with the largest concentration of Latino residents. All meetings shall be open to the public. A quorum to transact business shall consist of a majority plus one of the voting members.

Sec. 407. Selection of Chairperson. The Commission shall elect its own Chairperson.

Sec. 408. Compensation. All members shall serve without compensation, but expenses incurred by the Commission as a whole, or by its individual members, when duly authorized by the Chairperson, will become an obligation against appropriated District of Columbia and Federal funds designated for that purpose.

Sec. 409. Staff assistance. The Commission shall have one paid staff person. In addition, the Director of the Office on Latino Affairs shall provide information and technical assistance as required under section 303.

Sec. 410. Functions of Commission. The Commission shall:

- (1) Serve as an advocate for Latino persons in the District of Columbia.
- (2) Review and submit to the Mayor, the Council, the Office on Latino Affairs and the community an annual report including analysis of the needs of the Latino community in the District of Columbia.
- (3) Cooperate with other agencies (Federal, state, private) concerned with activities pertaining to the Latino community.
- (4) Develop a list of not more than three persons the Commission recommends for the position of Director of the Office on Latino Affairs and submit that list to the Mayor.
- (5) Conduct or participate in public hearings and other forums to determine views of the Latino community and other members of the public on matters affecting the health, safety and welfare of the Latino community in the District of Columbia.
- (6) Bring to the attention of the Mayor and the Office on Latino Affairs cases of neglect, abuse and incidents of bias against the Latino community in the administration of the laws of the District of Columbia.
- (7) Review and comment on proposed District and Federal legislation, regulations, policies and programs and make policy recommendations on issues affecting the health, safety and welfare of the Latino community.
- (8) Develop policy and provide continuing review of the planning undertaken by the Office.
- (9) The Commission is authorized to make any reasonable request for information necessary to aid the Commission in the discharge of its responsibilities.

TITLE V. AUTHORIZATION.

Sec. 501. Authorization. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the general operating budget of the District of Columbia the sum of two hundred thousand dollars to carry out the purpose of this act. This sum does not include monies spent on existing programs for the Latino community.

TITLE VI. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Sec. 601. Effective date. This act shall be effective immediately at the end of the thirty day period (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and days on which either House of Congress is not in session), as provided in section 602(c) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (D.C. Code, sec. 1-147(c)), provided, that the act shall not become effective prior to October 1, 1976.

Source. Pursuant to section 412 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, PL 93-198, (the Act), the Council of the District of Columbia adopted Bill No. 1-198 on first and amended first readings April 20, 1976 and June 15, 1976; on second readings May 18, 1976 and reconsideration of second readings on June 20, 1976. Following the signature of the Mayor on July 19, 1976, this legislation was assigned Act No. 1-141, published in the August 10, 1976, edition of the D.C. Register, and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for a thirty-day review, in accordance with section 602 (c) (1) of the Act.

The Council of the District of Columbia hereby gives notice that the thirty-day Congressional review periods have expired and, therefore, cites the following legislation as D.C. Law 1-86 effective September 29, 1976.