

**Plano City Council  
Multicultural Outreach Roundtable  
Joint Meeting  
May 15, 2008**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor Pat Evans  
Sally Magnuson, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jean Callison, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
Shep Stahel  
Scott Johnson  
Loretta Ellerbe  
Harry LaRosiliere  
Lee Dunlap

The Council and the Multi-Cultural Outreach Roundtable Committee met informally on Thursday, May 15, 2008 beginning with a reception at 6:52 p.m. at the Plano Independent School District's Sockwell Center, Dallas Room, 6301 Chapel Hill Boulevard, Plano, Texas. All Council Members were present with the exception of Council Members Stahel and LaRosiliere.

**The Purpose of this meeting is to discuss ideas and concerns regarding Plano's Hispanic community**

Following the reception, Mary Alice Garza, Co-Chair of the Multi-Cultural Outreach Roundtable Committee (MCOR) welcomed those in attendance and introduced co-chairs of the committee. She spoke to the establishment of MCOR, its initiative to foster mutual understanding and participation between the City and the diverse community, past events and standing committees. Ms. Garza spoke to the sister city relationship with San Pedro Garza Garcia, Mexico, provided demographic information regarding the City and invited interested parties to join MCOR.

Edward Retta of Cross Culture Communications spoke to the positive contributions of Hispanics to Texas. He spoke to migration, various cultures, and provided a historical perspective regarding the population. Mr. Retta spoke regarding the creation of jobs in Texas during the early- to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, national and state demographics, political trends, religious affiliation and employment statistics. He spoke to the assimilation of Hispanics in the work force, transition to the use of English over generations, positive economic impact and factors contributing to the low crime rates in Hispanic neighborhoods. Mr. Retta spoke to Hispanic positive cultural values, challenges and role models.

Mayor Evans and the Council spoke to MCOR providing an opportunity to meet with diverse members of the community and maintaining dialogue. Adrian Rodriguez of Lulac moderated a session focused on questions/concerns of the Hispanic community.

The Council spoke to plans for community revitalization on the east side, the effect of aging retail on neighborhoods and challenges of redevelopment, the use of federal funds, and individual neighborhood plans for improvement. They spoke regarding infrastructure improvements, the impact of DART, festivals in Haggard Park and the revitalization of the Downtown area.

Mayor Evans advised that the City has no intention of taking on the federal government's role with regard to verifying citizenship. Assistant Police Chief Drain spoke regarding the role of neighborhood officers in assisting citizens assimilate into the community. He spoke to the number of Hispanic officers and those in leadership roles in the Police Department. The Council spoke to meeting core services in the face of a possible deficit and Mayor Pro Tem Magnuson spoke to the legal requirement to create a balanced budget. Council Member Dunlap spoke to promoting home ownership through the First Time Homebuyer's Program, Habitat for Humanity and the Self Sufficiency Program. Mayor Pro Tem Magnuson spoke to the use of federal funds.

An audience member spoke regarding a partnership with the Plano Independent School District to further citizen education. Director of Parks and Recreation Wendell advised that Staff does not track use of facilities by ethnic groups, but expressed his view that all citizens are utilizing the options available. A citizen spoke to providing parks information to children via the school system. Mayor Evans spoke to possible issues of transportation of children to recreation venues and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Callison spoke to consideration of more neighborhood-friendly facilities. A recommendation was made to use public service announcements on Hispanic radio and television stations to distribute information.

Assistant Police Chief Drain spoke to follow up with the federal government regarding citizenship status should an individual be taken into custody for another matter. The Council encouraged participation by all groups on the City's boards and commissions.

Mayor Evans introduced Staff in attendance and advised that the City will keep the dialogue open so Plano works for everyone. There being no further discussion, the meeting was closed at 8:41 p.m.

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**Pat Evans, MAYOR**

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**Diane Zucco, City Secretary**