



Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs



ANNUAL REPORT
2013

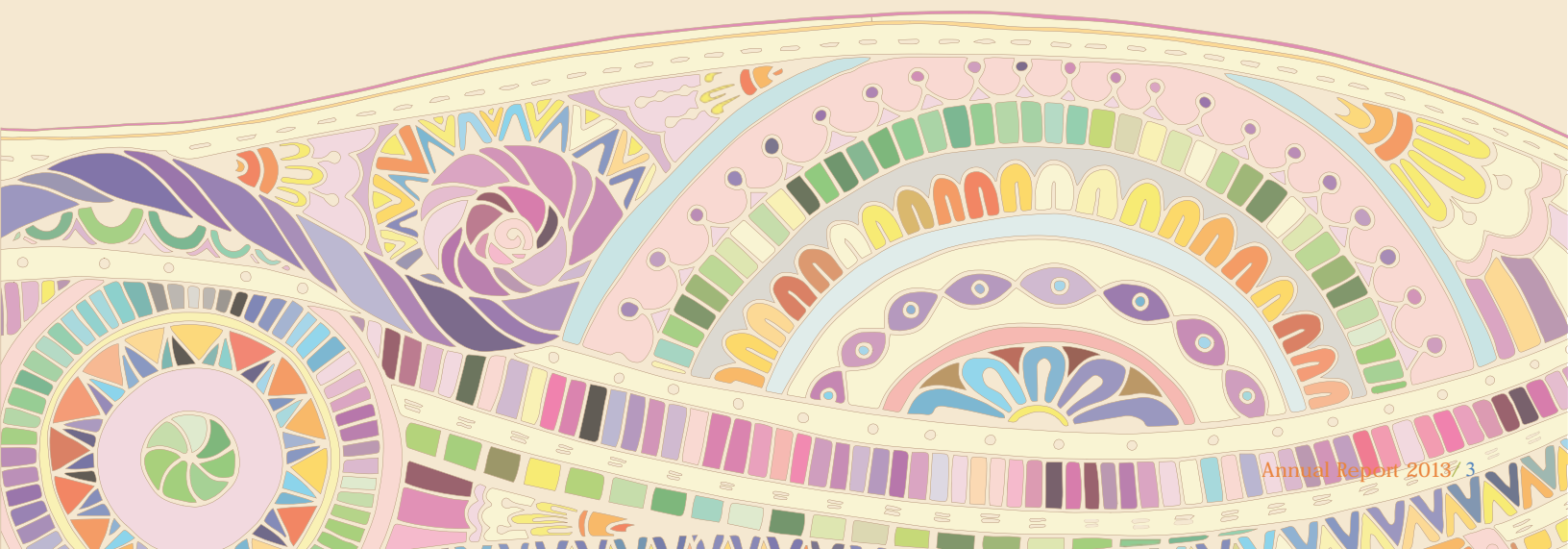






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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present to you the 2013 Annual Report of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs. This report highlights some of the major accomplishments and efforts made by the Commission over the past year. You will also find a few updates on the State's demographic changes within the Hispanic community of Maryland. You will find these are important demographic indicators of a community that continues its ascendance and is contributing to the progress of our State.

Together we have had a very fulfilling year in our accomplishments. Together we have supported growing momentum for providing driver's licenses to our undocumented Marylanders. Together we have maintained that dignity for every individual is the fundamental basis for our policies, and continue to work together to achieve a fairer society. I look to this Commission to continue our work ahead in our increasingly interconnected world. Our State's diversity allows us to be uniquely positioned to face the challenges and we will reap the benefits of tomorrow.

We maintain that diversity is our greatest strength, and our State's Hispanic community is a solid partner in moving Maryland forward. I encourage you to read over the annual report and contact our Commission or its office in the Office of Community Initiatives. Together we will continue to support the vibrant growth of Maryland's Hispanic community.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) coordinates community and volunteer activities statewide and advises the Governor on policies to enhance and improve community programs. This office coordinates outreach to ethnic and cultural communities across Maryland, through the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the Governor's Commission Hispanic Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern Affairs, the Governor's Commission on African Affairs, and most recently; the Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs. Other divisions include the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, Volunteer Maryland and community outreach in cooperation with the Governor's Intergovernmental Affairs Office to serve the Executive Branch of Maryland government.

In 2008, Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law HB782, which received unanimous support in the Maryland House of Delegates and the Maryland State Senate. This action codified the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. Placing the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs within the Governor's Office is a statement of the O'Malley-Brown administration's commitment to the progress of all ethnic communities; specifically that of the Latino community of Maryland, which is the largest ethnic community in our state.

This report is reflective of the commitment and dedication of the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs to the residents of the State of Maryland.

Israel C. "Izzy" Patoka
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Community Initiatives



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR


We are pleased to share with you this Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs 2012 Annual Report which highlights our Commission's efforts, with the support of our Governor, legislative body and community partners to expand opportunity to Maryland's Hispanic population. We remain committed to contributing to Governor O'Malley's vision of One Maryland; an increasingly empowered community that is a part of our State.

Our most important work continues to be serving as strong advocates for what our Governor calls "policies of dignity": legislation that seeks to reaffirm the belief that everyone in our State deserves to be treated with dignity. This year, we have focused on creating a program to allow our undocumented Marylanders obtain a driver's license and hosting a forum to explain to the community how federal comprehensive immigration reform would affect our State. We are encouraged by the Governor's full throated support of the immigrant community at all levels of government.

On behalf of our entire Commission on Hispanic Affairs, I want to thank Governor O'Malley, Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, the entire administration and the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives for their constant support and shared vision which allows us to help expand opportunity and help protect Maryland's Hispanic working families.

Sincerely,

Y. Maria Martinez
Chair



COMMISSIONERS (ETHNICITY AND COUNTY OF RESIDENCE IN PARENTHESES):

Y. Maria Martinez, Chair (Colombia, Baltimore County)

- Founder and CEO of Respira, Inc.
 - Audit Chair of the Maryland Auto Insurance Fund
 - Region V Chair, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
-

Ricardo Martinez, Vice Chair (Puerto Rico, Baltimore County)

- Founder and President/CEO of Project Enhancement Corporation
 - Commissioner, Maryland Economic Development Commission
-

Elizabeth C. Bellavance (United States, Wicomico County)

- Hispanic Outreach Representative for the Eastern Shore of the Maryland Catholic Conference Social Concerns Committee
 - Advisory board for Institute of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, Salisbury university
-

Daniel Flores (El Salvador, Montgomery County)

- Vice President of Regional Government Relations, Greater Washington Board of Trade
-

Lorena Clauser (El Salvador, Carroll County)

- American Translators Association
 - Courts of Maryland Spanish interpreter
-

Gregorio Antonio Arenas (Chile, Montgomery County)

- President of Energy Vehicle Solutions
 - Legal applicant for the House of Ruth, Maryland
-

Jonathan Jayes-Green (Panama, Montgomery County)¹

- Student, Goucher College
 - Immigrant youth activist and leader
-

Elizabeth Ysla Leight (Mexico, Anne Arundel County)

- Director of Government Relations and Legal Affairs, Society of Professional Benefit Administrators
 - President-Elect Maryland PTA
-

Hector G. Manzano (Venezuela, Baltimore City)

- Pollution Control Analyst III, Baltimore City Government
 - DPW Hispanic Community Liaison, Environmental Sciences
-

Sonia Mora (Colombia, Montgomery County)

- Manager Latino Health Initiatives, Montgomery County Government
 - Administrator, Welcome Back Center of Suburban Maryland
-

Cesar Moreno Perez (Mexico, Montgomery County)

- Executive Board Member, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
-

¹ Jonathan Jayes-Green was appointed by the Governor to the Commission in 2013 while Jessy Mejia served as Administrative Director. In 2014 after Jessy's transition out of the office, the Governor appointed Jonathan as the Commission's new Administrative Director.



Walkiria Pool (Dominican Republic, Prince George's County)

- Founder and President of Centro de Apoyo Familiar (CAF) an affordable housing, foreclosure prevention, credit rebuilding, and financial literacy organization.
-

Oscar Ramirez (United States, Montgomery County)

- First Vice Chair, Maryland Democratic Party
 - Principal, Podesta Group
-

Nicolas H. Ramos, V (Mexico, Baltimore County)

- Business Owner, Arcos Restaurant, Ramos Realty, Rumba, LLC
 - Former President, Maryland Mexican Association
-

- ***Catalina Rodriguez (Ecuador, Baltimore City)***

- Board Member, Friends of Patterson Park, Baltimore City
 - Director, Baltimore City Hispanic Commission
-

Dr. Gilberto Zelaya (El Salvador, Montgomery County)

- President, Montgomery County Hispanic Employees Association
 - Montgomery County Board of Elections
-

Liliana Robeson (Colombia, Talbot County)

- Zumba Instructor
 - Commissioner, Maryland Real Estate Commission
-

Maria D'arcy (Colombia, Talbot County)

- Board member, Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center
-

Richard Escalante

- Director of Business Development, Baltimore Development Corporation
-

Angela Franco

- President & CEO, Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
-

Dr. Patria de Lancer Julnes

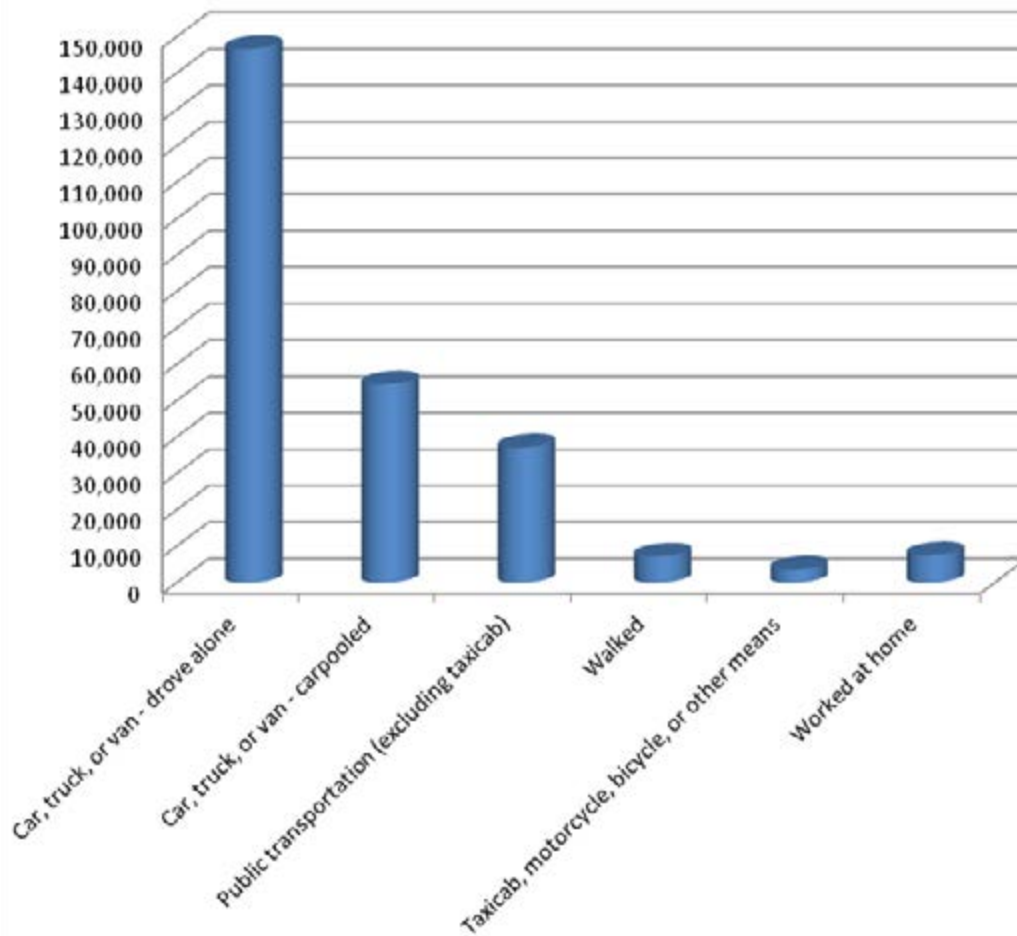
- Professor of Public and International Affairs at the University of Baltimore
 - Founder, Pa'lante: Hispanic Students Moving Forward
-

STAFF

Jonathan Jayes-Green
Administrative Director

Agnes M. Smith
Project Coordinator

Means of Transportation to Work



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey
Universe: Hispanic workers, 16 and over.



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

2013 Maryland's Hispanic Population Estimates

Total Hispanic/ Latino	510,448
Salvadoran	160,311
Mexican	99,954
Guatemalan	45,168
Puerto Rican	42,068
Honduran	29,178
Dominican (Dominican Republic)	18,997
Peruvian	16,226
Colombian	14,420
Cuban	12,320
Bolivian	10,006
Spaniard	7,128
Ecuadorian	6,961
Argentinean	6,103
Nicaraguan	5,605
Panamanian	5,036
Spanish	4,364
Chilean	4,286
Venezuelan	3,224
Costa Rican	2,092
Uruguayan	844
Paraguayan	421
Spanish American	173
All other Hispanic or Latino	15,563

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

TOTAL	479,782
Enrolled in school:	153,570
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool	10,363
Enrolled in kindergarten	11,039
Enrolled in grade 1	10,932
Enrolled in grade 2	8,016
Enrolled in grade 3	10,025
Enrolled in grade 4	6,919
Enrolled in grade 5	7,918
Enrolled in grade 6	6,551
Enrolled in grade 7	6,144
Enrolled in grade 8	8,001
Enrolled in grade 9	8,992
Enrolled in grade 10	8,238
Enrolled in grade 11	6,214
Enrolled in grade 12	9,720
Enrolled in college, undergraduate years	28,125
Graduate or professional school	6,373
Not enrolled in school	326,212

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey
Universe: Hispanic or Latino 3 years and over

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS BY AGE (HISPANIC OR LATINO)

TOTAL	504,716
Under 6 years:	67,984
With health insurance coverage	63,572
No health insurance coverage	4,412
6 to 17 years:	94,140
With health insurance coverage	84,108
No health insurance coverage	10,032
18 to 24 years:	58,312
With health insurance coverage	32,948
No health insurance coverage	25,364
25 to 34 years:	102,076
With health insurance coverage	46,619
No health insurance coverage	55,457
35 to 44 years:	80,557
With health insurance coverage	40,909
No health insurance coverage	39,648
45 to 54 years:	53,982
With health insurance coverage	34,218
No health insurance coverage	19,764
55 to 64 years:	28,431
With health insurance coverage	19,904
No health insurance coverage	8,527
65 to 74 years:	11,474
With health insurance coverage	9,361
No health insurance coverage	2,113
75 years and over:	7,760
With health insurance coverage	7,358
No health insurance coverage	402

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY SEX (HISPANIC OR LATINO)

TOTAL	288,341
MALE	150,276
Less than high school diploma	61,777
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	37,008
Some college or associate's degree	24,950
Bachelor's degree or higher	26,541
FEMALE	138,065
Less than high school diploma	45,698
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	32,395
Some college or associate's degree	25,239
Bachelor's degree or higher	34,733

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey
Universe: Population 25 and over

NATIVITY

TOTAL	455,237
Native	191,771
Foreign born	263,466

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey
Universe: Population 25 and over



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013, the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs built on the great progress of 2012 to further improve the quality of life of Maryland Hispanics and the State as a whole. While the Commission had some turnover with some members who completed their term or transitioned out of the Commission, the enthusiasm and commitment to the Hispanic community in the State did not waver. Some of the highlights of this widely successful year include: advocating and supporting a plan to provide licenses to undocumented immigrants in the State, furthering the discussion about our immigration system by co-hosting the Maryland Town Hall for Immigration Reform, joining the Governor on trade missions to Brazil and El Salvador and celebrating the Hispanic community in Maryland.

The reality is, the Hispanic community in the State is growing rapidly and there is a lot of work to be done. According to the latest numbers from the Census, the Hispanic community continues to grow exponentially and now represents approximately 8.7 percent of the total population of the State. Hispanics continue being the fastest growing group in the state and are expected to continue growing rapidly. While the vast majority of the State's jurisdictions experienced growth, Frederick, Washington and Carroll counties continue to experience the fastest growth of Hispanics percentage-wise. Nonetheless, the majority of the state's Hispanic population resides in Montgomery, Prince George's and Baltimore City. Additionally, for the first time ever in the history of the state, Hispanics students outnumber all other racial and ethnic groups in Montgomery County's kindergarten and first-grade classes.

Given the continuous growth of Hispanics in the State, the Commission takes seriously their role of advising the Governor on how to best serve the community. In this report, you will find information about the main highlights of the work of the Commission in 2013. All in all, the Commission is truly proud of the work they've been able to accomplish and looks forward to do even more in 2014.

MARYLAND TOWNHALL FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mission: Given the inability of Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform to create a system that works for our 21st century economy and community, the Commission made it a priority to continue advocating on behalf of the undocumented immigrant community in the State. The Commission saw fit to educate the broader community about our current immigration system in hopes informing the conversation of what meaningful reform looks like for Maryland Hispanic families who would benefit.



Why?: The town hall was prompted after a bipartisan group of United States Senators filed Senate Bill 744, the 844-page immigration reform package in April. The bill included provisions to deal with the approximately 11 million immigrants, around 275,000 in Maryland, currently living in the United States without legal status and reformed our immigration system to deal future flow of immigrants. It specifically addressed immigrants who come to our country to work in the agricultural sector, those immigrants who were brought to this country as children and the adults as well. The bill, titled the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act, provided a complex and nuanced path to citizenship for those undocumented immigrants who do not pose a threat to our country's public safety.

How: The Commission partnered with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), CASA de Maryland, and the Johns Hopkins Program of Latin American Studies to host the event. The Town Hall was moderated by Elianne Ramos from Speak Hispanic and LATISM and it included as speakers U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, Elizabeth Alex from CASA de Maryland, Dr. Victoria-Maria MacDonald from the University Of Maryland, Holly Leon-Lierman from the International Rescue Committee, Abel Nunez from the Central American Resource Center and a representative from U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski's office.

Outcome: The Maryland TownHall for Immigration Reform was a success. The event was well attended and through the lively and informed debate, the Commission was able to bring the national debate of immigration reform home for the audience. The Commission was able to truly inform the audience about the details in the proposed legislation and how it would affect the state of Maryland as a whole.

Legislative Update: The United States Senate went on to pass the Senate Bill 744 with strong bipartisan support and margin of 68-32. Fourteen Republicans joined a united Democratic caucus in supporting the legislation which has the backing of the White House. Senate Bill 744 has not become law because the House of Representatives failed to pass their version of in 2013.



DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED DRIVERS

Background: In 2005, the United States Congress passed the Real ID Act and it was signed into law. The REAL ID Act of 2005 created national standards for the issuance of state driver's licenses and identification cards. The purpose of the Act was to ensure only U.S. Citizens and legal residents had access to identification that could be used for official federal purposes such as boarding a commercially operated flight, entering federal buildings and others. The result of Maryland adjusting our identification requirements to meet the REAL ID standards in 2009 meant that our undocumented Marylanders were no longer able to obtain an identification card or driver's license.

Legislation: In order to fix this issue and allow our undocumented Marylanders to obtain a driver's license in order to provide for their families, State Senator Victor Ramirez introduced the Maryland Highway Safety Act of 2013 with the strong support of the Governor. The Maryland Highway Safety Act reinstates a program under which applications could obtain an identification card or driver's licenses without a Social Security or proof of legal status as long as they passed the comprehensive written and road exams every other driver undergoes. In addition, undocumented applicants need to prove two years of tax filing to prove residency in the state.

Work of the Commission: Understanding the Hispanic undocumented population's needs in the state of Maryland, the Commission decided to advocate heavily for the passage of the Maryland Highway Safety Act. The Commission Chair Maria Martinez, Vice Chair Ricardo Martinez and members of the Commission testified in support of the bill and rallied the community to work for the bill's passage. The Commission engaged in this work because, like our Governor, the Commission saw this issue as a public safety issue. Allowing undocumented immigrants to undergo the same process legal residents go through before getting on the road means that we have better drivers on the road who are able to provide for their families.

Outcome: Thanks to the strong support of the Governor and the Commission, the bill passed comfortable in both chambers and the Governor signed it into law on May 2, 2013.

Follow Up: Concerned over the implementation of the law, the Commission invited the director of the Maryland Vehicle Administration, Mr. John Kuo, and representatives from the Comptroller's Office to better understand how these two agencies were preparing for the law change on January 1, 2014. During the Commission meeting, Commissioners stressed the need to have application forms, websites and pertinent documents readily available in Spanish and other languages. In addition, the Commission voiced their desire to work closely with both agencies in ensuring correct information is being disseminated and those who can benefit from this law change, do so at the greatest capacity.

TRADE MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA

Governor Martin O'Malley, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission Maria and Rick Martinez, and an entire delegation from the State composed more than 30 businesses, higher education and government officials traveled to El Salvador and Brazil on a trade mission in December hoping to strengthen international ties. Throughout the mission, Governor O'Malley and the delegation promoted Maryland's key assets that benefit foreign-owned companies – proximity to federal facilities, outstanding workforce and diverse business and cultural community. Governor O'Malley's stop in El Salvador, the first ever for a Maryland Governor, was significant because of the State's strong ties to the Central American Country. Maryland has the fourth largest Salvadorian population in the country, with over 120,000 residents. In addition, in 2012, Maryland businesses participated in \$60 million in trade with El Salvador.

With the same token, Brazil has one of the fastest growing major economies in the world and is the largest economy of Latin America. Maryland has had a long-lasting relationship with Brazil, especially Rio de Janeiro with whom the State has had a 50 year long working relationship through the Maryland-Rio Partners of the Americas.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ANTHONY BROWN CELEBRATES 4TH ANNUAL SALVADORAN AMERICAN DAY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown celebrated the 4th Annual Salvadoran American Day Festival in Wheaton and presented a citation commemorating Salvadoran American Day in Maryland. The festival celebrates the vibrant and growing Salvadoran community in the State of Maryland and it is hosted by Montgomery County and the Salvadoran American Transnational Communities (COTSA). The festival featured an array of community services including a Latino Health Fair where residents had the opportunity to receive free and confidential health screenings such as blood pressure, cholesterol, vision, dental, HIV and more.





GOVERNOR O'MALLEY HONORED DURING EL SALVADOR'S 192ND INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

During the Salvadoran Embassy's celebration commemorating El Salvador's 192nd independence anniversary, Governor O'Malley was honored as one of three leaders that have worked extensively for the betterment of Salvadorans in the US. The other two recipients were Maryland State Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez and writer and poet Carlos Parada. The award was presented by El Salvador's Ambassador to the United States, Ruben Zamora in Washington, DC.



TOM PEREZ APPOINTED SECRETARY OF LABOR

Following the resignation of U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, President Barack Obama nominated Marylander Tom Perez to fill the cabinet position. Soon thereafter, The United States Senate confirmed Tom on a 54-46 vote and the President swore him in on July 21, 2013 and he became the first Dominican-American to serve on a Presidential cabinet in the history of our Country.

Prior to being appointed Secretary of Labor, Tom served as assistant attorney general for civil rights at the US Department of Justice, leading the same division where he worked for a decade as a federal employee beginning in the late 1980s. He also served as a member of the Montgomery County Council in Maryland from 2002-2006 and was appointed by Governor O'Malley as Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. He was a law professor at the University Of Maryland School Of Law for six years and a part-time professor at the George Washington School of Public Health. He received his Bachelor's degree from Brown University in 1983 and a master's of public policy and a law degree from Harvard University in 1987.

In order to celebrate this historic achievement by one of our own Marylanders, Governor O'Malley and the Commission hosted a reception in his honor. The Commission is incredibly proud of Tom and expects him to continue using his talents for the benefit of the community and our country.





PUBLIC MEETINGS

February 12, 2013

Legislative Night
State House
Annapolis, MD



May 22, 2013

Economic Development in the Hispanic Community
Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation
Largo, Maryland



July 8, 2013

Joint Chairs Meeting
Governor's Reception Room, State House
Annapolis, MD



September 18, 2013

Implementation of Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants
Chesapeake College
Easton, MD



November 20, 2013

The State of Education of Latinos in the State of Maryland
Maryland State Department of Education
Baltimore, MD



The Commission's Website

www.hispanic.maryland.gov

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs. At the top, the logo for 'MARYLAND .gov' and 'THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS' is visible, along with the 'GOCI' logo and social media icons. A search bar prompts users to 'Find services, agencies and more'. A navigation menu includes 'HOME', 'CALENDAR', 'RESOURCES', and 'CONTACT US'. The 'About Us' section lists links for 'Governor's Message', 'Commissioners', '2012 Annual Report', and 'Committees & Workplan'. The 'Ethnic Commissions' section lists various groups: African, African American, American Indian, Asian American, Caribbean, Hispanic, Middle Eastern American, and South Asian American. A featured image shows Lt. Governor Anthony Brown celebrating with the Salvadoran community. The 'Upcoming Events' section lists several events from September to October 2014. The 'Hispanic Agenda' section features a video player with a woman speaking, identified as Maria Martinez, with a QR code below her name. The footer contains contact information, privacy and accessibility links, and social media icons.

**Governor's Commission on
Hispanic Affairs**

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Jonathan Jayes-Green, Administrative Director

