

Fri 5/22/2020 12:24PM

From: Latinx GR latinxgr@gmail.com

Subject: Latinx Community Presentation

To: Mandy Bolter, Jim Talen, Robert Womack, Wayman Britt

Cc: Adnores Torres, Sergio Cira, Guillermo Cisneros

Hello Commissioners,

Thank you for the work you have been doing as part of the COVID Relief Subcommittee. We have been following your meetings, and yesterday, recognized an interest expressed to hear from groups working with communities of color who are being disproportionately impacted by this pandemic.

LatinxGR is a collaborative of five Latinx leadership organizations in the Grand Rapids area: the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Latino Community Coalition, Latina Network of West Michigan, West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the West Michigan Latino Network. These organizations convene on an as needed basis to advocate on behalf of our community, and have been activated during this pandemic. We have been involved in conversations about language accessibility for COVID information, support for small businesses, food distribution, COVID testing and medical care and navigation for those who may be infected.

LatinxGR also partnered with the Grand Rapids Area Mutual Aid Network, Movimiento Cosecha, and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation to launch [La Lucha Fund](#), which provides direct cash assistance to Kent County families who are not eligible for unemployment, CARES Act relief, or other state and federal assistance (more information [here](#)).

We would welcome the opportunity to come before the subcommittee next week to provide a brief presentation on the lessons we are learning, and the needs we see still existing for our Latinx community. Please let us know if this is something you could arrange.

Thank you for your consideration,
LatinxGR