



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE HISPANIC ROUNDTABLE ENDORSES ISSUE 6 COUNTY CHARTER TO ACHIEVE NEEDED CHANGE NOW

CLEVELAND, OH – September 30, 2009 – The Hispanic Roundtable has decided to endorse the New Cuyahoga Plan, appearing as Issue 6 on November's ballot. After further discussions with representatives from the New Cuyahoga Plan and the other county reform proposal appearing on the November ballot, Reform Done Right, it became clear that the New Cuyahoga Plan is the right proposal at the right time. Among other considerations, the Hispanic Roundtable decided to endorse the New Cuyahoga Plan [a county charter] because:

1. The time to reform the county government is now and only Issue 6 makes change now.
2. The Issue 6 [New Cuyahoga] Charter includes economic development opportunities that are important to the Hispanic community and to the goals of the Hispanic Roundtable.
3. The Issue 6 Charter provides important checks and balances to increase the accountability of county government and the use of our tax dollars.
4. The county government proposed by Issue 6 and the New Cuyahoga Charter has the greater potential to more effectively deliver social services to the Hispanic Community.
5. The Reform Done Right Issue 5 is vague and provides more questions than answers.

While the Hispanic Roundtable was initially disappointed that Hispanics were not included in the process of shaping the New Cuyahoga Plan, Issue 6 proponents have embraced our involvement and the Hispanic Roundtable has been assured of significant participation from here through the implementation of the new county charter. Indeed, one of the guiding principles of the new charter—as set forth in point four of the preamble to the Issue 6 Charter—is “an improved focus on equity for all our communities and citizens.” Effective immediately, the Issue 6 Charter movement will include a co-chair from the Hispanic Roundtable.

Building and Empowering the Hispanic Community.



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Given the assurances of meaningful participation, the increasing involvement of diverse leaders in Issue 6, and the fact that the new county charter is guided by the principle of equity for all, the Hispanic Roundtable is confident that the New Cuyahoga Plan and Issue 6 will provide Hispanics an opportunity to be partners in every phase of the transformation of the county government, including the transition to the new government and the appointment of key administrators.

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For more information, please contact José C. Feliciano, Chair of The Hispanic Roundtable, by telephone at 216-861-7827 or by email at JFeliciano@bakerlaw.com.

Mission Statement of the Hispanic Roundtable:

The Hispanic Roundtable is a not for profit organization whose mission is to act as a catalyst to empower the Hispanic Community to become full partners in the economic, education, political, civic, and social life of Greater Cleveland.

Building and Empowering the Hispanic Community.