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From: Sonia M Melara [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Shape California's Future
Cc: Helen Torres
Subject: A message to the 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioners,

Congratulations on your appointment to the Citizens Redistricting Commission. My name is Sonia Melara and I applied to be considered to be a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Unfortunately, I did not make it to the list sent to the Legislature. I applied because I believed it was my duty to insure that all Californian's were represented. However, this message is not about me. This message is about what the Editorial column of the San Francisco Chronicle refers to as "The Missing Faces at the Table", (Editorial, 2020, A10). I trust that everyone who was involved in the selection process considered diversity as an important selection criteria. However, the end result to date demonstrates that those efforts for diversity may not have been enough. There were at least 7 Latino/a names on the list of 35 names sent to the legislature, However, of the 8 select by the Legislature; **Not one is a Latino/a**. Why did this happen? Latinos make up approximately 40% of California's population. If you are to, "Shape California's Future", Latino/as must be at the table. It is now up to you to insure that there is fair representation on this Commission. Your first meeting is on August 4, and you will begin the selection process for the next 6 commissioners. I believe you have a major task ahead of you, and insuring that all voices are heard is foremost. Therefore, I ask that when deciding on your next 6 fellow commissioners, please assure that the Latino community is represented.

Sincerely,

Sonia E. Melara

References

Editorial (2020, July 27). The Missing Faces at the Table, San Francisco Chronicle, A10

Sonia E. Melara