



MOIA Commissioner leads discussion at breakfast roundtable commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month.

DJJ Breakfast Roundtable Commemorates Hispanic Heritage Month, Featuring Conversation with MOIA Commissioner Guillermo Linares

On Thursday, October 11th, the Department of Juvenile Justice hosted an innovative breakfast roundtable at its William Street headquarters in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The forum’s special guest was Guillermo Linares, Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs.

Commissioner Linares opened the ‘discussion in the round’ with insight and anecdotes drawn from his experience as an immigrant from the Dominican Republic who has served as a school teacher, Presidential advisor and Commissioner overseeing one of New York City’s most important social issues.

The forum was well attended by DJJ employees representing a broad and diverse spectrum of cultural origins, many of whom are immigrants themselves or the children of those who immigrated to the United States.

DJJ’s Romina Divincenzo recounted her family’s experience coming to the United States, saying “Commissioner Linares was such an important part of my family’s introduction to the States – long before the Office of Immigrant Affairs was created. I’m really happy to see that he’s still playing such an important role in helping so many other immigrants who now consider New York their home.”

Another Department staff member, Tania Dawson, added, “The fact that the City has taken the initiative to dedicate an office specifically to the needs of its immigrant population bodes well for the future of New York.”

The first-of-its-kind event in an intimate and interactive setting proved very popular, with dozens of employees participating in the conversation and pushing the question and answer segment beyond its scheduled end time.

