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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA



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Director

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS**

**Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Commission on Minority Affairs was held on Monday, August 19, 2019. Pursuant to public notice: Via video conference call between all locations: 1) Nevada State Business Center, 3300 W. Sahara Ave, Nevada Room, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, 2) Nevada Department of Business and Industry, 1830 College Pkwy, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89706, and 3) Conference call: Carson City: 775-687-0999, Las Vegas: 702-486-5260, Participant's Collaboration Code: 64575.

**1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Chair Chaney called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

B. Commissioners Present: Chair Donald Chaney (person), Vice Chair Williams (person), Janelle Conine (phone), C. E. Mercedes Krause (person), C. Amy Shaw (person), C. Kathleen Taylor (person), Counsel Gary Mathews, Deputy Director Marcel Schaerer, and Emily Ku, Management Analyst for the Commission on Minority Affairs.

C. Commissioners Absent: C. Hasaan Azam, C. Michael Flores, C. Adleen Stidhum

D. Public Attendance: Rosa Alejandre, Karl Catarata

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

none

**3. COMMISSION BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Approval of July 15, 2019 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)**

C. Williams moved to approve the minutes as amended. C. Krause seconded. The motion carried.

**B. Elections for Housing Subcommittee Chair**

C. Krause nominated herself for the Housing Subcommittee Chair. C. Williams made a motion to nominate C. Krause for the position of Housing Subcommittee Chair and C. Shaw seconded the motion. Motion carried. As the former Housing Subcommittee Chair, C. Chaney will pass on housing

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**COMMISSIONERS:** Chair Donald Chaney; Vice Chair Myisha Y. Williams; C. Hasaan Azam; C. Janelle Conine; C. Michael Flores; C. E. Mercedes Krause, C. Amy Emiko Shaw, C. Adleen B. Stidhum; C. Kathleen Taylor

contacts to C. Krause.

## **C. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)**

### **1. Education**

C. Krause said there is a Native American student welcome at UNLV on Friday, August 23. She said it is important to support the Native American student community because less than 1% of the Native American community attend college and completion rates are even lower. This event has grown larger each year.

### **2. Health**

C. Taylor has been building partnerships within the health community and met with former Commissioner Yolanda Flore to see advice and guidance on leading the Health Subcommittee. She established a webinar collaboration between her business and the Nevada Women's Business Center to feature her and her work in the community, in addition the UNLV Medical School. C. Taylor attended La Oportunidad event with Business and Industry on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and helped to disseminate information about Business and Industry. At that event, she met Jose Melendrez, Executive Director of the Community Partnerships for the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences. She will follow up with him to explore some collaborative activities. She also connected with Tina Dortch and Jessica Padron with the Office of Minority Health. She is going to coordinate a webinar series to feature their work and areas of study that aligns with our mission.

### **3. Housing**

C. Krause said education is her primary arena but housing affects everyone. She is looking forward to chairing the Housing Subcommittee.

### **4. Workforce Development**

none

### **5. Economic & Business Development**

C. Shaw said that McCarran had a construction workshop on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 people attended. RTC is going to plan something similar for their projects. August 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Committed to Our Business Community event at the Las Vegas Convention Center, South Hall. September 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon, McCarran will be hosting a vendor and service fair to introduce companies to the businesses operating at the airport and to the airlines. As part of the follow-up construction workshop, they heard that there are some challenges with small businesses getting insurance and bonding, McCarran is planning to host another event for companies to be able to discuss their specific issues. The airport has committed to trying to find programs to work with them. For example, if a company does not have enough insurance to drive across the ramp, then the airport may provide escorts so they can do those jobs. They are also looking to break up a project into smaller ones, so there is a lot of commitment by McCarran to support local small businesses.

C. Williams attended three events in July. First, she attended the Las Vegas Stadium Authority Board to learn about the progress of the stadium and the opportunities available to minority owned businesses. The Board introduced the new stadium operator AEG. The President of AEG and local

contact attended the meeting. She also attended the Mobility in Vegas Breakfast at the Urban Chamber. There were presentations by RTC, Lyft, and Uber about emerging transportation trends and opportunities. C. Williams and M. A. Ku attended the meeting that announced future DBE goals by transportation representatives. C. Williams asked why McCarran was reporting lower DBE goals than other airports and was told because they had a higher volume of contracts. It was explained that the bigger the job, the more likely that there are fewer DBEs that can actually perform the work. Because McCarran is one of the largest agencies, their jobs tend to be much larger. By the nature of DBEs, they are less likely to be able to perform. The goals are set based on availability, qualifications, and capacity. We need to build up the capacity of DBEs in order for them to compete. C. Shaw said that the last DBE goal was set at 6.8% and based on the last disparity study, it is now set at 16%.

C. Chaney said there are many activities the Commission need to monitors, not just the Raiders stadium expansion but the convention center expansion, Maryland Parkway expansion, etc.

C. Krause said that the Native American community just started a grassroots directory of businesses and asked if other communities have similar lists. C. Williams said the short answer is no, there is not a comprehensive list but there are some organizations that are compiling directories at a grassroots level, but utilizing Commissioners is a good place to start. Perhaps the Commission can ask more questions about it in the future. The tracking for diverse businesses to ensure they are meeting all qualifications, depending on the industry and background of the work that they are doing and making sure all their qualifications are up to date, is a very difficult task. C. Taylor suggested asking the minority chambers of commerce to provide a list of their membership. She also said that NDOT opened a business resource center, specifically to give resources for vendors or suppliers that want to enter into contracting/subcontracting phase with the DBE certification. They actually have it staffed, and C. Taylor plans to tour the facility on Friday.

M. A. Ku attended the Nevada Hispanic Business Group's monthly meetings and met the Hispanic outreach liaison for RTC, their first full time Hispanic outreach person.

## 6. Legislative

C. Williams does not have any additional legislative updates. She would like to start scheduling meetings with Business and Industry administrators that Deputy Director Schaerer suggested at the last meeting. M. A. Ku will arrange those meetings and inquire if the Commissioners can be introduced the biweekly administrators meeting. Director Brown will be in the office after Labor Day and can schedule it for some time in September. C. Chaney would like to thank the Commission, C. Williams, and M. A. Ku for their work in the past legislative session and to previous Chair Berna Rhodes-Ford for her leadership.

M. A. Ku met with the head of APAICS, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies and they provide non-partisan training for people who want to run for office. They are based in Washington, DC and want to come to Las Vegas in February to conduct a training for 20-25 people who are of Asian descent and are looking to run for office. They train people regardless of political affiliation. C. Williams asked what role they are looking for us to play. M. A. Ku said that we did not discuss specific details and this was just preliminary discussions, but identifying speakers could be a possibility. As she gets more details, she will bring it back to the Commission.

## 7. Community Liaison

none

### **D. Management Analyst update (for discussion and possible action)**

#### **1. Upcoming events –**

- a. Wednesday, August 21 from 10am-1pm – the IRS is hosting a Small Business Forum and discuss ways to help the underserved community.
- b. Thursday, August 22 from 8am-1pm – Committed to our Business Community event at the Convention Center South Hall, we will have a table there and several Commissioners are attending.

#### **2. Budget –**

M. A. Ku would like to request a Microsoft Surface Tablet for the amount of \$1,247, which includes a mandatory warranty. C. Chaney recapped the tablet discussion from last meeting. C. Taylor moved to approve the purchase of the Microsoft Surface Tablet with the warranty for Management Analyst Ku. C. Shaw seconded. Motion passed. M. A. Ku said the budget for the year is around thirty-five thousand. It will be divided into the fifteen thousand we received from the legislature to be spent by the Commissioner expenses, such as travel, events, etc., and the seven thousand in the original Governor's budget will go towards the Management Analyst's laptop, mileage reimbursement, and travel. The Commission can always revisit the budget mid-year and recalibrate the budget if need be. C. Krause asked about mileage. M. A. Ku said we currently do not reimburse Commissioners for mileage unless it is connected to air travel or if it is an excess of 50 miles. C. Chaney would like to have the Commissioners to be more mobile and possibly have an extended meeting in September to scope out the Strategic Plan and the direction of the Commission. That would cover the Northern Commissioners travel down here and would also allow us to travel to the rural regions. We need to be more visible in the rest of the state. M. A. Ku went over video conferencing and reimbursement policies for travel and registration. She would like to develop new policies and procedures for reimbursement so that the Commission does not have to vote on every small request. C. Taylor asked if the funds can be used to collaborate with another organization for event expenses.

M. A. Ku said yes, but there are restrictions on what the funds can be used for; it cannot be used for food and drinks but it can be used toward registration fees.

## **4. NEW BUSINESS**

C. Taylor asked for a flyer to promote future Commission meetings. M. A. Ku will work on this.

C. Conine just wanted to give a point of information that the Reno Airport is now a Safe Place to help mitigate human trafficking and sex trafficking. All airport employees will be trained on how to recognize if anyone is in trouble.

C. Taylor asked for clarifications about the ethics law pertaining to gifts. Counsel Mathew said not to be in a situation where you are accepting items on behalf of the Commission. If they hand out an item to the general public, that is fine.

C. Krause asked about use of the email to start the communication with other agencies like Indian Health Services. She feels like in this instance, it would be better to send it from the Commission's official email than from a personal email address. M. A. Ku can send emails from the official email. C. Krause asked if we had official letterhead, and M. A. Ku responded that we just use the state seal.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rosa Alejandre (Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, also known as the Nevada Health Link) wanted to let everyone know that open enrollment starts November 1<sup>st</sup>, and as they are transitioning over to a new platform, healthcare.gov will no longer be used. They are on their own platform, and they are reaching out to the public to make sure they are aware of that. They provide free assistance, in person, over the phone, or electronically at nevadahealthlink.com. The resource guide shows a list of agencies that will also offer free assistance.

Karl Catarata (staff member with U.S. Congresswoman Susie Lee) came out to support the Commission. He said to please reach out to him if there is anything their office can assist with. Congresswoman Lee's district encompasses parts of Henderson, Boulder City, Spring Valley, and Summerlin. They also assist with immigration issues.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am
- Next Meeting: Monday, September 16, 2019 at 9:30 am