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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, July 20, 2020. Pursuant to public notice and the Governor's suspension of the statute that requires public meetings to have a physical location, this meeting was conducted by a Webex videoconference call.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Chair Chaney called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

B. Commissioners Present (phone): Chair D. Edward Chaney, Vice Chair Myisha Williams, C. Hasaan Azam, C. E. Mercedes Krause, C. Melendrez, C. Amy Shaw, and C. Kathleen Taylor.

C. Commissioners Absent: none

D. Staff Present: Emily Ku, Management Analyst for the Commission on Minority Affairs

E. Public Attendance: Chris Reynolds, Shani Coleman, Janet Serial

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Approval of June 15, 2020 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)

C. Krause moved to approve the minutes. C. Shaw seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Presentation by Shani Coleman, Director of Community and Economic Development for Clark County

Two months ago, Clark County established 3 small business support programs. One is the small business stabilization grant, which they are not currently accepting applications right now but processing those applications and awarding small businesses \$5,000-\$10,000 depending on the business. We do have two programs that we will begin accepting applications tomorrow. One is called the small business rental assistance, and it will pay up to ten thousand in back rent for small program. The second program available tomorrow is called the protective retrofit. It will reimburse small businesses up to five thousand for facility modification or operational modification in order for their business to operate safely. That includes installing plexiglass, purchasing PPE, installing super air filtration system, no touch doors, or thermometers. Both programs are for businesses with 20 employees or less. The SBA has the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) programs, which went to technically small businesses because the federal government defines small businesses as 500 employees or less. The micro businesses that maybe don't always have the resources that couldn't get to those resources as fast, so that's why this program is designed for businesses with employees 20 or less. They looked at where do people need the most help. The rental assistance program is also a blessing because not only does the County help businesses stay in their location, but if they haven't been paying rent, then landlord takes on the financial burden, and they are businesses too. With the rental assistance program, the applicant is the tenant but the funds get paid directly to the landlord. If the tenant owns five thousand in rent, the program will cover all five thousand. It requires landlord participation, and if the landlord decides to take the rent funds, we ask that they not take any eviction action related to payment of rent for the next 90 days. Some of the basic eligibility requirements are that the business has to have 20 employees or less, so it can be a sole proprietor, and it must be a commercial location. Before they could not have accepted any SBA dollars, but now that is changed. They could have received up to twenty-five thousand dollars in SBA money and still eligible to participate in the Clark County programs. They have to be in business for at least 6 months prior to the start to COVID to be eligible. They also have to have a Clark County business license and their business needs to be located in unincorporated Clark County. The cities such as City of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas have their own programs. The other program is a protective retrofit and the eligibility is slightly different. Because this program is about public safety and public health, the County wanted to make sure that as many businesses as possible are eligible to receive the funds. This particular program is open to non-profits, and the business had to have been operating before March 1st. Applications will be available July 21st to August 4th. All those who apply and are eligible, they will receive grant dollars as long as there is enough funding. If the County receives more applications, then they will move to a lottery system. There is \$4 million in each program, so hopefully there is enough to support a good number of businesses in unincorporated Clark County. There's a likelihood that they will have a 2nd round of the stabilization grant, which gives businesses working capital. The businesses will be required to submit receipts for public safety and health items. The website is <http://clarkcountynv.gov/economicdevelopment>.

C. Azam chaired the rest of the meeting.

C. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)

1. Education

C. Krause said that as we get closer to the start of school, it's a little bit of an anxious time with the rise in COVID cases in our community and figuring out what we are going to do. The local National Education Association of Southern Nevada has been very vocal in keeping our leaders accountable

for student and teacher safety, so we have leadership in that area. The state gave guidelines on what they would like to see in terms of COVID-related safety requirements. They asked for individual districts to send one plan that has options. For Clark County School District (CCSD), their three options are: 1.) going back to school as normal with the state safety requirements; 2.) hybrid plan with 3 parts to it. The class is split into half, one group is there Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday they would clean the school, and Thursday and Friday would be the second group of students; 3.) online education. The only one that has been discussed in detail is the hybrid one, but those are the three options. From listening to the community, a lot of families are turning to homeschooling because of the uncertainty. August 10th is the staff return date, and August 24th is when classes are set to begin. CCSD is asking for teachers to learn Canvas, which is probably going to be the online platform for distance learning. UNLV has a new Anti-Black Racism taskforce to support Black students and employees. Also, we discussed the UNLV mascot at the last meeting. Since then there has been an NPR radio show where the Native American Student Association President addressed the mascot issue. There's a bit of controversy on what people believe the mascot represent, and on the show, there were several viewpoints presented, including from Danny Tarkanian. Also, there has been a Nevada Indian Commission Education committee put together, so she will be sharing some information from that group. The Native American Student Association is involved, a representative from CCSD, and representatives from community colleges in Northern Nevada also has some representation because it's a statewide committee. C. Krause offered to take any questions to the committee. C. Melendrez asked if the Commission is allowed to put forward a statement and have they done anything like this in the past? C. Azam said he has heard from many parents about their children's education and distance learning wasn't that effective. Also many families are not equipped to do distance learning. He recommends having further discussions before moving forward with a motion. C. Melendrez asked if the school board can provide a fact sheet on funding and if students are not enrolled to provide more education to the parents. C. Azam said the Washoe County School District meeting is tomorrow at 2pm. C. Krause said maybe it would be better if it came from the Nevada Department of Education rather than the individual school districts. C. Taylor asked if C. Krause could explore other countries are doing. They may have reverted back to shutdown and what they've done in terms of reopening.

2. Health

C. Taylor attended a webinar on June 22nd sponsored by UNLV and various resource partners. Commissioner Melendrez was a part of that webinar, and it was basically featuring COVID-19 on diverse populations. There was a diverse panel of experts giving various perspectives. Regarding COVID-19 in Nevada, as of yesterday, there were 1,300 new COVID-19 cases and 35,822 confirmed total cases in Nevada. Looking at in from a national perspective, there is 3.8 million confirmed cases in the United States, 1.12 million recovered, and 143,000 deaths. As of July 14th, according to the Center for Public Integrity, 11 states are in the red zone for their positivity rates, meaning more than 10% diagnostic test results are positive, and unfortunately Nevada is one of the 11 states categorized being in the red zone. It's critical that the state and the nation be in compliance with PPE and social distancing.

C. Melendrez said there's a lot happening, with unfortunately Nevada popping up on the red list. Through UNLV, we're involved in a lot of different areas, and just received some funding from the state of Nevada for 400 contact tracers. The School of Public Health is training 60 contact tracers right now, and our faculty and staff have written over 35 grants, equating to \$1 million worth of grants related to COVID-19. C. Melendrez said he completed a webinar with several community partners on COVID-19 and it was a big hit. He will help host a similar webinar in Spanish because

Latinos are hit really hard right now, and there's a big challenge with the population wearing masks and the social distancing. He was asked to join the Clark County Latinx taskforce. They are mobilizing to do a lot of work in those areas and there a lot of collaboration with the minority communities where we know there's a lot of work to be done. The Spanish webinar will be on Tuesday, July 28th from 6-8pm. C. Melendrez helped to organize a meeting with US Health and Human Services Region IX Administrator, Commander Matthew Johns on Wednesday, July 15th with several community groups to explain what was happening in the local area with different community perspectives. Two individuals from FEMA were also in attendance, another person from HHS, and in total, there were 17 people at the meeting. It was a really honest conversation about COVID-19 and the impact on different communities, and a really productive meeting. C. Krause asked if anyone from the Indian Health Services or the Indian Center attended the meeting and offered to share their contact information. C. Melendrez apologized that he had very little turnaround time for to arrange the meeting and said it would be great to get them connected.

3. Housing

C. Taylor said that she attended a webinar on June 22nd with the Nevada Housing Authority, and they gave updates on how the housing sector is being impacted and the resources available for residents impacted by COVID-19. Also, she attended a webinar on June 24th with Opportunity Alliance of Nevada. They had a panel of experts to talk about how housing is being impacted by COVID-19 and the resources available. M. A. Ku said that the state of Nevada is rolling out a housing assistance program for \$30 million dollars in CARES money. The Clark County portal is not live yet, but the rest of the state is live. This program will help families with rental assistance. People are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. There are some income requirements that they will have to meet. They are also going to be rolling out the commercial rental assistance program soon, and those details are forthcoming. C. Azam asked how long families can be on the assistance. M. A. Ku said it is not on the flyer but will look into it.

4. Workforce Development

C. Taylor said she highly recommends the latest issue of Nevada Business Magazine. It has a fantastic article featuring various business owners entitled "Reinventing Nevada's workforce after shut down." She read Heather Korbolic's quote from the article, "This disruption created an almost overnight pivot to a more nontraditional landscape of how work is done, and that really brings opportunities for a more diversified workplace and a more diversified workforce." She also quoted from the article, "That shift in traditional work environments lends itself to a new industry. This new industry helps businesses develop skills necessary to working remote including virtual training platforms, customer service call support, data entry, record processing and virtual estimating for contracting. Those are all areas where employers will either need to hire skilled employees or train their own." She found that article really compelling and wanted to share that with the Commission. C. Azam said that the Nevada Business Magazine can also be found online.

5. Economic & Business Development

C. Shaw said they are continuing to work with airport businesses on flexibility regarding hours of operation and opening and closing based on flights and load factors. There are lot of local women and minority small companies wanting to seek certification. They are working one on one with those companies and making introductions to the purchasing and construction divisions so they can get hands on help as they need to. McCarran has suspended their workshop and resource center due to

COVID, but they are assisting companies through phone calls that want to do business. C. Azam said the Reno Airport is seeing something similar. They are seeing slightly better trends than the national average in terms of pass through traffic, and its overall economic impact. About 80% of Las Vegas passengers are actually visitors, whereas only 55% in Reno are visitors. They are keeping a very close eye on it and working with all our concessionaires and the economic development team. He briefly went over the trends on the overall economic impact. In April, we saw the bottom for passenger traffic all over the US. Reno and Las Vegas were hit hard too, around a reduction in 95% traffic. Then we started to see the numbers going up and exceeded expectations in June because there was a lot of pent up demand in the leisure sector. The business travelers are the bread and butter for airlines, and we don't expect business travelers to travel again for 6-12 months. October 1 is when the CARES act restrictions are lifted, where they have to offer a minimum level of service. Then typically November is one of the lower performing months.

C. Williams attended an online presentation on Tuesday, July 14th. It was an overview on diversity outreach in Henderson Event Center in Green Valley. It was led by the City of Henderson, the Vegas Golden Knights, and Whiting Turner. Their presentation acknowledged that past diversity efforts had failed. They hadn't put in the necessary effort and are trying to correct that now. They gave a brief overview as well as a pre-application packet that interested subcontractors can fill out. It was very much construction facing. A question was asked toward the end about diversity goals for the project, and they quoted 10%. There were some follow up questions that did not get answered, so she is not sure how they are going to be tracking or reporting it. C. Williams wanted to put this on the Commission's radar.

M. A. Ku said following Ms. Coleman's presentation on Clark County grants, she wanted to highlight the grants from the City of Las Vegas and City of North Las Vegas. The City of Las Vegas just finished their first round of their Business Preparedness Grant, which was four thousand dollars for businesses to purchase PPE and facility retrofitting. They are starting their second round with an additional \$2 million in CARES funds. They are accepting applications between now and July 31st. In the first wave, they funded one thousand businesses. They City of North Las Vegas is partnering with Prestamos for a Small Business Stabilization Forgivable Loan program. They can receive up to \$25,000 with a 0% interest rate to help mitigate with COVID-19. To be eligible, they cannot already be receiving PPP funds. The state is also planning to roll out a program. M. A. Ku will forward that information as soon as that program is announced.

6. Legislative

C. Williams said she appreciated the Commissioners for connecting with other groups with shared legislative interests and thanked C. Taylor for connecting with Three Square. She also thanked former Commissioner Stidhum for connecting her with contacts at Clark County to talk about potentially looking at the ESB initiative that we took up in the last session, as well as looking at ways to help small businesses recover any pay back loans post-COVID. She encouraged Commissioners to put forward initiatives and ideas that they would like to pursue.

C. Melendrez asked if the Commission is allowed to write letters and give public comment.

C. Williams said the Commission can support issues that impact to minority community but not on partisan politics or individual candidates. C. Melendrez said that the budget decisions made will disproportionately affect the minority community. C. William recommended looking into any studies or data that supports that point. C. Taylor asked how communities of color are being affected – is it lack of access technology, digital learning? C. Melendrez said access to technology at home is part of the issue. Many families utilize the libraries for Internet access, but because of the social distancing,

maybe 1/3 of computers are available right now. M. A. Ku said in the state budget bill that was just passed, they set aside \$50 million in CARES money for disadvantaged students.

7. Community Liaison

C. Azam said Sheriff Balaam's outreach community has a lot of representation from minority groups and is now meeting every month. They met July 9th, and the Sheriff provided an update on what his offices are doing. He said that criminal justice reform that might be taken up by the legislature, and they will be monitoring bills in the special session. They are working on programs on criminal justice reform and wanted to make sure that information gets to this Commission and get some ideas from the Commission on what he should be touching on. He is interested in talking to the Commission. C. Williams just reiterated the parliamentary procedure that all guest speakers first need approval from the chair before they are added to the agenda.

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

- a. M. A. Ku said with the recent budget changes, Gary Mathews will no longer be able to serve as our counsel.
- b. Community events – M. A. Ku would like to highlight some upcoming webinars. The LVGEA is co-hosting a webinar with the Urban and Vegas Chambers on Thursday at 2pm called "Equitable Communities". The Opportunity Alliance has a webinar series on racial economic justice. This Thursday at noon the topic is on health, and next week is on small business entrepreneurship, then justice system and education. On August 5th at 1pm, C. Williams will be featured on a panel called "Black Business Forum" by the UNR Innovation Center.
- c. New website – The Commission's new website is now up and can be found at <http://minorityaffairs.nv.gov>. The link from the Department of Business and Industry will get linked to the new website very soon. The agendas and meeting information will be found on the new website. There is a page dedicated to data resources that focuses on data disaggregated by race and ethnicity and categorized by the different subcommittees.
- d. Census update – Clark County has surpassed its 2010 Census response rate. Right now Clark County's 2020 response rate is 61.6% vs 60.4% in 2010. Washoe County is higher at 64.5%.
- e. Newsletter will be sent out sometime this week. At the beginning of the pandemic, the newsletter was sent out every other week, and now it is sent out when there is new information to be pushed out. C. Azam asked which social media channel the Commission utilizes. M. A. Ku said the Commission uses Facebook and Twitter in addition to the website.

4. NEW BUSINESS

None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Reynolds from ASP Cares said that SYNChronicity, a large conference on LGBTQ health, is conducting a pre-conference webinar on "Ending the HIV epidemic and Social Justice: COVID-19, HIV, and the Black Community", to be held on July 29th.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am
- Next Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2020 at 9:30 am