



**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, June 13, 2022. Pursuant to public notice, the meeting was conducted in person and telephone conference.

**1. OPENING (Call to order & roll call)**

This meeting was called to order by Chair Chaney at 9:32 am.

Commissioners in attendance: Chair D. Edward Chaney, Vice-Chair Myisha Boyce, C. Kathleen Taylor, C. Jose Melendrez, C. De Luca, C. Amy Shaw, C. Mercedes Krause

Commissioners not in attendance: C. Angelica Villarta, C. Hassan Azam,

Staff in attendance: Angie Rojas, Management Analyst for the Department of Business and Industry

Public in attendance: Marcel Schaerer, Deputy Director, Department of Business and Industry, Erika Hernandez, Public Utilities Commission, Ken Evans, Urban Chamber of Commerce, Gabriela Wyatt, US Bank, Nic Steele, Access Community Capital, Eric Moreno, US Bank, Gina Contreras, US Bank, Michele Gonsalves, USB Bank, Janet Serial, NAACP, Anabel Navarro, Tyler Shaw, Angie Guerrero.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT (1<sup>st</sup> PERIOD)**

Ken Evans, president for the Urban Chamber of Commerce. I'd like to say, thank you. I'm glad I was able to be here for a minute. First, and foremost on behalf of the urban Chamber of commerce. Our board of directors, our staff volunteers, and ultimately our members I want to say, thank you very much to this commission. You've done a lot of great work to create an environment that helps our small diverse businesses be successful not only getting through code, but ultimately doing what's necessary to continue to build businesses to build our community. So, that's definitely great.

Appreciate it. 1st, and foremost I want to say, thank you very much to Chair Cheney and Vice Chair Williams for your service, for your leadership, it's not lost on me that in any given organization, it's imperative that you have good, solid leadership in order to move a vision and mission for it, and the 2 of you have definitely done that along with all your colleagues on the commission. So again, I want to take this time to say, thank you at the same time, I won't be premature, but in anticipation of another agenda item, I want to say. Congratulations and thank you in advance prospective member. Next deal and prospective member Gabrielle Wyatt for your eventual service on this commission as well. From my perspective, as a member, there have been chamber I've already observed. These 2 individuals and the efforts you've made again to help us with building businesses to build our community, and I'm sure that by your presence on this commission, you'll continue those efforts as well. So, again, on behalf of the urban chamber board of directors, our staff, the volunteers, and again, ultimately, the members we represent in terms of small, diverse businesses, I say, thank you to the commission. And I say best of success to the 2 individuals that are looking to join the commission today, thank you very much.



### 3. COMMISSION BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

#### A. Approval of May 16, 2022, meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)

Vice-Chair Boyce moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Melendrez second. The motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Swearing-in of new Commissioners

Gabriel Wyett and Nic Steele were sworn into the Commission by Chair Chaney. Commissioners Yette De Luca, Angelica Villarta, and Jose Melendrez were reappointed to a second term. 1 position open still to fill out.

#### C. Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioner Kathleen Taylor was elected as the new Chair (*Chair Taylor took over the meeting from this point forward*)

Commissioner Melendrez was elected as the new Vice-Chair

#### D. Election of Subcommittees

- Results on elections were as follows:

Legislative – Commissioners Taylor and De Luca

Economic/Business Development – Commissioners Wyett and Steele

Healthcare – Commissioner Melendrez

Education – Commissioner Krause

Community Liaison – Vacant

Workforce Development – Vacant

Housing – Vacant

#### E. Management Analyst Update (for discussion and possible action)

- Provided details on the approval of the video from fiscal. We are in hopes to get the approval pushed before June 30<sup>th</sup> so we can use funds from FY22.

- Working change on the website, the resource site we have, we are going to change it to data hub since most of the information that we have on that side is more of a data hub other than resources. I am working internally to provide resources for each of the issues that we oversee, and I am requesting from the commissioners to please assist me with that.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS (for discussion only)

#### Announcements

Vice-Chair Melendrez,

We were working with the Catholic Charities and several other nonprofit groups around what they're calling a new commerce conference. That will be taking place June 17<sup>th</sup> at our lady, Las Vegas. Basically, it's working with refugees who are coming to Nevada, undocumented folks, anybody who might fall in those categories. And so it's a new effort



out of the governor's office for new Americans. Part of the goal that day is to create a committee system that would help to support those folks, as they're coming into Nevada and again, it's an effort that's being made by the governor's office and Catholic charities. Also, for those of you, who don't know, I chair the Nevada Minority, Health and Equity Coalition. The Coalition is part of the University School of public health, and we think we're going back live November 18<sup>th</sup>, we're hosting our this year's impact summit. I would love for our commissions here to be to be a part of that and that will be live and virtual for our friends of North.

Commissioner Shaw,

- June 23, 2022, Stakeholder meeting at Harry Reid International Airport on June 23rd from 10:00 to 11:30 am. And that's to set the (DBE) Disadvantage Business Enterprise triannual goal for fiscal years 23 to 25. It's on construction of professional services, so we really want to get input from the community, and hope that people will come out.
- in July, we are hopeful that we are going to start a disparity and availability study statewide and Harry Reid will enter to an inter local agreement with RTC, Southern Nevada, and it will we have a one yearlong study. They will be reaching out to small local minority, and women business as well as the large companies to find out what the barriers are if there are any toward companies participating in public transportation projects, and we will be sending the notice out to the commission as well.
- I've been encouraging everybody. The businesses are really struggling right now and retaining employees and getting product and paying high higher delivery costs. Please support our local businesses. Know that they're not raising the prices to couch people, but really to stay alive. So, I'd like to share that message as well.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT (2<sup>ND</sup> PERIOD)

Marcel Schaerer, Deputy Director for the Department of Business and Industry

On behalf of our Director, Terry Reynolds I will like just to thank you all commissioners for everything that you have done to advance this wonderful cause of minorities.

Remember moving forward that you are the voice to many minorities residing in Nevada, and you advocated for what they do. So, again, thank you, I want to take the opportunity also, just to thank immensely with a lot of gratitude, what commissioner Cheney Commissioner Boyce and Commissioner Azam has done for this commission during their tenure.

Commissioner Wyatt, and Commissioner Steele we welcome you to this Commission.

We welcome you to think out of the box and contribute to their many efforts. There's wonderful individuals as you move forward. Equally, I want to welcome Commission of Taylor commissioner, or I will just say Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Melendrez to a space of continuing with the challenge of connecting the dots differently in addressing the matters of minorities, as we move forward. So, once again, I just wanted to take the opportunity to Thank you for being part of this Commission, and your tireless effort. All of you Commissioners as you advance that voice that I mentioned, and advocacy for minorities.



Thank you!

Janet Serial, NAACP

I am the health committee chair for the Reno sparks and I have a question as part of my public comments.

On applications for the open position in the North, are those applications close? Are you still taking applications? I just want clarity.

Chair Taylor,

Unfortunately we were following Robert's Rules of Orders, so pardon me, Miss serial Commissioners cannot, and the Chair cannot comment during this time. However, that is an excellent question, and if you would please forward any inquiries or questions regarding that to miss Angie so she can properly address that, Thank you.

## 6. NEXT MEETING

July 18, 2020, at 9:30 am in person and remotely.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Before we adjourn, I would just like to address the Commission and just reiterate these words that were brought to our attention on our last committee meeting, and it was spoken so eloquently by our very own Deputy Director Schaerer where he said he looks at this commission from "A to F"

**A** for action and awareness, because you provide plenty of awareness out there

**B** for being bold and brave in addition of being a bridge to our communities

**C** for coordinating things, or for challenging other individuals to get on the same page

**D** for being so determined no matter what to advance the purpose and mission of NCMA

**E** engaging individuals and how to engage other groups

**F** for facilitating interaction

So, with that inspiration, we will move forward in this commission based upon these "A to F" tips, and well wishes going forward together.

Commissioner Shaw moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wyett second. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.