



**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, May 16, 2022. Pursuant to public notice, the meeting was conducted in person and telephone conference.

1. OPENING

A. Call to order and roll call: Chair Chaney called the meeting at 9:34 am.

Commissioners Present: Chair D. Edward Chaney, Vice-Chair Myisha Boyce, C. Hassan Azam, C. Kathleen Taylor, C. Jose Melendrez, C. Angelica Villarta, C. De Luca

Commissioners not in attendance: C. Amy Shaw, C. Mercedes Krause

Staff Present: Angie Rojas, Management Analyst for the Department of Business & Industry

Public Attendance: Marcel Schaerer, Deputy Director, Department of Business and Industry, Carrie Foley, Program Officer for the Department of Business and Industry, Lea Case, Belz & Case Government Affairs.

B. Silent Meditation & Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Chaney, In the mist of silent meditation let us not forget those that are less fortunate and also the passing of Commissioner Taylor's brother.

C. Land Acknowledgement:

C. Villarta, recognized that here in Nevada we stand on the land of the Wa She Shu-Washoe Numu - N. Paiute Nuwe - Western Shoshone Nuwu- S. Paiute. and the 27 Sovereign tribal nations in Nevada.

Before moving into public comments, Chair Chaney and Commissioners thanked:

- Ms. Carrie Foley for working with the Commission in the interim period
- Ms. Angie Rojas for joining the Commission
- Ms. Emily Ku for her great work she did before transitioning out



2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

A. Approval of April 18, 2022, meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)

Commissioner Melendrez moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Taylor second. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)

a. Community Liaison, C. Azam

Reported on Sheriff's Outreach Committee primarily faith based but it brings different backgrounds. During COVID the committee was meeting once a month but now that everything is slowly going back to normal the committee will be meeting on a quarterly basis.

Commissioner Azam plans to continue to attend the meeting for the remaining of his term with the Commission, and once there is a replacement for the north, and has the willingness to sit on the committee he will be transferring that position to that person. Until then he will communicate what is happening on the North.

Commissioner Villarta on community updates:

C. Villarta started the updates with saying Happy Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. There have been important events going on in the community; last week we had one with One APIA which it focused on the importance of the Asian America, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and Middle Eastern ability to vote and the impact that it can have in the long term. By 2060 we are expected to be in the nation over 40 million individuals. The advocacy and the quest for more Asian Americans to start to vote and breaking down barriers and stereotypes for misinformation has been a key focus. United Way of Southern Nevada also had an event, which also focused on advancing the leader in the state of Nevada for AAPs and NHPI's. Suicide prevention meeting with Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition also focus on AAPI the importance of inclusive language, resources, and support for the communities.

b. Legislative Updates, Vice-Chair Boyce

Chair Chaney thanked Vice-Chair Boyce for her leadership and work with the Commission. Vice-Chair responded with gratitude to Chair's words of appreciation to her.

On last meeting we voted on two legislative measures to move forward, and we are in the process of drafting those now. The fact that we have been able to grow so much is a testament to the work of this Commission and hopefully with our next legislative move we will be able to get even more support staff to ensure those efforts are successful. My commitment before I got is to make sure there is draft text for this body to continue the work within the legislation session to move forward. We talked Statewide disparity study. It is very hard to address issues and disparities in minority communities when we don't have the data to back it up and we know that



is there, we see it on the ground, we see it on our jobs, we see it as members of this community, so getting something significant will allow us to really push the needle with the data driven capacity is going to be really important. So, we have some of that language drafted already from two sessions ago so, we are going to resurrect that and see how we can continue to get support and forward the work of this commission.

c. Economic/Business Development, C. Villarta

1. Later in April there was a conference from a social media group, Asian Hustle Network Conference brought together AAPI entrepreneurs from all over the nation that have never been to Las Vegas or have just started their business during the pandemic. This social media group started with 300, within two months they hit over 3,000 and last month there were about 500,000 so what we are seeing is that there is a lot of people starting their business and moving into entrepreneurship and shifting into that mind set of overcoming whatever has been holding them back in the past and assimilating into their role and breaking into that in order to start their new businesses.

2. The morning of May 4th I met with Clark County Economic Development, they are providing technical assistance program with capital providers

3. Small Business Resource Fair at the Law Library

C. Azam the story for the Northern Nevada we have met with section resource bridge the gap with new commissioners

MA Rojas reminder from Commissioner Shaw:

- A Job Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th from 8:00 a.m. to noon in the Commissioners Meeting Room at Terminal 1, Harry Reid International Airport.
- Harry Reid International Airport with RTC has scheduled a Stakeholder Meeting to discuss Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals for fiscal years 2023-2025 for federally funded projects at Harry Reid International Airport, Henderson Executive Airport, North Las Vegas Airport, Overton-Perkins Field, Jean Sport Aviation Center and RTC. The meeting will be held on June 23, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room at Terminal 1, Harry Reid International Airport.

d. Workforce Development C. Taylor

Google plans to spend \$30million in Nevada on improvements, site expansion, donations and other investments this year. Company officials announced at its Henderson facility. Google plans to improve its Southern Nevada data center and expand its second data center, located in Storey County among other plans. The investment also includes a partnership with the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to offer Google Career Certificates and a \$100,000 donation to the Clark County School District to expand its career and technical education programming.

e. Housing, C. Taylor

A local developer is hoping to make homeownership more attainable. Touchstone Living broke ground on the new Independence community with 1600 townhomes at Vegas Valley and



Hollywood. The community is being built on the site of the former Royal Links golf course. Prices will start in the 200's.

f. Health, C. Melendrez.

During the NFL kick off I was invited to a news announcement the NFL was bringing attention to cancer awareness. The even took place at one of the Nevada Health Centers. A lot of diversity, African American and Latinos were in attendance.

Big things on the public health world, through CDC Nevada is receiving \$17 million grant to increase the diversity of professionals. UNR, a lot of our partners in the North have the component of it. we hired two full time recruiters for the School of Public Health, to bring awareness about professions in public health. Like the Dean has said before, the pandemic has been a bad thing, but it has been good for public health because now everyone knows what the epidemiologist does now.

The pandemic is still continuing, even if you have been vaccinated, get that second booster shot. People is not dying but still getting sick.

Critical to our communities right now is the issue on getting traditional vaccines for back to school. The school districts are working with local authorities to make sure all kids are getting all their vaccines.

the Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion is launching its Soda Free Summer Challenge to encourage children and adults to opt for healthier beverages and reduce or eliminate sugary drinks. The Challenge kicks off Thursday, May 5 and continues through Saturday, August 6. Promotoras Las Vegas (PLV) will bring education and information to the Hispanic community through social media and community events.

The U.S. Department of Interior released an initial investigative report on the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive effort to address the troubled legacy of federal Indian boarding school policies, on Wednesday. The three boarding schools in Nevada were: The Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Pyramid Lake Boarding and Day School in Nixon, and Western Shoshone Boarding School in Owyhee. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland announced the launch of "The Road to Healing" tour as part of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. This year-long project will include travel across the country to allow survivors of the federal Indian boarding school system the opportunity to share their stories, help connect communities with trauma-informed support and facilitate collection of a permanent oral history. Between the American Rescue Plan funds and other available federal dollars, Nevada is investing over \$500 million for high-speed internet initiatives. Last month, the Interim Finance Committee approved more than \$200 million for the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology to pursue universal access to high-speed internet for all Nevadans. Those Funds will help build fiber into nearly every community throughout the state, including tribal communities.



Funds will help build fiber to community anchor institutions and residences in nearly every community throughout the state.

Governor Steve Sisolak announced his intention to end the State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic on May 20, 2022. The State of Emergency declaration has been in place since March 2020 and has allowed the State to respond to challenges brought forward by the unprecedented pandemic.

C. Azam, wearing masks on planes and airports now is optional to everyone. Airlines and costumers are happy about that.

Chair Chaney, personally I wear mask still, our job is part of representation to state government is to ensure the adequate information is given to the diverse population, our groups, is no to tell people what to do, but is to share with people recommendations.

C. Melendrez, my policy has been, if I am somewhere where I don't know the people, I wear a mask not only to avoid getting sick, but to not spread.

g. Education, C. Melendrez,

Thousands of graduates tonight. I will be attending the graduation ceremony at Thomas and Mack. From UNLV we have 60+ graduates from our medical school, UNR has 70 graduates from their medical program. It is nice to see the efforts of the medical schools to keep those graduates here in Nevada. The challenges are there isn't enough residencies for all to do their final part of their medical training.

Gov. Steve Sisolak has committed \$5 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars toward exploring how the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) community colleges or other apprentice and training programs can be provided at no cost to Nevadans by 2025.

Chair Chaney, to see a system with empty promises I have got some issues with that. I want us to ensure that we engage with Superintendent Jara, but when we look at the overall scores school districts are in the state, the rankings are not good. We have children that they have made a decision that they don't want to go to college; everybody wants to be a creator, they want to be a YouTube start so they are dropping out trying to chase fast money. What that does do to the business and economic development of our state when we have these children that are going with things that are not concrete, then we underutilize, and we don't have the foundation and stability to move our state forward not just now but in the future. In order for us to retain persons here in the state, we need good work force in the state, jobs, skillset we are in the right meeting, we are asking the right questions. We need to stop talking and be strategic in our state, we know what it is, but we have to transition and transform Nevada.



C. Melendrez, loan forgiveness over the weekend. The interest rates for federal grants are going to go up, so if you are in the business of trying to be funded for your college, is going to make it much harder for somebody to get themselves an education that is going to come out of pocket or going to come up with \$100,000 depending on where they go.

C. Azam, everything is so tight from workforce, education, housing, health, how high the inflation when up over the last six months? We have all these fox that are coming in town in both South and Northern Nevada, our population is growing. The workforce development remains the solution; somebody has to build those condos, somebody has to build those single families, and apartments. A three-bedroom unit is \$3,000 a month, how can somebody who just got out of college and have a \$1000 job can afford to live in Reno, Nevada. The housing prices with the feds increasing the rate we are seeing a plateau not a decline so the 150% increase on your home value the last 6-7 years is just going to stay there, there is no sign that is going to go down. Inflation, housing, education, workforce development there all interrelated.

C. Taylor, going forward we can look at all of these comments and potentially solutions on our next strategic plan as a Commission and try to integrate and leverage our decisions regarding these issues as they are all interrelated. She requested that the strategic planning for next fiscal year to be submitted to all commissioners for review.

Chair Chaney, one of the things vice-chair Boyce and I have tried is to ensure is that the Commission is at any major meetings that go on the state, we want to be there! We want to be at the table when decisions are being make because we are representing diverse groups and population of people. We hope that the momentum will continue

Vice-Chair Boyce, one more update on education, I shared before that I was appointed to Community college and workforce and training programs committee by the Governor, and we are on our final meeting here in June, there was only six meetings. A draft proposal has been put out, we are supposed to go to work session on our next meeting, but I just wanted to share with the Commission, so everyone is aware. The Governor has committed \$5 million in ARPA funding to help fund free community college. Ultimately supplementing funding to Pell Grants for eligible students taking six or more credits. I wanted to make sure that this Commission is aware of that pending proposal. Anyone can go to NSHE website for more information.

C. Management analyst update (for discussion and possible action)

I formally wanted to introduce myself with the Commission. I started on May 2nd, and I have been working on pending items that have not been completed due to the Commission not having an MA since Ms. Ku left.

Item #1, For the unuse funds we have left to spend before the end of fiscal year we are moving forward with one of the companies who submitted a proposal for the video project we have, and they are in the process of getting full registration through the Controller's Office so we can place orders with them and proceed with payment once the video is finalize.



Item #2, we established contact with City of Las Vegas for the submission of employment of redevelopment plans. We agreed that I will be checking with them quarterly to get any updates on new projects. In fact, Ms. Emily Ku is on that end of City of Las Vegas, so we will be working with her still.

Item #3, I am working on drafting the quarterly report we need to present to the Director's Office with the Department of Business and Industry by June 30 and just as a reminder to all Commissioners to submit their activity reports, so I have enough material for the draft.

a. Community Announcements

I attended on May 4th the Small Business Resource Fair, and we had about 600 attendees. From the Constituents I assisted, there was one woman who needed assistance with some issues she had with her landlord, and I was able to refer her to the legal aid center for civil law help so she could move forward with the issue she had.

Upcoming events

May 21st, Africa Day Celebration

May 26th, Las Vegas Okinawan Club

C. Villarta, event announcement, I will be hosting the AANHPI heritage month celebration at Container Park on May 29th from 12 – 5pm. It is family friendly. I will send that to Angie in case anyone wants to come.

4. NEW BUSINESS

C. Azam, is not new but we have a social media channel, I would really like to see more engagement from this Commission on social media; list event as reminders, and ideally to get comments from the public. If the content is interesting, you will get comments. If we don't get comments, that content doesn't need to be duplicated.

MA Rojas, I have some ideas that I have been discussing with Deputy Scharer, maybe for those months like this month that we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month, to review, and do some research on how many Asian do we have, what is their contribution to the State and do some kind of announcement online through our social media pages. I do know we have a media group, who will be the other person? I know is the MA and one of the Commissioners. Because we will be discussing what will be published on these social media pages.

C. Boyce, probably your new upcoming Chair and vice-chair will help. Typically, the subcommittee chairs can speak on behalf of the Commission for their sub-committee content, but if it is on behalf of the Commission it has to come from the Chair. So, any social media content you will have to drafted and get it approved by the chair, so it doesn't have to come to a full Commission vote otherwise you will have to come to the whole Commission and post once a month.



C. Villarta asked if we could make recommendations,

Vice-chair Boyce, yes, but those will have to be approved before posting. The full Commission should be involved on making recommendation for the social media calendar. Angie then will compile those and get chair sign off. So, there should be no posting or commentary by other Commissioners or the Management Analyst on their own, but you can comment or share anything that comes out of the Commission. It will be just who controls the content.

Chair Chaney, the Commission has one voice with multiple personalities as we speak to the people. This is a government entity.

Vice-chair Boyce, I want to reiterate, I hope someone takes on that role when I depart, and the reason is this Commission is moving in power and is moving in influence and those things can be a challenge if you don't follow the rules. Part of is that we can now start to draft legislation, we don't want to get ding dong on a technicality. It will be great if one person raises their hand, reads the bylaws, reads open meeting law, and helps to set the tone. It is not the most glamorous job but is only in protection of this body's work and is because each and everyone of us is putting forward such a major contribution and I hate that we get silence, or we get fined.

C. Melendrez, that is a great point that you just made, I don't know if we can we arrange some kind of professional development session to discuss all those things that we mentioned that we can have for us and the new three members that are coming on board?

Vice-Chair Boyce, there are three sits and they may or not be filled but I will just say for precedent when new Commissioners came on we did have a training led by the Management Analyst which you can bring in additional help if we have any kind of legal within Business and Industry that will be willing to attend that will review open meeting law, and the bylaws, it will be a great practice and a good reminder.

C. Taylor, Angie emailed me regrading an excellent idea she had, and I think we should add as an agenda item for our June meeting where the Commission on Minority Affairs recognizes from the community an individual, a small business, and an organization as part of their work for the community for Juneteenth. I also communicated with Angie that is a great idea let us discuss this as a Commission for other ethnic on minority designated holidays or months of recognitions; for example, Latino heritage month, Asian American Pacific Islander heritage month, any individuals, small business, or organizations that should be acknowledge for their work.

Vice-chair Boyce, I think it is a phenomenal idea, but is kind of hard to start mid-year because there are ethnic groups we may have missed and so it can be viewed as showing favoritism if we start here in June. So, I will caution the Commission on moving forward to fast because we should probably put together a strategic plan for messaging and marketing so nobody is left out,



but I will also bring this up with the upcoming Chair because our June meeting is stacked with sub-committee appointments, and we need to vote on chair and vice-chair, and it could be something that we can put on the agenda, but it needs to be run through the Chair for approval.

C. Melendrez, I think Governor Sisolak did already a statement. With the Nevada System of Higher Education Diversity

We want to plan appropriately for recognizing all of the different groups or the different dates, but I think this stands out to me as a person of color because for example the Latino culture celebrates the 5 de Mayo but that is not a holiday. But this has more significance because the history of what happened, the history of Juneteenth and all of that so I love what you are saying about strategically identify something that really stands out. I think if Nevada is going to be recognizing for the first time, the minimum we can do is some kind of statement from this Commission in support of that.

C. Villarta, I will second that, we have so many different ethnicities in one so if you start recognizing for example the Chinese, Pilipino or Vietnamese then what happens to the Pacific Islanders? It will be hard to recognize just one organization or one business that contributes because they contribute to so many different types of communities. That will be difficult from my perspective. When we talk about disadvantage or our communities that are not well known. Right now, I am having a hard time just getting Pacific Islanders to start even think about economic development or workforce development, housing because they have never been involved, and there is no organization that will be able to recognize how they will feel like, I don't know if that makes sense but that will be my only concern, and that we will get to favoritism mode.

C. Taylor, I totally agree with the comments of all the Commissioners and co-chairs. It was just an item for open discussion, and I am glad everyone contributed and to approach vice-chairs point to definitely look at it more strategically, perhaps in 2023 at the beginning to start some type of initiative that may or may not address this.

Vice-chair Boyce, because new businesses are for discussion only, no decisions can be made from here, ultimately any kind of adjustment to the agenda has to through the Chair so I trust that Angie will go through the Chair. I have other items for new business, I wanted to put a reminder out to the Commissioners we received responses from about 50% of you on committee preferences. It is going to be really important that we get those this week so we can be properly organized for the June meeting. It is hard to have a full discussion and decide on the spot where people are going to be placed so it will be great if we receive those preferences from those who haven't responded so we can do almost like a matrix before we get there and start the discussion with some organization to it.

and the second one is just an update. I really appreciate Angie's leadership and the Chair's permission to move forward with closing the opening for the new Commissioners this past Friday. We received a total of four applications, and we have three vacancies. So, now the next



step is for the Chair and I this week to make a decision of how many of those four are appropriate for the Commission. We are just not going to make appointments to fill the positions, we need to make sure they are a good fit for this body so we will put forward those recommendations to the legislative body this week so they can be discussed during their June 10th meeting. They will be appointed or declined at that time so those Commissioners who are approved will be sworn-in at our June 13th meeting to follow precedent, we don't disclose names or applicants to protect their privacy because they go to the legislative body and at that time they can be declined, and we don't want people's names in that fashion if they are not approved. So, the Commission will be notified at the June 13th meeting who those Commissioners are.

5. DEPARTING COMMISSIONERS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chair Chaney,

I want to allow Commissioner Azam go first.

C. Azam,

Thank you Chair, and Deputy Director. First of all, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to be part of the Commission. Five years ago, I was at Pakistani and American Association in Northern Nevada. I was the founding member and President for four years and my colleague recommended me to look into this Commission and I was intrigued and very happy to see that there was a Commission that has multiple initiatives, not just a title, and that actually talk through things, and over the last four years what I have seen this Commission become from where it was. Every single year we have progressed, it doesn't matter how big of a step it is, there is a path to where this Commission is going and with the right leadership and everybody being engaged I think this Commission has done wonders. I am very humbled and very very pleased to see this group of people working together.

Vice-Chair Boyce,

I just want to thank you Commissioner Azam for your work. You have been such a welcoming presence to all of us Commissioners at North in making strategic connections, willing to have lunch, always willing to share your resources. Four years is not short time to commit to any cause, so I am just really honored to work alongside you and to have your guidance. I think specifically with you leading the Community Liaison sub-committee and seen the progress we have made with law enforcement for both North and South through your direction is huge. Those pieces helped the entire Commission moving forward. All the systems that we have talk about earlier work with one and other. I personally want to thank you so much for your service to this commission and for the support you offered me in the time being. I appreciate the support specially from Business and Industry, Deputy Director Marcel, and Director Terry Reynolds for everything they have provided me personally to help do my work here with the Commission. Angie, you are going to be a phenomenal resource, she is so motivated. It is really exciting to see the next generation of the Commission and continue to develop. Each one of you has made such an immense contribution and is obvious to see the level of commitment on the volunteer level. It is exciting to get with the Chair to choose the next folks that are coming in to help the Commission



move forward.

Chair Chaney,

I never wanted to be Chair, I kind of back into that. Most of the positions I have served in, for me is about passion, purpose, is never about a position. I have served as Chair of the Las Vegas Urban League for seven years, I sit on Nevada Health Center Board, just giving people, giving my time and energy has been tremendous. Deputy Director Schaerer, thank you so much for your support, your encouragement to this great body, and thank you for allowing me to lead and to share into that leadership, because is not about the Chair, is about all of us and I have tried to make this Commission a family oriented. Yes, we are going to take care f business, yes, we are going to follow Nevada Revised Statutes, but we need to be family, it has to be like that, because of passion is what drives us. So, in saying that, thank you Commissioner Azam for your major job in the North. Commissioner Conanine is amazing, and we stayed connected to this date. To all of you thank you for your time and energy. Angie, remember the email I sent you; this is a marathon not a sprint so you have to protect your mental health, your physical health, your family, your emotions, but the Commission can drag you in because of passion, the energy. It has been my honor and privilege to serve this Commission. Thank you!

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Deputy Director Schaerer,

First and fore most, on behalf of Director Reynolds and the entire Department if Business & Industry, thank you for the work that you do, remember that you are the voice to minorities, and I fall into that category. I came to this country as an exchanged student, and I have the privilege of being called a legal alien which I think is awesome. I never expected that I will be called an alien but that's how you fall into the category when you are an exchanged student or F1 student in this country. Commissioner Chaney you mentioned the three P's; position, you need a position to define that purpose and then the passion that comes with that. So, to all of you Commissioners, thank you for those three P's; being in the position, understanding the purpose and following a passion. As we say goodbye the Commissioner Chaney, Boyce and Azam I can only think about some attributes going A through F:

A for action and awareness because you provided plenty of awareness out there

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

C for coordinating things and 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 the NCMA

E for engaging individuals and how to engage other groups

F for facilitating interaction

So, thank you again for everything that you have done on behalf of this Commission, and I want to remain everyone that minorityaffairs.nv.gov is that living purpose of this Commission and your are all there, and I want to point again the importance of also providing data, resources, and



reports so people can use this hub which we call minorityaffairs.nv.gov to find information about minorities and that is the purpose that we will continue to have now that Angie is here with your assistance to point to reports and data because after all there is a lot of conversation about minorities but sometimes we don't know where to go for data and under that hub that we have right now there is data there that compiles in different areas that you serve being education, housing, employment, workforce and so forth and I quickly want to reflect that last event we had on May 4th, the small business resource fair and we created an island called "consumer help" and that is our Consumer Affairs Unit, the Ombudsmen but is also the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs because the work in terms of helping consumers also continues. The last thing I would like to share with you is, we are working on a new initiative, and we need the support of this Commission to make access and resources of information more readily available or easy to understand. Let me give you an example, we have translated the roadmap, the guide to starting and growing a business in Korean, Chinese, and Tagalog, but in the process of doing that what we discover is, and this is where we are going to be needing your help on this initiative is that a lot of organizations as you access your website don't have the google translate tool available and we are bringing attention to different organizations asking them to incorporate the google translate tool. After all, yes, English is the language of commerce, but that doesn't mean people understand and comprehend the language of commerce. Sometimes the information needs to be accessed on your own language and that Google translate tool can translate on hundreds of different languages and is so easy to install on a website. So, I am hoping that we will have your support as we try to implement that initiative. Again, thank you so much to the departing Commissioners. I have enjoyed tremendously how you have engaged with each other and basically fall into those three P's; is in your position to define that purpose and make it strong and with plenty of passion because otherwise it does not matter. We can be a number, but only with passion we are out of a number and to champions of our cause.

Vice-chair Boyce,

Before we announce our next, I want to give an opportunity to everyone to speak.

C. Villarta,

Thank you so much. Truthfully your leadership, enthusiasm and your guidance has help me over these last couple of years to become the advocate that I am today. You have contributed not only to my knowledge but also my ability to navigate different systems, different cultures, and to understand the importance of the full eco-system and the full dynamic to how all of our committees work within each other. I know that we are to continue to work together in the future. Thanks again to our three Commissioners that will be exiting next month.

C. Taylor,

I remember when I first came, and that was when Chair Rhodes-Ford and Chair Chaney was the Chair of the housing sub-committee and I could see how he would pull everyone together with his influence and his leadership and looking at everyone as one and then when I was appointed as a commissioner, my first year was really difficult. You and co-chair were very instrumental to



help me understand what the bylaws are, what the Commission is capable of, what were our proper procedures, and that really helped me to grow in to being a better Commissioner and to be a better professional, and a better person because sometimes when you have the intentions, and you feel that this a great direction and you get frustrated, that this initiative or idea that you have isn't moving forward, it can definitely stop your grow if you allow to, and the two of you have been so instrumental in helping me develop myself. So, I will always be grateful because sometimes when you are in a position of influence and leadership there is very few people that you feel that you can follow, and it has been a pleasure to follow you Chair and you co-Chair. I will follow you beyond this. Thank you!

C. Melendrez,

I remember years ago I was invited to be a part of I think it was this group. We did a whole lot of nothing and spent our wheels frustrated so when the opportunity came up to look at this group again, when I get involved in groups if isn't related in the profession I am in, something I am passionate about I will say no, but what has made the difference about this one is the passion that I see every day from the Commissioners who sit on the board for the good of Nevada and for me that not even a question about when I was asked to look into I remember I met with Myisha and we look into things that were going on and I said yes, this is something I would want to be part of, and I am not doing it because is my job or because is connected to my job. When you see the commitment of making Nevada better, because to me the questions is always about what is one thing that happened in Nevada? Is the growth our of community, the growth of our diversity is a multidimensional, multicultural community and people who don't get that, they don't understand Nevada. This is my second year I am on board now and to see the passion, the commitment, everyone has busy schedules and yet you make the time that needs to be make for this Commission. That for me has made it really easy to serve on something like this because people are so passionate and committed to what we are trying to create, and we still have a lot of work to do we just have to keep that momentum going. Whoever fills in that position has big shoes to fill but luckily we have good staff to support this team North and South. I would like to say that this one of those boards of the reality North and South connecting and being able to work because I serve on a lot of boards that are statewide, but those statewide connections are never there, and this board makes the effort to make sure we represent statewide. So, I am proud of that, I am proud of continuing to serve. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on this board under your leadership and I look forward to in whatever capacity I am in the next round to holding your vision and keeping it up moving forward.

C. Del Luca,

It has been an honor to serve with you, I have worked so much and as everyone speak from the committee, you are not disappearing from our lives, is a good feeling from the professional and personal setting to be able to reach out to you on things that are going on within our community and I have learned again so much from all of you from the legislative updates to brainstorming how to be successful and get us to where we are today. I am so proud and honor to call you my colleagues and has been a pleasure of meeting you from a professional setting and being able to



talk to you because I will continue to relay on you. Thank you so much!

Vice-Chair Boyce,

The day that I nominated Chair to be Chair I knew that day and I feel the same way today that you are the right leader not only for this body but just for this community. You do things in such a way that commands leadership and gets everyone involved. I never felt silenced, I never felt second, I felt like we had a strong team and because of that we were able to accomplish a lot. You see strengths in other people and you allow them to utilize those strengths there isn't an ego associated with this positions and I think that takes phenomenal leader, you don't see that all the time, a lot of people want to take advantage of being in charge and I think it makes you a much stronger leader when you are taking a step back and letting others shine, be strong at things, acknowledging those strengths and keeping things move forward, being able to make the hard decisions that some people don't like to do because it makes them unpopular or makes them uncomfortable but you do that, you step in when you need to, you do that privately, you do that personally, you don't embarrassed people. I think your leadership should be modeled by others, and I appreciate having the opportunity to serve with you and under you. I learned a lot, you provided cover for me when I needed it, and you let me to step up when I needed it, and I appreciate that. I look forward to work with you in the future. We will find ways to continue to work together, and we will find ways to continue to support this Commission, but I will say that this has been one of the best experiences I have had on a board, just being able to feel heard and being able to grow on my own leadership with really strong examples. Thank you so much for the opportunity, but Chair I want to thank you specifically for getting us to where we are.

Chair Chaney thanked everyone for their time.

7. NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 13th, 2022, AT 9:30 am in person.

8. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am