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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

TERRY REYNOLDS
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, January 24, 2022. Pursuant to public notice, this meeting was conducted by a Webex videoconference call.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Chair Chaney called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

B. Commissioners Present: Chair D. Edward Chaney, Vice Chair Myisha Boyce, C. Yerania De Luca, C. Jose Melendrez, C. Kathleen Taylor, C. Angelica Villarta, C. Hasaan Azam, C. E. Mercedes Krause, C. Amy Shaw

C. Staff Present: Carrie Foley, Program Officer for the Department of Business & Industry

D. Public Attendance: Marcel Schaerer, Deputy Director, Department of Business & Industry, Erica Arnold, Department of Business & Industry, Janet Serial, Christian Jones, Valerie Balen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

NA

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Approval of November 15, 2021 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)

Commissioner Villarta moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Melendrez seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Review and approval of the Annual Report to the Governor

Commissioner Boyce said that the draft annual report was provided to Commissioners for their review, and they had an opportunity to submit any suggested edits by today's meeting.

Commissioner Boyce would like to move to approve the annual report to the Governor after she and Commissioner Chaney have an opportunity to make edits before final submission by the end of the month.

Commissioner Krause said that she had some suggestions for the annual report. Commissioner Boyce asked Commissioner Krause to submit her suggestions to Carrie Foley.

Marcel Schaerer asked the Commission to submit all of their proposed changes to Carrie Foley by Thursday, January 27th. Carrie Foley will add the suggested changes provided by Commissioners and forward to Commissioner Chaney and Commissioner Boyce for final review.

Commissioner Chaney said they do want to be on time and punctual with the annual report.

Commissioner Boyce made a motion to approve the annual report after the necessary edits have been made. Commissioner Melendrez seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)

1. Community Liaison

Commissioner Azam said he does not have a specific update. He said he is meeting with the Community Outreach Community later in the day today. Commissioner Azam said Sheriff Darin Balaam has reduced meetings to a quarterly basis. Commissioner Azam said Covid cases in Washoe are high right now.

Commissioner Taylor said that on December 4th she and Commissioner Boyce attended a Nevada Cultural Competency training, which was a high-quality training. Commissioner Taylor said on December 7th she attended the Nevada Commission for Women monthly meeting. The mission for the Commission is for the advancement of women to allow for equality in all areas. Their goals are to document the role of women and women's contributions in Nevada, promote gender equality and more. Commissioner Melendrez said that is a phenomenal training and if you have the opportunity to take it you should.

Commissioner Villarta provided some Las Vegas Metro Police Department updates. She said on January 13th they registered their very first class of Hispanic Citizens Police Academy. Commissioner Villarta said that this past Saturday there was an anti-Asian hate attack at a boba tea establishment. There is going to be a meeting tomorrow at 10am to support and bring awareness. Commissioner Villarta discussed Lunar New Year celebrated by various different communities. She said there is a kickoff event on February 6th. Commissioner Krause suggested sponsoring or hosting a table at the Lunar New Year event as a Commission.

2. Legislative

Commissioner Boyce said the Commission made a formal submission to the Governor's Office requesting ARPA funding to support a marketing budget of \$125,000.00. She suggested that the funding cover two media campaigns to target minority communities in all sectors of Nevada. Commissioner Boyce said she is waiting for a response.

Commissioner Chaney asked Carrie Foley to identify call in users. One of the people calling in was

Kathleen Taylor and the other was Janet Serial with NAACP Reno.

3. Economic and Business Development

Commissioner Shaw attended the Urban Chamber 40th Anniversary Gala on November 20th, there were about 340 attendees. The event was to recap all of the work the Chamber has done in support of the local business community. Commissioner Shaw said that on November 30th the airport hosted an event on how to do business with the airport, there were over 200 attendees. On December 4th she attended the Asian Community Development Council fundraiser.

Commissioner Boyce attended the Las Vegas Stadium Authority Board meeting on January 12th there were updates on Workforce Diversity and Supplier Diversity. Commissioner Boyce suggested other Commissioners attend these meetings in the future if possible. Commissioner Boyce said she was recently appointed to lead the Community Advisory Board for Allegiant Stadium.

Commissioner Azam said that in Northern Nevada EDawn is continuing to work on bringing new companies to Nevada. He said EDawn is trying to bring in tech companies and high paying jobs. Commissioner Azam said in 2020 there were about 155,000 new residents in northern Nevada. He said they are continuing to understand how the northern Nevada environment is changing as it relates to economics and how the diversity is playing a role in it. Commissioner Azam said that the airports in Las Vegas and Reno have been performing better than the national average.

Commissioner Villarta discussed government or public sector contracting. She talked about Nevada PTAC and POP programs, which help connect Nevada businesses with other opportunities. She said she will send the information and questionnaires to the group for review. Commissioner Villarta talked about the Nevada Plan for Recovery and Resilience, one of the strategic initiatives is the development of regionally designed and industrial centers. Commissioner Villarta said she will send the report to Carrie Foley to distribute to the Commissioners.

4. Workforce Development

Commissioner De Luca said she does not have a report at this time. She said she has had some personal issues lately. Commissioner Chaney said that is fine and family is first.

Commissioner Taylor provided unemployment statistics provided by the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). She also talked about the number of jobs added to Nevada in December. Commissioner Taylor said unfortunately, employment in the accommodation and food services industry is still down by 65,000 jobs.

Commissioner Villarta said she attended a Filipino Nurses Association meeting with Governor Sisolak in December about the hardships nurses are facing. She talked about the shortage of nurses and said that nurses are coming out of retirement to help with the shortage during the pandemic. Commissioner Villarta said others have left their career because of the mental and physical stress. There are several organizations looking to address the shortage of nurses.

Commissioner Villarta said she met with the Asian Chamber of Commerce, and they were saying when it comes to jobs people are complaining that there is a shortage of jobs, but she feels in order to combat the job shortage we need to emphasize within our communities the opportunities to move into new careers. Commissioner Villarta said we don't have enough skilled workforce.

Commissioner Azam said that November reached the highest number of resignations in the U.S. ever. Commissioner Azam said it isn't about the unemployment it's about people's willingness to work. It is fatigue and mental health along with other things. He said people are starting to come back to work, but with Omicron people are calling in sick.

Commissioner Chaney said the pandemic has caused a shift in family, the workforce, mental and physical health. He said the pandemic has caused people to look at their life and make certain decisions.

Commissioner Melendrez said there is a CDC grant to increase diversity within the workforce of public health areas. The State of Nevada awarded grants throughout the state. He said his office has received a small amount of funding to hire two recruiters who will focus on increasing and recruiting diverse people in the public health fields. Commissioner Melendrez said his office is collaborating with an office in northern Nevada.

Commissioner Villarta said there is a shift in the workforce and more people are becoming entrepreneurs. She said there are opportunities for the Commission to encourage people to take advantage of state programs and chamber programs that provide startup support.

Commissioner Boyce asked Commissioner Melendrez if his office is looking to recruit from Nevada or from anywhere. Commissioner Melendrez said he is looking to recruit from anywhere, not just Nevada. Commissioner Melendrez said he will send the information to Carrie Foley to distribute to the group.

Commissioner Shaw said that the concessions at the airport are short staffed because of Covid, causing concessions to close at times. Commissioner Shaw said there are staffing struggles at the airport so please be patient.

5. Housing

Commissioner Krause said she doesn't have anything to report at this time.

Commissioner Taylor said there is \$24.5 million coming from the American Rescue Plan for a low-income home energy assistance program. This will be available until September 2022. She also discussed a plan to provide resources for utility relief. Commissioner Taylor said the Nevada Rural Housing Authority has reopened the Housing Choice Voucher waitlist, which is now available to help families who qualify. Commissioner Taylor discussed the eviction moratorium which is set to expire on June 1, 2022.

Commissioner Chaney asked the Commissioners to forward information regarding rental assistance

to Carrie Foley so the information can be distributed.

Commissioner Villarta said the City of Las Vegas has a plan in action for the Historic West Side, which will improve neighborhoods. Commissioner Villarta said she will forward the information to Carrie Foley to distribute.

Commissioner Chaney said that rent going up is putting a squeeze on families. He asked the Commissioners to assist in getting the word out about the various programs.

6. Health

Commissioner Melendrez said Omicron is everywhere and people are being infected. He said that as of January 1, 789,516 in Nevada are fully vaccinated. Commissioner Melendrez said UNLV and UNR are working with Immunize Nevada to increase equity of vaccines across the state of Nevada. Commissioner Melendrez said his office applied for a grant for \$10 million to get vaccines in arms. He said there were 27 community-based submissions who responded to the request for grant money. If awarded you have 9 months to spend the \$10 million. The money is to be used for education, outreach, and shots in arms.

Commissioner Melendrez said there was a high number of staff at the NSHE who got vaccinated. There was a low number of staff who refused the vaccine and lost their jobs as of December 31, 2021. Commissioner Melendrez said the state mandate for students to be vaccinated has been dropped.

Commissioner Villarta asked Commissioner Melendrez to talk about suicide prevention and mental health resources available.

Commissioner Melendrez discussed the impact of Covid on mental, emotional, and physical health, as well as suicides. He said the impact of Covid on the state is huge and we are going to be looking at a fallout for the next several years. Commissioner Melendrez discussed some webinars and resources available. He said there is a series on the impact of opioid abuse. He said the Latino community is most impacted by opioid abuse. He will send flyers to Carrie Foley to distribute.

Commissioner Melendrez talked about a program called the Defensive Line where they train facilitators on suicide awareness and prevention.

7. Education

Commissioner Krause said there were two items she did not include in her report. For the first time there is someone in recruiting from UNLV who is from a tribal community. Commissioner Krause said they are set to have the first ever University supported Pow Wow, which will take place on April 23rd.

Commissioner Krause said her last Covid report was 4,813 and this report it is 15,079. Commissioner Krause discussed issues concerning safety for School Board Trustees. She said at a recent School Board meeting two Trustees had disruptors show up to their homes. Commissioner Krause said there is a shortage of substitute teachers. She said the substitute teacher group was

organizing for better working conditions and pay. Commissioner Krause said educators have not been supported. She said Washoe County is looking for a new superintendent.

Commissioner Melendrez said UNLV and UNR are designated Research 1 institutions which allows for more grant opportunities.

Commissioner Melendrez said February is Black History month and there are going to be different awards and initiatives going on a UNLV, UNR and other institutions.

Commissioner Boyce said at the end of last year she was appointed to sit on a committee which came out of AB50 to conduct an interim study concerning opportunities for workforce training. She briefly discussed this new committee.

Commission Shaw said she forgot to mention that the airport is issuing a request for proposal for 12 concession agreements that are expiring. Six are in the esplanade and six are in the D gates. She said four are set aside for small companies. There is an event at the airport on February 10th.

D. Commissioner Vacancies

Commissioner Boyce said there are three Commissioner vacancies coming up at the end of June, with one in the north and two in the south. She mentioned the Commissioners who will term out in June.

Commissioner Chaney said it has been a privilege and honor to serve. He said if you know someone who would like to serve direct them to the Commission on Minority Affairs website.

Commissioner Taylor asked what the procedure is for appointing a new Chair and Vice Chair for informational purposes.

Commissioner Boyce discussed the process and said you can self-nominate or move to nominate someone else.

Commissioner Chaney said new Commissioners are seated and then there is a vote on Chair and Vice Chair during a Commission meeting. Commissioner Chaney and Commissioner Boyce said they will have the process clarified for the next meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

NA

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcel Schaerer said that on behalf of Director Reynolds he would like to thank the Commissioners as they are the voice for minorities in Nevada. Marcel Schaerer said that if you go to

minorityaffairs.nv.gov there is an area of resources pertaining to the state of Nevada. Marcel Schaerer said that the Roadmap is going to be translated into Chinese and Korean thanks to the Asian Chamber of Commerce. He said that Emily Ku was great and she will certainly be missed, but we will find someone else who will be another great champion for the Commission on Minority Affairs.

Janet Serial (NAACP Reno) discussed two events that were held on January 5th and January 19th. She said there is going to be a third vaccine booster clinic on February 22nd at the Second Baptist Church. Their 2nd annual African American Health & Environmental Climate Justice Symposium has been postponed until April.

Commissioner Chaney thanked Marcel Schaerer for his support. He said they will miss Emily and said he hopes she will continue to collaborate with the Commission.

Commissioner Chaney thanked everyone for their time.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 11:02 am
- Next Meeting: Monday, February 28, 2022 at 9:30 am