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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, March 21, 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 9:32 am.

B. Commissioners Present: Chair D. Edward Chaney, Vice-Chair Myisha Boyce, C. Angelica Villarta, C. Hasaan Azam, C. Kathleen Taylor

C. Commissioners Not in Attendance: C. Amy Shaw, C. Yerania De Luca, C. Jose Melendrez, C. E. Mercedes Krause

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

D. Public Attendance: Marcel Schaerer, Deputy Director, Department of Business & Industry, Nicholas Dunkle, Janet Serial, Carlos Ramirez, Valerie Balen, Darlene Anderson

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. **Approval of February 28, 2022 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)** Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Villarta seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)

1. Community Liaison

Commissioner Azam met with Sherriff Balaam to discuss community outreach and said he is going to continue his initiatives from last year into this year. Commissioner Azam said Sherriff Balaam is

going to work to bridge the gaps between the different communities in Nevada.

Commissioner Azam said the Reno Tahoe International Airport is busy and has passed 2019 levels again. He said overall northern Nevada is getting better and doing well.

Commissioner Taylor said she attended the last couple meetings for the Nevada Commission for Women and connected with their commissions Co-Chair Ann Silver. Commissioner Taylor said she assisted in facilitating a collaboration with the Nevada Women's Business Center. They featured Ann Silver as their keynote speaker for a recent Women's History Month event. Commissioner Taylor said Ann Silver's address was well received.

Commissioner Taylor also connected with two contacts from the Department of Labor, Bureau for Women. She said they are collaborating to hold a webinar series on behalf of the Nevada Women's Business Center.

Commissioner Villarta said the West Sahara Library welcomed for the first time a Korean art exhibit. The exhibit will be available to view until June 12th.

Commissioner Azam said Ann Silver is also the CEO of the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce.

2. Legislative

Commissioner Boyce said Commissioner Taylor is being recognized for her service to the community. She is receiving an award from the Urban Chamber of Commerce for Women in Politics. Commissioner Boyce said congratulations to Commissioner Taylor.

Commissioner Taylor thanked Commissioner Boyce and the other commissioners.

Commissioner Boyce asked Commissioner Chaney for permission to solicit feedback from the commissioners on the BDR initiatives that are coming up. Commissioner Chaney said that is fine. Commissioner Boyce said it is a goal to start working on the BDR process now. Commissioner Boyce said we need to start moving and putting together ideas. She asked the commissioners to start submitting ideas for legislation directly to her.

Commissioner Chaney asked the commissioners to submit information to Commissioner Boyce at their earliest convenience.

3. Economic and Business Development

Commissioner Villarta discussed the opening of the Dollar Loan Center sports center. This arena is going to be home to the Henderson Silver Knights. She provided additional information on this arena.

Commissioner Villarta said she has been meeting with home care facilities and the SEIU Union and she discussed some issues coming up in the home care area. Commissioner Villarta asked the commissioners to let her know if they hear anything.

Commissioner Villarta said some of the home care agency owners said they feel the cultural competency classes are culturally offensive. She said that came as a surprise to her. Commissioner Villarta said she would like to discuss this with Nicholas Dunkle who was present at the Commissioner on Minority Affairs meeting.

Commissioner Villarta said she attended the most recent LVGEA event and said LVGEA announced that our state has hit record numbers since 2012. She provided statistics and information on target markets that LVGEA is focusing on.

Commissioner Villarta said she believes we are still looking for more vendors for the airport. She suggested if anyone is aware of a small business that might be interested to get their information to Commissioner Shaw.

Commissioner Azam asked if we have data on how southern Nevada is doing with staffing issues. He said there are staffing issues in northern Nevada especially on the aviation side. Commissioner Villarta said she has not done data analysis, but she will look into data on staffing.

Commissioner Boyce mentioned the state recently attracted a large accelerator to southern and northern Nevada called Gener8tor and they provide early-stage capital. Commissioner Boyce said they are partnering with GOED to get investments to businesses.

Commissioner Villarta asked Commissioner Boyce if she knows where small minority owned businesses can get certification in the state. Commissioner Boyce provided information on the Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC) and said Rose Davis is the local contact for Nevada. She said they provide direct assistance in getting certified. Commissioner Boyce provided additional information on certification.

4. Workforce Development

Commissioner Taylor said she would like to highlight workforce development at UNLV. She said they have a program where they are partnering with corporate partners such as MGM and they are committed to establishing workforce development initiatives in support of state economic and diversification. Commissioner Taylor provided additional information on the various initiatives. There was commission member discussion on the name of one of the programs.

Commissioner Chaney congratulated Commissioner Taylor on her award.

5. Housing

Commissioner Taylor said the Nevada Housing Division is working on a key initiative of the states planned investment of federal American Rescue Plan dollars into the Home Means Nevada Initiative, which was addressed in the Governor's recent State of the State address. Commissioner Taylor said the Nevada Housing Division is being allocated \$500 million to invest to lower the cost of housing,

help seniors make repairs and accessibility retrofits to stay in their homes and to boost housing availability. Commissioner Taylor described how the \$500 million will be allocated.

Commissioner Taylor said the Nevada Housing Coalition released a toolkit called Nevada Affordable Housing 101. This provides basic information around housing. Commissioner Taylor discussed the various topics included in the toolkit.

Commissioner Chaney talked about the escalating costs of housing in Nevada. He said a lot of people are being displaced and have to move.

6. Health

None.

7. Education

Commissioner Boyce said that Commissioner Krause will forward her report directly to Commissioner Chaney.

4. New Business

Deputy Director Schaerer discussed the process of interviewing applicants to replace Emily Ku. Deputy Director Schaerer said we have received 14 applications and we need to do a talent assessment and selection of qualified candidates, which includes the input of the chair and vice-chair. Deputy Director Schaerer said they will be conducting preliminary interviews with hopefully 3-5 candidates. Deputy Director Schaerer said from there they will move into final interviews, which will be conducted by Director Reynolds as well as the chair and vice-chair.

Deputy Director Schaerer said he provided the 14 applications to Commissioner Chaney and Commissioner Boyce for review. He said he hopes to find someone who can assist in putting BDR's in place.

Commissioner Boyce thanked Deputy Director Schaerer for his assistance in moving the commission forward. She said she appreciates him being there to help the commission get organized and follow precedent to involve the chair and vice-chair in the selection process.

Deputy Director Schaerer thanked the commissioners for the job they continue to do on behalf of the Commission on Minority Affairs.

Commissioner Taylor thanked Deputy Director Schaerer and Carrie Foley for their diligence in assisting the commission. Commissioner Taylor asked if the person selected for the job needs to be located in southern Nevada, or can they be in northern Nevada. Deputy Director Schaerer said the position requires the selected individual to be physically located in southern Nevada.

Commissioner Chaney thanked Deputy Director Schaerer for his time, talent, and energy, and for

allowing the commission to be part of the process.

Commissioner Boyce said that during the January meeting there was a request by the commission to clarify the process for bringing on new commissioners and how the elections would go. Commissioner Boyce said she is looking at meeting minutes from the June 2019 meeting (link [here](#)), the last time there was a change in commissioners. Commissioner Boyce summarized what was said and the process. Commissioner Boyce said the swearing in of new commissioners and elections for chair and subcommittee chairs was conducted during the July 2019 meeting (link [here](#)). Commissioner Boyce described how the transition process will take place in the coming months. Commissioner Boyce said in the past they would vacate all subcommittees and do a brand-new election of subcommittees chairs.

Commissioner Boyce asked Commissioner Chaney if he would like to recommend that they follow the same precedent at the June 2022 meeting. Commissioner Chaney said he would like to lean on previous precedent. Commissioner Boyce asked Commissioner Chaney if he would like to make this an agenda item for a future meeting, to vote on how the commission will hold elections. Commissioner Chaney asked for feedback from the other commissioners.

Commissioner Villarta said she likes that the commission is going to put the process up for a vote, or at least an agenda item. She said if we follow precedent it gives everyone an opportunity to realign their focus and their goals.

Commissioner Azam said he agrees with Commissioner Villarta. Commissioner Taylor said she agrees with Commissioner Villarta as well.

Commissioner Boyce made a recommendation for the April agenda to include an action to vote on the election process for the chair, vice-chair and subcommittees that would take place in June 2022.

Commissioner Taylor asked if commissioners could self-nominate for the chair and vice-chair positions or if that is a different process. Commissioner Boyce said either an external nomination or self-nomination is appropriate, and the person would need to accept that before it goes to a vote. Commissioner Boyce said typically interest in the subcommittee, chair and vice-chair role are sent to the chair the meeting prior so they can start to organize where people want to fall.

Commissioner Boyce said it is up to Commissioner Chaney to decide if he would like submissions in advance or wait until the June meeting for people to nominate and self-nominate.

Commissioner Boyce said that in May 2019 they asked commissioners to submit interest in the positions and subcommittees in advance. She said it made the June meeting easier to manage because they could say there is interest from this person for the following position or committee.

Commissioner Chaney thanked Commissioner Boyce and the other commissioners for their input and said we will add that to the agenda for next month. Commissioner Chaney said that will give us a record of how the election process is conducted with the Commission on Minority Affairs. Commissioner

Chaney asked Commissioners to please come prepared with questions regarding the election.

5. Public Comment

Deputy Director Schaerer provided information on certification and contracts, which can be found on the Business & Industry [Guide to Starting and Growing a Business in Nevada](#).

Janet Serial provided information on a 2nd annual symposium event taking place in Reno on April 16th. Janet Serial said the focus is going to be on advancing cultural competency and health literacy for African Americans through diversification of the workforce. She provided additional information on the event including those who will be speaking. Janet Serial said if the goal is to focus on workforce diversity, we need to build the workforce first.

Darlene Anderson said she is trying to understand the educational system where African American children are. She discussed partnerships to target educational attainment in CCSD. Darlene Anderson said she is not hearing from CCSD. She is looking for information to tie together public services, such as early childhood and how it has to do with milestones. Darlene Anderson said we have to try and work together with the city, the county, and the state and various resources to have a conversation about what we should expect by milestone, for three-year-old children for example.

Nicholas Dunkle let the commission know he took note of what Commissioner Villarta said regarding community feedback on training. He said he would like to speak with Commissioner Villarta on the feedback she received.

Commissioner Chaney thanked the public for their comments and thanked them for their continued work in our state. Commissioner Chaney asked that those in the public please connect with the commissioners to allow them to be better commissioners as they represent minorities throughout the state of Nevada.

Darlene Anderson discussed education and the ability to measure milestones and outcomes.

Commissioner Chaney thanked the commissioners for their work on the commission. He said he would like to encourage people to apply to become commissioners.

6. Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, April 18, 2022 at 9:30 am

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44am.