



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
NEVADA COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS**

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Commission on Minority Affairs was held on Monday, May 18, 2023. Pursuant to public notice, the meeting was conducted in person and telephone conference.

1. OPENING

- Call to order & Roll Call – Chair Taylor, Staff
This meeting was called to order at 10:20am

Commissioners in attendance: Kathleen Taylor, Angelica Villarta, Jose Melendrez, Nic Steele, Gabriela Wyett, and Jon Lau logged into the event after the event had started.

Commissioners not in attendance: Amy Shaw, Mercedes Krause.

Members of the Public in Attendance: Marcel Schaerer, Deputy Director, Business and Industry, Yeesha Aggarwal, Kara Jenkins, Anabel Navarro, Catherine Francisco, Coralie Peterson, Josh Chung, Brandon Chambers, Emily Burden, Julie Kankai, Blake McMorris, Gustavo Rojas, Melvin King, Will Rucker, Nia Girma, Monica Coburn, Juanny Romero, Reagan Knoblauch, Janet Hartley, Jaime McLaughlin.

- Silent Meditation & Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Taylor
- Land Acknowledgements – Vice-Chair Villarta

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (For discussion only)

Kara Jenkins, Administrator of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission provided a short presentation on NERC.

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

- **Opening Remarks**
Chair Taylor and Marcel Schaerer provided comments and welcomed all attendees to the events.



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- **Commission Overview**

Chair Taylor and Vice-Chair Villarta provided an overview of the Commission including a timeline since the Commission was approved by the Legislature to be a permanent body.

- **Academy Overview**

Chair Taylor introduced what the NCMA Academy is and how the community will benefit from, and what type of events will be hosted by the Academy.

- **Acknowledgements**

Chair Taylor acknowledged the efforts of current and former Commissioners thanking them for the work each member has done during their terms, and how they have helped the Commission be where it is now.

- **Introduction of Moderator**

Chair Taylor introduced the event moderator, which is Angelica Villarta, Vice-Chair of the Commission on Minority Affairs.

- **Introduction of the Panelists**

Vice-Chair Villarta introduced the event's panelists and provided background information on each one of them.

- Sara Johnson, Director of the Small Business and Advocacy Office within the Lt. Governor's Office
- Jose Melendrez, NCMA Commissioner
- Nic Steele, NCMA Commissioner

- **Panel Discussion**

The discussion started with Director Johnson providing a brief introduction of what the Office of Small Business and Advocacy is and do for the community.

The actual discussion between the panel was regarding what owning a small business in Nevada looks like, the pros and cons of being a small business owner.

The discussion ended with Director Johnson providing additional information on some of the issues her office has helped resolve.



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- **Closing Remarks**

Chair Taylor thank everyone for assisting to the launching of the NCMA Academy

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jaime Maclaughlin, commented on the pending legislation around film tax credits.

6. NEXT MEETING

June 19, 2023.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Krause moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Villarta second. The meeting adjourned at 11:38am.