

JOE LOMBARDO  
Governor

TERRY REYNOLDS  
Director

STATE OF NEVADA



COMMISSION MEMBERS

Angelica Villarta – Vice-Chair  
Gabriela Wyett  
Nic Steele  
Jon Lau  
Nina Gallagher  
Juanny Romero  
Lance West  
Anabel Navarro

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
**NEVADA COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS**

*The central advisory body advocating for and providing a voice to Nevada's minority community."*

**MEETING MINUTES**

Name of the Agency: Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs

Date and Time of the Meeting: June 27, 2023, at 9:30am

Location: 3300 W. Sahara Ave., Suite 490, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Type of Meeting: Hybrid with connection to Webex platform

**1. OPENING**

A. Call to order & Roll call

The meetings call to order at 9:3 by Chairwomen Kathleen Taylor

**Commissioner in Attendance:** Kathleen Taylor, Angelica Villarta, Mercedes Krause, Amy Shaw, Nic Steele, Gabriela Wyett, Jose Melendrez.

**Commissioners Absent:** Jon Lau

**Members of the Public Present:** Vanessa Dunn – Belz & Case Government Affairs, Marcel Schaerer – Deputy Director of the Department of Business and Industry, Michael Demeter – Deputy Attorney General, Marisu Romualdez Abellar – EMRB

B. Silent Meditation & Pledge of Allegiance – Chairwomen Kathleen Taylor

C. Land Acknowledgements – Commissioner Krause

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

None

### 3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Approval of May 15 and May 18, 2023, meeting minutes  
Commissioner Melendrez moved to approve the May 15<sup>th</sup> minutes, Commissioner Krause second. Motion carried unanimously.  
Commissioner Melendrez moved to approve the May 18<sup>th</sup> minutes, Commissioner Villarta second, the motion carried unanimously.

#### B. AB73

Chairwomen presented the Commission a short intro of what AB73 is and, Michael Demeter from the Attorney General's Office to provide a full overview. AB73 involves participation from the Commission on Minority Affairs with the Department of Education. The statute specifies that, in rendering appeals decisions, the Superintendent shall consult with the Nevada Indian Commissions and the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs.

There were concerns from Commission members as of why the Commission was never notified of the involvement of the Commission with this bill. Michael Demeter and Commissioner Nic Steele clarified that the Commission is responsible for tracking legislation to make sure the Commission get properly informed on the involvement of the Commission with bills drafts request presented to the legislation.

#### C. By-Laws changes reading

Commissioner Steele moved to approve discussion on this agenda item, Commissioner Shaw seconded.

Chairwomen Kathleen Taylor read the proposed changes. The Commission tabled the discussion until further notice for adding duties to the Vice-Chair. Commissioner Wyett moved to table discussion; Commissioner Krause seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### D. Exit Interviews from Commissioners who are terming out.

Moved to open discussion by Commissioner Villarta, second by Commissioner Villarta. Chairwomen Kathleen Taylor introduced the idea of having former Commissioners to offer a one-on-one with newly appointed Commissioners.

#### E. Election of new Chair and (if necessary, Vice -Chair)

Part of the Commission disagreed to have elections of new leadership at this time as the newly appointed Commissioner don't officially start their term until July 1<sup>st</sup>, and some members agreed that it was fair for the new Commissioners to vote on the election of new leadership. Commissioner

Steele moved to table discussion to the July meeting, Commissioner Wyatt seconded. Votes: 4 Yay, 3 Nay

F. Subcommittee Updates

a. Legislative

Commissioner Villarta provided an update on an event hosted by the AAPI Chamber of Commerce. The event was regarding a legislative update, the legislative process, the bills that passed and died during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session.

Commissioner Krause provided an update on the bills that passed that involve the Native American community.

b. Housing

Chairwomen Taylor introduced "Address Income" to the Commission as a housing Resource. The company is located in Reno and has available a data center on housing in the Reno area. Chairwomen Taylor provided an update on bills that passed that are related to affordable housing.

Commissioner Melendrez provided an update on an event hosted by HUD.

Additional conversation on affordable housing took place between commission members.

c. Community Liaison

Commissioner Villarta provided an update on the event the Commission hosted on June 7<sup>th</sup> in Reno at the International Airport. Commissioner Krause added that it will be beneficial to the community if we add a list of translation services to the Commission's website.

d. Workforce Development

Commissioner Villarta provided an update on a meeting with Bill Quenga, Deputy Director of the Department of Corrections. The Department has a self-supporting industrial program that give the opportunity to inmates to work on different areas with an effort to prepare offenders to re-enter society.

e. Economic/Business Development

Commissioner Steele provided updates on the following programs:

- Kids Camp academy at Nevada Partners
- Entrepreneur Accelerator, free program offered by Access Community Capital and City of Las Vegas

- Meet & greet between lenders and businesses hosted by Score
- Clean Energy Fund
- Built to scale

Commissioner Shaw

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Harry Reid is planning to have a connection with the local Las Vegas business community. This time the airport is doing things differently trying to reach out to the Community through social media channels because not all vendors and companies have been reached out through the traditional e-mail communication. There will be retail workshops available. Once the additional information is available, she will be sharing that with the Commission.

Commissioner Villarta attended the LVGEA Perspective event on behalf of the Commission and provided an update on the event.

f. Health

Commissioner Melendrez reminded that in May 2023 the COVID-19 emergency ended. He also added that people are still dying and getting sick.

Commissioner Melendrez added that the Southern Nevada Health District is doing a survey on best practices and suggested that it could be a good report to have available for the Commission. He also provided an update on the work the Minority Health and Equity Coalition is doing.

Commissioner Villarta added that the City of Las Vegas is putting together a Game Summit for e-sports.

g. Education

Commissioner Krause provided an update on the Native Youth College Cap hosted by the Department of Education.

Commissioner Krause was part of the welcoming team and added that 100 native students across Nevada attended.

Commissioner Krause provided highlights on Lyon County School District.

G. Management Analyst Update

NCMA Minute

Commission members decided to table discussion until the Management Analyst can introduced the initiative. Commissioner Villarta moved to table conversation; Commissioner Krause seconded. Votes: 8 in favor.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Chairwomen provided an update on the Legislative changes to Open Meeting Law.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (2<sup>nd</sup> Period)

Marcel Schaerer thanked Commissioners who are terming out at the end on June, 2023.

6. NEXT MEETING

July 17, 2023

7. ADJOURNEMNT

The meeting adjourned at 11:53am. Commissioner Krause move to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Steele seconded.