

STATE OF NEVADA



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, February 27, 2017 at 9:33 am, pursuant to public notice: Via video conference call between all locations : (Las Vegas). State Building LV 555 E. Washington Suite 4900 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 and Conference call: Carson City: 775-687-0999 Las Vegas: 702-486-5260 Participant's Collaboration Code: 64575

**1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Chair Commissioner Lee called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

**B. Present:** C. Lee (present); C. Chadha (present); C. Berna Rhodes-Ford Esq. (present) C. Ender Austin III (present), C. Gaspar Montañez (present); C. Janelle Mack (phone); C. Kari Emm, From B&I D.D. Marcel Schaerer and Miriam Lira-Hickerson, Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities-Department of B&I.

**B.1. Public Attendance:**

C. Commissioners **Absent:** C. Cedric Cole and C. Yolanda Flores.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ariel Davis, Clark County School District:

- Invited by C. Lee and interested in joining the board.

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

- A. Approval of January 23, 2017, meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action).
- C. Rhodes-Ford motioned to approve, C. Chadha seconded. Motion carried.
- B. From the City of Las Vegas will discuss the disaster recovery program they make Available as a small business resource to the community.  
Presentation (for discussion and possible action): Mary Camin, City of Las Vegas Program Specialist for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program
  - CERT for Business: Program assists small businesses to plan for emergencies.
    - The training is a list of things that small businesses should be aware of such as: risk assessment, essentials of business function, backup of documents, review of insurance, can you relocate, communications, development of plan, etc.
    - Details for Las Vegas-specific situations are being developed.

- Working towards providing this information in Spanish. (B&I Deputy Director Marcel Schaerer provided to Ms. Mary Camin with his business card to the presenter for reference of translators).
  - Commissioner Support: Ensuring tips are relevant, per the commissioners' business ownership experience, and assistance with disseminating this information when this project/book product has been finalized.
- C. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)
- Chair C. Lee and Vice Chair C. Rhodes-Ford Invited to go to Carson City to make a presentation to Chairman Flores and the Government Affairs Subcommittee of the Assembly regarding the activities of the Commission.
    - Commissioner Support: Provide updates that aren't included in the report (from December until now).
    - The annual report was not provided to the Commissioners beforehand due to timing constraints.
      - C. Austin III: Recommended that the timeline for the report should be moved up or there be a continuous annual report for review and update throughout the year.
      - Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson provided with a clarification regarding timeframes for the annual report that were settled but was not available on December 02, 2016, until January 31, 2017.
1. Education
- C. Emm: Sitting on the following committees-
    - On the Tribal College Project: Working on establishing the first Tribal College in the State of Nevada.
      - Doing focus groups and assessments in the Native American Reservations.
    - Extending Transfer Programs to Southern Nevada:
      - Silver State Transfer Program
      - Transferred Admissions Program
    - Hispanic Serving Institution Committee: Only College of Southern Nevada is the HIS.
      - Committee to recruit to create more services for Hispanic community.
    - GradFit Program: Increase students and recruiting underrepresented groups, interested in STEM Graduate Programs.
  - Chair C. Lee
    - Additional changes being implemented at CCSD:
      - Meeting with Nevada Succeeds, First Start, and other community based programs to help disseminate information to increase parent support regarding the changes.
  - C Austin III: Community input meeting co-sponsored by Clark County Black Caucus, 100 Black Men of Las Vegas, Nevada Department of Education, NAACP, CEEA regarding AB 394:
    - Community comment focused on charter schools and that funding was moving away from CCSD to charter.
      - The State Board was saying that there was missing information regarding the report due to the districts not providing sufficient information.

- Teacher Vacancies: School's that had Title I funding, there was 3 times the number of teacher vacancies.
      - AP Funding: Title I funding go to AP classes being increased around the district regardless of being Title I.
    - 2. Health
  - Looking to understand the effects of Cannabis on the state's healthcare system.
  - 3. Housing
  - C. Chadha
    - Working with Department of Housing and Urban Development and Asian Real Estate Advisory Board:
      - Recommendations that were both enacted:
        - Increased loan limits
        - Lowered mortgage insurance
  - C. Austin III: Squatter information-
    - C. Chadha: There are agencies out there that can assist communities with squatter issues.
  - 4. Workforce Development
  - Cannabis Industry is important to pay attention due to potential job increase.
  - C. Austin III: Rural areas that would put hiatus on issuing licenses-
    - C. Rhodes-Ford: Nevada Attorney General siding with federal government and not supporting businesses that are.
    - C. Emm: Job training has been up and running. Nevada are reaching out to other states to develop best practices.
    - C. Austin III: There are concerns regarding business license.
      - C. Rhodes-Ford: The process for Medical Marijuana is closed as the moment.
  - Deputy Director Marcel Schaerer: Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation
    - Manny Lamar, Executive Director may be a resource.
  - 5. Economic Development.
  - Chair C. Lee
    - Microsoft will be a sponsor for the next Global Crowdfunding Convention.
      - This will be open to all entrepreneurs.
      - Crowdfunding will help people determine if their business strategy is on the right path.
      - Working with Microsoft to disseminate information regarding crowdsourcing and teaching small businesses about resources they are providing at no cost and for a cost.
  - 6. Legislative
  - C. Rhodes-Ford
    - Continuing to follow bills that will affect minorities or small businesses.
    - Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson: If Commissioners are willing to testify, they can go to Carson City and have their testimony be included on the public record.
    - C. Austin III: Nonpartisan Requirement.
      - Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson: Protocol-If you want to support a bill as a Commissioner, you will have to bring it forward to the Commission for a vote of support. If it is not voted on, Commissioners but place a testimony without this title.

- C. Chadha: Upcoming Bill Timeline.
    - C. Rhodes-Ford: Bills come up a week in advance.
  - 7. Community Liaison.
  - C. Rhodes-Ford and C. Austin III: No updates.
- E. Collateral Updates (for discussion and possible action)
- C. Rhodes-Ford:
    - C. Mack finalizing brochure for the Commission and the subcommittees.
    - Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson: Brochure printing requirements.
    - Pre-approval of brochure by Commission and Ombudsman’s Office, collect 3 different estimates, and send these materials to the Financial Department, who may take 5-10 business days to approve the materials for printing.
    - C. Rhodes-Ford will sent the brochure for the Commission approval.
- F. New Business/Comments or Items of Discussion)
- Chair C. Lee and C. Rhodes-Ford will be discussing the updates to Carson City.
  - C. Austin III: Add “Report Timeline” as an agenda item for the next meeting.
  - Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson:
    - Will send the Annual Report to all Commissioners so they can send the comments for the updates to Carson City.
    - Meetings should be every third Monday of the month per the Commission rules.
  - C. Chadha: Add “Meeting Dates” as an agenda item for the next meeting.
  - Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson:
    - There is no limit on funding but to be fair, it is split amongst all Commissioners resulting in \$300 each.
    - There is around \$3000 to spend on collateral and traveling, from now until June 31<sup>st</sup>.
    - Vacancies: There are 3 vacancies. Applications must be sent to Ombudsman’s Office.
    - Roster and budget will be sent to Commissioners.
    - C. Austin III: Ensure that agenda/presenters items are sent to Northern Nevada.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Adleen Stidhum, Clark County Purchasing and Contracts Manager:

- Free, four-month program regarding business planning and social media for minorities, women, disabled, and veterans.
  - Partners with SBA, NDOT, RTC, Utilities, School Districts, and Hotels.
  - There is an ongoing application.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 11:06 am. C. Austin III motioned, C. Montañez seconded. Motion carried. Next Meeting: Monday March 20, 2017.