



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, June 19, 2017 at 9:33 am, pursuant to public notice: Via video conference call between all locations: (Las Vegas). State Building LV 3300 W. Sahara Ave. Suite 425 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 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 (phone); C. Berna Rhodes-Ford Esq. (present) C. Ender Austin III (phone), C. Janelle Mack (phone); C. Chadha (present) C. Flores (phone); C. Montañez (phone); C. Cole (present) and Miriam Lira-Hickerson, Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities-Department of B&I. Marcel Schaerer Department of B&I.

B.1. Public Attendance: Chris Footit-Senior Stakeholder Liaison Internal Revenue Service; Myisha Y. Williams-Project Director-MYS-

C. Commissioners Absent: C. Kari Emm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Footit, IRS:

- In December 2015, Congress enacted the Path Act which included private debt collection of taxpayer IRS debt. She provided a handout that explains what private debt collection is. Any cases that are not being "worked" (collected on) by the IRS and the IRS is unable to locate or to contact) are being assigned to private debt collectors. IRS will send a letter to the taxpayer who they haven't made contact with stating the transfer of collection.
- Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson will send the handout provided electronically to the Commissioners for distribution amongst their networks.
- C. Lee asked how the commission help with disseminate this information. Footit stated that IRS wants the information to go out to as many people as possible. The IRS has a Media Relations Person to share the information via radio.
- Other information shared was that private debt collection agencies get 25% of the taxes that are collected but taxpayers can send a letter to the debt collector to deal directly with IRS instead and transfer of debt collection must be returned to the IRS.

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

A. Approval of May 15, 2017, meeting minutes Motioned by C. Austin, seconded by C. Chadha. Moved.

B. Presentation by the Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee.

Myisha Williams, Ambassador for Western Regional Minority Suppliers Council (“Minority Council”):

- The “Minority Council” is organizing minority businesses to reconnect and do business with each other. They hold two-hour quarterly events at minority owned businesses.
- One goal of the council is to create and provide resources for Corporate Readiness, getting small businesses ready to work with larger corporations. One idea is to have CPAs and Corporate Lawyers provided their services at no cost.
- Footit, IRS, asked about an outreach plan. Williams shared that there are people that are looking for resources and the “Minority Council” has list of minority owned businesses.
- Marcel Schaerer, Director of Business and Industry, stated that aside from certification that existing organizations assist with obtaining, there is also a need for how to build your business from the ground up. Williams agreed and reiterated that there is a different set of needs from going to emerging to micro businesses and from micro to small businesses. UNLV has an existing business program that the “Minority Council” is working with.

C. Update on Commission Candidates

C. Rhodes Ford:

- There continues to be an interest to be part of the Commission. Commissioners are to email the resumes of interested candidates to the Ombudsman’s Office and copy Chair C. Lee. The goal is to get the pool to the Legislative Commission by August.
- C. Flores asked and C. Rhodes-Ford confirmed that people who have applied in the past will be able to participate.

D. Budget Update and Expenditures.

Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson

- The only items confirmed by the Fiscal Department are the Banner and Stand-up banner. The table cover and brochures are still being approved. Reimbursements for travel should be direct deposited soon to the commissioners, if it has not already.
- C. Rhodes-Ford asked how long lasts budget. Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson answered the current budget year lasts until June 30, 2017 and start new budget on July 1st 2017.

- Now that the Banner has been approved, it needs to be ordered this week. When it is received, the invoice needs to be signed and submitted. These signed invoices for the collateral needs to be provided to Ombudsman Lira-Hickerson by end of Monday, June 26th.
- Schaerer stated that they are still trying to get an answer from the Fiscal Department to tell the commission what is left of the budget.

E. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action).

1. Education

Chair C. Lee:

- All commissioners can go to Nevada Succeeds meeting regarding the redistricting. There will be substantial changes in the school district but there is confusion about what is going to happen. It's important that all the assets be distributed evenly amongst all of the communities, especially for minority communities.
- C. Cole: The Board of Trustees meets twice a week and it may be helpful to attend or review the recordings to get their perspective on the redistricting.

2. Health

C. Flores:

- UNLV Medical School is starting their new med school class. C. Flores is part of the Board for increasing the pipeline of minority students.
- Governor Sandoval has a cannabis committee for feedback that C. Mack and C. Flores can look into.
 - C. Rhodes-Ford: Legislature established the committee. She will get someone a point person for C. Mack.
 - C. Flores: It's important to note that insurance companies can have policies that they won't cover prescriptions for medical marijuana.
- C. Lee: People are having their health insurance policies cancelled by their current insurance companies, given their health status.
 - C. Flores: There are online resources or customer service numbers on their insurance cards. Letters are sent out when there are changes in policies. It is key to bring together resources and disseminate them to the minority community.

3. Housing

C. Chadha:

- Security National Mortgage has a new program where people can buy at 1% down and are working with Fannie and Freddie Mac. There is also a loan specifically for teachers. They partnered with Radiant mortgage insurance company. There is a push to decrease the limit of mortgage insurance for FHA.
- Appreciation was given to C. Chadha for his time on the Commission.

4. Workforce Development

Chair C. Lee: There was a bill passed to create a minority apprenticeship program.

C. Rhodes-Ford: Governor passed AB 346 so that minority owned businesses can get apprenticeship. AB 436 requires Secretary of State to get information to minority owned businesses when they file their annual list or form their initial list of officers.

C. Cole: Ardel Galbreth, Executive Director of Workforce Connection passed away. More to come at a later date.

5. Economic Development

Chair C. Lee:

- The cannabis industry impacts the state through the types of revenue and the way that business is being done. It's important to think about how support can be provided to Las Vegas Marijuana Association and Las Vegas Dispensary Association and how minorities can be a greater part of the industry. Best practices are being taken from Colorado and Washington to better support the Medical Marijuana Association.
- There is no access to traditional banking and it creates unsafe environments when dealing with large transactions. There is federal support for banking available to the industry. This can help support all other businesses in Nevada as well.

6. Legislative

C. Rhodes-Ford:

- The legislature passed a bill to create small Business loans for working capital where funding comes from private companies. There is only \$1 million in the fund currently.
- Greater than 90% of the people who obtained a marijuana license were white. More is being done to make sure minorities are part of this industry by pushing for minority owned businesses to access licenses.
 - C. Cole: Will this be done retroactively?
 - C. Rhodes-Ford: Yes, because all of the licenses have already been disseminated, minority business would have to work with businesses who have licenses.
- C. Austin: Request an update on the Management Analyst for the Commission.
 - Schaerer stated that the State is working on getting this person in place by October 1st.
- Chair C. Lee: There was money appropriated in one of the bills for the Women's Business Center to provide loans to Veterans and Seniors.
 - LeeAnna : Director of Nevada Business Opportunity Fund-provides small business loans from \$500 to \$1 million. 59.7% loans are provided minority and low-to-moderate income communities. The first year is interest free and it is FICO score driven.
 - Schaerer: The funding is coming through DETR.
 - C. Austin requested a link to be shared through the Ombudsman.
 - Schaerer: A potential event that the commission could participate in is on Friday, July 14th. There is a conference through the Office of Workforce Innovation.

7. Community Liaison

C. Rhodes-Ford:

- NAACP, ACLU, and other activists is going to meet regarding the unarmed person that was killed. C. Rhodes-Ford will try to attend.
 - C. Chadha: More minority high school graduates are applying for the police force.
- Funding has gone through for all police officers to have body cameras.

F. New Business/Comments or Items of Discussion.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

n/a

5. ADJOURNMENT

No adjournment settled. (Vice Chair C. Rhodes-Ford) instruction.

- Next Meeting: Monday, July 17, 2017 at 9:30am. At State Business Center new Building.