



**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, November 26, 2018 at 9:32 am. Pursuant to public notice: Via video conference call between all locations: 1) Nevada State Business Center, 3300 W. Sahara Ave, Suite 425, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, 2) Nevada Department of Business and Industry, 1830 College Pkwy, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89706, and 3) Conference call: Carson City: 775-687-0999, Las Vegas: 702-486-5260, Participant's Collaboration Code: 64575.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Chair Rhodes-Ford called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.
- B. Present: Chair Berna Rhodes-Ford Esq. (phone), C. Donald Chaney (person), C. Janelle Conine (phone), C. Michael Flores (phone), C. Yolanda Flores (phone), C. Adleen Stidhum (person), C. Myisha Williams (phone), Counsel Gary Mathews, and Secretary Emily Ku, Management Analyst for the Commission on Minority Affairs (person), Deputy Director Marcel Schaerer (person).
- B.1. Public Attendance: none
- C. Commissioners Absent: C. Hasaan Azam, C. Jetoon Patel-Ghai

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

- A. Approval of October 15, 2018 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action) – C. Chaney moved approval of the minutes for the October 15, 2018 meeting. C. Stidhum seconded. The motion carried.
- B. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action).

1. Education

C. Rhodes-Ford said that the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has proposed some changes to Title IX in regards to sexual harassment. Her proposed changes would relax some requirements regarding sexual harassment. C. Rhodes-Ford said she has been looking at some of the statistics that say minorities are fearful already to come forward with complaints and have to fight racial stereotypes. C. Rhodes-Ford wanted to bring to the Commission's attention that this could negatively impact the minority community, and there is a 60 day public comment period if the Commission would like to participate. C. Rhodes-Ford will discuss with the Vice-Chair and Management Analyst to see if it is appropriate for the Commission to comment on those in the minority community, not on anything political.

2. Health

C. Flores gave an update on CBD oil. There is some really strong evidence for use of CBD oil for epileptic seizures, which is really good to hear from a scientific perspective, that there's enough data to prove the effects. There's many recommended uses in the community, such as headaches, nausea, inflammation, pain, but really scant evidence for those claims and the untoward side effects are also not yet known. I think we need to pursue evidence-based research so that we can give better recommendations to the public regarding CBD oil.

M.A. Ku tabled at the All of Us event on November 14 and 15th. It is an NIH-sponsored research project and they are trying to get a million people to participate. Instead of recruiting for a specific study, this is going to be one database where researchers can potentially field thousands of clinical studies. M.A. Ku also attended the Native American Alliance event at CSN where Senator Cortez Masto spoke via videoconference about human trafficking among Native American women. The homicide rate on reservations is almost 10 times the national average. She is introducing federal legislation to collect more data on Native American women and making sure that the tribal police and federal levels. M.A. Ku also spoke to a few people there to spread the word about the Commission and looking to find a tribal leader or someone active in the Native American community to join the Commission.

C. Conine said that vaping on the rise amongst teens and are given false information that it is safer than other forms of drugs such as smoking and marijuana. C. Y. Flores said it's a nationwide concern, not just Nevada, and the problem is that kids are getting addicted to nicotine. We must educate our communities.

3. Housing

C. Chaney plan to follow up with several housing officials, Senta Robinson at the City of Henderson. He has information from Tamara Thomas, Director of the Las Vegas Field Office Housing and Urban Development, which he is giving to the Management Analyst so we can have it have it in the office. He is looking for contacts in the North, and also has a meeting scheduled with Jim Haye of North Las Vegas. He thinks we can really build a strong coalition amongst these government agencies and begin to collect data.

M.A. Ku hosted a Commission table at the NAREB event. They had several seminars and programs on helping minorities build their credit, how the different homeownership programs work, and they were also pulling people's credit report and counseling them on site. However, there were 2 other housing events that day, so some of the organizations discussed how we can collaborate and plan together, so we are not having multiple events on the same day. M.A. Ku also spoke with a few attorneys at the Nevada Legal Services about the issues minorities face in terms of tenant-landlord laws. There are some laws that are more landlord friendly in Nevada, like evictions. They offer free tenant classes to the public and are not just for low-income households, but your income would need to qualify if you need to meet 1-on-1 with an attorney. They also have a new Community Development Program that offers legal help to small businesses and non-profits that work in low-income neighborhoods. Nevada Legal Services is statewide, so they have offices up north in Reno and in rural towns, and they have attorneys who specialize in tribal law.

4. Workforce Development

No update.

5. Economic Development

C. Williams attended the Nevada Contractors Association Diversity Council meeting and listened to the RTC speak on transportation and future planning. Also, several Commissioners attended the Governor's Conference – Commissioners Y. Flores, Patel-Ghai, Stidhum, and Williams and the Management Analyst. The Commission had a table there, and it was a great event with 700 people in attendance. M.A. Ku also attended the Nevada Hispanic Business Group luncheon, the Urban Chamber Grant and Equity Roundtable, and the last NCA Diversity Council Meeting, where the chair of the Nevada Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights spoke. He said when they are developing new studies, they will take suggestions from the public.

6. Legislative

C. Williams, C. Rhodes-Ford, and M.A. Ku met with Senator Atkinson and a member from his team to discuss the Commission's proposed BDRs. We received to support from Senator Atkinson to move forward with the suggested BDRs. C. Williams asked to vote on the BDR request and summarized the BDR requests. C. Rhodes-Ford said Senator Atkinson is willing to find sponsors for the BDRs. Sometimes when they write the bills, it is not what we want. We can take a vote to agree to support the items we have already taken to Senator Atkinson and then we will have to monitor them during the drafting stages. C. M. Flores would like to ask the Commission to create a list of bills to support during session. C. Williams made a motion to move forward for the Commission to provide general support the proposed legislative initiatives that have been put forward with Senator Atkinson. C. Chaney seconded. Motion passes. C. Williams mentioned that the Urban Chamber would like to meet with the Commission to review some of their current initiatives. C. Rhodes-Ford asked C. Williams to put forward some dates to meet.

7. Community Liaison

No update.

C. Management Analyst update (for discussion and possible action)

1. B&I news – C.J. Manthe is no longer the Director of Business and Industry. Terry Reynolds is the new Interim Director.
2. Upcoming events – The Management Analyst will be helping out at the Nevada Opportunity Zone Conference at Las Vegas City Hall tomorrow, November 27. Business and Industry is co-hosting the event with the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Federal Reserve Board of San Francisco. Opportunity Zones are mostly for investors. They can defer their taxes on capital gains if they invest in an Opportunity Zone, and if they hold it for at least 10 years, they do not have to pay any capital gains tax on the appreciation. The idea is this will spur long-term investments in low-income communities. There are several Opportunity Zones in the North and the South. Also as a reminder, the SBOP mixer is December 14.
3. Budget update – We are waiting for the Governor's budget, which should come out in January. We will know then how much is budgeted for the Commission, and then we can decide how we want to take action based on what those numbers look like. For September, October, and November, the Management Analyst drove a total of \$137.84 in mileage. Reimbursement is on hold until the Commission decides to move forward with any budget reimbursements.
4. Data Card event – The Data Card event is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019. The time is still TBD but M.A. Ku is thinking around 4pm at the Nevada Room at Business and Industry. We were thinking about having an informal open house with the data card event. M.A. Ku circulated a draft of the data card. It highlights several of the disparities across our different subcommittee groups. M.A. Ku will be finalizing the memo in the next several weeks, so any feedback is appreciated. M.A. Ku will be inviting past Commissioners, community groups, whomever the Commissioners would like to invite, and members of the public.

5. December meeting – M.A. Ku suggests that a December meeting is not needed, but that means the Commission will meet until January 28. C. Rhodes-Ford said we can easily review BDRs in January. C. Stidhum moves to cancel the December 17, 2018 Commission meeting. C. Y. Flores seconds it. Motion carries.
6. Annual report – The Annual report is due January 31st, and M.A. Ku will be contacting each Commissioner to go over each subcommittee sections. It will be similar to the Strategic Plan, and we will vote on it at the January meeting.

D. New Business – Nomination process for new Commissioners

M.A. Ku created a formal application process for new Commissioners so it can be widely circulated. It has some background on the Commission. C. Rhodes-Ford suggests closing the date of applications at the end of February and reminding Commissioners about the due date at the January meeting. M.A. Ku said we can also publicize it at the data card event. There are 2 Commissioners who are terming out at the end of June, C. Rhodes-Ford and C. Y. Flores. C. Rhodes-Ford asked for all the Commissioners to review it and make comments before it gets sent out the general public.

C. Conine asked if the policy on donations by the Commission can be changed. Counsel Mathews said he will look into it, but chances of getting it changed are slim.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:26 am
- Next Meeting: Monday, January 28, 2019 at 9:30 am