



**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, July 16, 2018 at 9:38 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. Vice Chair Commissioner Rhodes-Ford called the meeting to order at 9:38 am.
- B. Present: C. Vice Chair Berna Rhodes-Ford Esq. (person), C. Y. Flores (phone), C. Azam (person), C. Chaney (person), C. Patel-Ghai (person), C. Stidhum (person), C. Williams (person), and Secretary Emily Ku, Management Analyst for the Commission on Minority Affairs (person).
- B.1. Public Attendance: Royal Alexander, Trudy Harper, Sherron Solomon, Lisa Majett, Kathleen Taylor, Renee Boyce, Jane Lee
- C. Commissioners Absent: C. M. Flores, C. Conine

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

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

- A. Swearing in of new Commissioners – Commissioners Azam, Chaney, Patel-Ghai, Stidhum, and Williams were sworn in.
- B. Approval of June 18, 2018 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action) – C. Y. Flores moved approval of the minutes for the June 18, 2018 meeting. C. Stidhum seconded. The motion carried.
- C. Overview of Commission – Management Analyst Emily Ku briefed the new Commissioners on the packet of information. Included in the packet:
 - Brochures for Commission on Minority Affairs, Consumer Affairs, and Department of Business and Industry
 - Standard of conduct - ethics disclosure
 - Sample subcommittee form
 - Info sheet on Nevada's legislative process, Nevada state government organization chart, timeline for BDR submissions
 - NCMA handbook
 - NCMA by-laws
 - NCMA Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)

D. Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Subcommittee Chairs – Results as follows:

- Chair – Berna Rhodes-Ford
- Vice-Chair – Myisha Williams
- Education – Michael Flores (chair), Jetoan Patel
- Health – Yolanda Flores (chair), Janelle Conine
- Housing – Donald Chaney (chair), Adleen Stidhum
- Workforce Development – Adleen Stidhum (chair), Hasaan Azam
- Economic Development – Jetoan Patel (chair), Myisha Williams
- Legislative – Myisha Williams (chair), Donald Chaney
- Community Liaison – Hasaan Azam (chair), Donald Chaney

M.A. Ku would like to meet with each subcommittee chair prior to the next meeting to discuss each subcommittee, preferably in the next 3 weeks. She is drafting the Strategic Plan for the next biennium and each subcommittee's goals need to be finalized so that the Commission can vote on the Strategic Plan at the next meeting.

C. Stidhum asked for confirmation that the subcommittee meetings are not subject to open meeting law (OML). C. Rhodes-Ford affirmed that subcommittees do not take any action so they are not subject to OML, but the subcommittees have recommendations to present to the Commission, they need to add it to the agenda as an item for possible action, and the Commission can vote on it at that point. C. Rhodes-Ford explained open meeting law and how it governs public access to Commission meetings.

C. Stidhum also asked if Commissioners have permission to give an overview of the Commission at organizations they are also involved in. C. Rhodes-Ford said that is acceptable, but just remember when you are speaking, that you are speaking on behalf of the Governor and the Department of Business and Industry. C. Azam asked if there is any standard documentation or Powerpoint slides to help with presentations. M.A. Ku said that a Powerpoint presentation is in the pipeline.

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

1. Education

M.A. Ku went to the Children's Advocacy Alliance event where they unveiled the Kids Count Data Book. The Annie E. Casey Foundation publishes this every year and it ranks all the states by several indicators—economic well-being, health, education, and family community. It's a good benchmark to see where Nevada stacks up against other states.

2. Health

C. Rhodes-Ford met with a representative from Eli Lilly and they manufacture diabetes medication. In the last legislative session, they passed a bill to regulate the cost of diabetes medication. They are supposed to be rolling out a cap, and there should be no income requirement. If pharma companies are willing to cap it then that will be a big win, especially in our communities where diabetes is more prevalent. Once C. Rhodes-Ford receives more information about the new law, then she will share it with the Commission.

3. Housing

M.A. Ku will be meeting with NAHAC in a few weeks to touch base about Hope Brings you Home program. They have already helped 900 families buy a home. M.A. Ku briefly described the aspects of the program.

4. Workforce Development

None

5. Economic Development

M.A. Ku traveled to Reno to host a table at the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) Matchmaker event, representing both Business and Industry and the Commission. It was very well attended, and there were at least 90 small business owners there. Some tables were busy the entire time. She also attended the Latin Chamber Young Professionals event and met several young business owners.

Also, a quick update on the Nevada Opportunity Fund, they have funded 4 businesses so far and they have 5 applications in the pipeline.

C. Azam is part of a leadership program with the Reno Chamber of Commerce and offered to assist with any economic development events in Reno.

C. Williams' company is tasked with the diversity management piece of bringing in diverse businesses to large construction projects and would like to know how she can best serve the Commission. C. Rhodes-Ford said if she has specifics, then send to M.A. Ku to distribute it to the rest of the Commission. This is where the listserv will be helpful. C. Stidhum said with the Raiders stadium, the McCarthy Group has a community interest representative and the Community Benefits Oversight Committee, there may be opportunities there that we can reach out to. She can also share with the Clark County Business Development Advisory Council (BDAC); they are thinking of putting together an information program and reaching out more in the minority community. She suggested inviting the Commission to a future BDAC meeting and possibly joining forces.

6. Legislative

C. Rhodes-Ford said she has a few ideas about possible BDRs, but if anyone on the Commission has any ideas, please email them to C. Rhodes-Ford as soon as possible because the first deadline for submitting BDRs is August 1st. We are hoping to submit at least one BDR. C. Stidhum said that the Emerging Small Business (ESB) certification has been on her heart for a long time, and she would like to see if there's any appetite for putting some weight on allowing the local governments to award something, or preference. Many small businesses are not seeking recertification, and C. Stidhum believes it's because our state does not offer anything.

7. Community Liaison

C. Rhodes-Ford, Jane Lee, and M.A. Ku met with the Chief of Police at the City of Henderson. Her two Deputy Chiefs and her Chief of Staff also attended. The Guinn Center published a paper on data transparency from local police departments and its potential influence on community policing. That report also mentioned President Obama's 21st Century Policing Report. The Chief of Police actually

came from a department that was used as a model in Obama's report. She's very aware of all of the data on minorities and doing more to change that. Henderson is doing over and above Metro and North Las Vegas in terms of reporting and collecting data, and she wants to do better. They are moving towards community policing so that the community is familiar and comfortable with the officers patrolling their community.

C. Azam participated in a ride-along with the Reno police. The Reno police had just started requiring officers to wear body cameras, and the discussions were centered on the body cameras. C. Azam volunteered to interview a retired police officer to understand how policing was done then vs now, and possibly talking to C. Conine's father, who was one of the first African American officers up North. It will give us insight to ask better questions. M.A. Ku will send the talking points from the Henderson police meeting to C. Azam.

C. Rhodes-Ford and M.A. Ku will be attending the Asian Advisory Sheriff's Council meeting tomorrow at 6pm. If C. Azam is available, he may attend in lieu of C. Rhodes-Ford.

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

M.A. Ku asked for all new Commissioners to send their photo and brief bio to update the Commission website.

M.A. Ku asked to set aside 20 minutes at the next meeting to discuss the Strategic Plan to brainstorm what direction the Commission would like to take. She has starting drafting it and includes several proposals for the Commission to discuss. One idea is to create a fact sheet of about 20 indicators on health care, education, housing, demographics, etc., and also to publish a paper about the status of minorities. She spoke with the Commission on Women, which has a similar purpose to ours in terms of advocacy and outreach. They had published a paper a while back on the status of women, and having a paper with data in one place can help policy makers and community organizations apply for grants and bring awareness to the disparities facing minorities. M.A. Ku has been researching corporate donations and grants to augment the current budget. The budget for FY19 is \$800 after subtracting operating expenses for the management analyst. The original approved budget is around \$1300 but they did not account for the management analyst's allocation for the security guard, which is around \$500. M.A. Ku is going to talk with Fiscal to see we can get that adjusted, but that meeting will not take place until September. M.A. Ku looked at the budgets in previous years and the Commission did not exhaust the budget in the past, so it shrank our budget for this biennium. She explained that since the budget is set already, and it is not possible to get our budget adjusted for this year. Moving forward we will do everything possible to increase our budget for the next biennium. M.A. Ku has already requested an increase in the budget for FY20-21 for travel-related expenses. Besides travel, the Commission purchases collaterals, and M.A. Ku would like to order another banner for events up North. M.A. Ku asked for \$250 for mileage for her to travel for events. The Commission agreed to first talk with Fiscal before committing funds for mileage. M.A. Ku will have more information at the next meeting. C. Stidhum said if we do end up looking for corporate donations, we should have a standardized letter explaining the Commission and purpose.

G. New Business

Deputy Director Schaerer gave a warm welcome and thanked the Commission for donating their time and their expertise. He explained that the legislature passed the budget and the fiscal department just monitors the categories. It will require further discussion with the legislature how moving forward, and say, here are the needs of the Commission and this is how we justify the needs. Deputy Director Schaerer also clarified that there is one budget that is shared by the management analyst and the

Commission.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kathleen Taylor from the Nevada Women's Business Center and the Nevada Business Opportunity Fund gave an overview of her non-profit organization. She is the coordinator for entrepreneurial development, training, outreach, counseling, and building community relationships. In regards to small business development, they do robust trainings, webinars, and host their own radio show. She invited the Commission as guests on their webinars or their online radio show on Mondays. They have a database of 2000 clients in the small business sector.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 11:29am
- Next Meeting: Monday, August 20, 2018 at 9:30am