**North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board held on May 12th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. Cold Springs Community Center (3355 White Laky Pkwy, Reno NV 89508)**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

PRESENT – Sheila Herring (online), Aaron Jennings (online), Susan Vanness, Scott Finley

ABSENT – Teresa Aquila, Rodger Edwards, Krystal Ayers

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF** March 10, 2025

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025, CAB meeting. The motion was seconded by another CAB member and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tammi Holtz, a resident of Blue Valley, shared serious concerns about water quality in Swan Lake. In January, she personally funded a comprehensive water test, which cost $325 and revealed that arsenic levels were four times higher than EPA standards. She emphasized that the contamination is not due to mining, but rather the result of untreated industrial waste from local sewer plants, specifically those operated by Washoe County and the City of Reno. The test also found E. coli and coliform bacteria. Holtz stated that she brought these findings to Congressman Mark Amodei and Commissioner Jeanne Herman during a March 4 meeting in Washington, D.C., where she was promised a follow-up meeting within 30 days with state and local agencies. That meeting never happened. Frustrated by the inaction, Holtz now plans to publicly share her findings to raise awareness. She warned of serious health consequences—including cancer, leukemia, and ADHD—possibly linked to the contaminants in the lake, especially affecting children in the Lemon Valley area. She also noted that hay production using water from Swan Lake may pose additional risks.

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES**Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District
James Solaro provided a public safety update for April in the North Valleys area, reporting 209 total incidents, with 96 being medical calls—the most common type. There were also 7 fires, 8 motor vehicle accidents, and 89 good intent calls. Open burning has been canceled for the remainder of the year, likely until October or November. Fire crews assisted the Forest Service with a controlled burn in Dog Valley and are continuing mitigation projects throughout the district. Additionally, a new fire chief has been approved and is expected to start in the coming months.

Washoe County Sheriff’s Office
Sergeant George Gomez of the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office reported that in the first quarter of 2025, the North Valleys area had about 2,700 total calls for service—624 were dispatched, 1,338 were officer-initiated, and 808 were unspecified. Fraud-related crimes, particularly Bitcoin and ATM scams, are on the rise. He stressed that legitimate agencies will never request money via phone or ATM and urged residents to protect themselves and their neighbors. He also noted a decrease in property crimes compared to the previous year. On **noise complaints**, Sgt. Gomez explained they are considered misdemeanor offenses and must disturb a *citizen’s* peace—not law enforcement’s. Deputies can only act if a resident is willing to file a formal complaint or make a citizen’s arrest, especially when the disturbance doesn’t occur in the deputy’s presence. If no one is willing to sign a complaint, deputies typically won’t be dispatched.

1. **HOW TO FILE A NOISE COMPLAINT**

A citizen challenged this policy, citing Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) that reference enforcement by decibel levels rather than citizen complaints. Sgt. Gomez clarified that misdemeanor enforcement still requires a willing complainant unless the deputy witnesses the violation. He acknowledged concerns and said he would raise the issue with leadership.

A citizen voiced frustrations over recurring late-night music and requested more patrols, especially around Tupelo between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. Sgt. Gomez agreed to explore increased patrols in that area, while also noting that response is limited by call prioritization and staffing.

Caitlin Finley raised concerns about loud, speeding off-road vehicles—often without license plates—racing down Ramsey and Lemmon Drive late at night, blasting music and causing significant noise and traffic hazards. She described a recent incident involving around 20 such vehicles with flashing lights heading to taco trucks near a storage area. In response, the Sheriff's Office acknowledged the issue, noting it's a widespread problem across the county, not just in the North Valleys. They recognized the dual concerns: public safety from reckless or underage driving, and noise disturbances. Sergeant Gomez said he would notify the motor unit and DUI units to increase patrols in the affected area, especially on weekends. He also emphasized the importance of public education around legal ATV and off-road vehicle use, while admitting resource limitations make enforcement challenging across all areas at once.

A citizen mentioned they would like to see the Commissioner take a role in putting in signage around North Valleys.

Beck Marco reported ongoing issues with dirt bikes using trails and parks inappropriately, including a recent incident where someone was nearly hit by a bike. He asked whether their private security should be contacting the Sheriff's Office directly or trying to intervene . The Sheriff's Office advised that private security should **not hesitate** to call **non-emergency dispatch (775-WCSO)** to report such incidents. Deputies can be sent out as availability permits, and even if the offenders flee, providing a description helps deputies respond effectively. The responding officer also suggested that the homeowners association might issue a community bulletin reminding residents that riding dirt bikes on those trails is not permitted. While security officers can't enforce the law, they are encouraged to report violations promptly to law enforcement.

A citizen raised concerns about increasing dog aggression in Lemmon Valley and a recent incident involving a vicious dog attack. The speaker emphasized confusion among residents, specifically one neighbor—who thought reporting the incident to Animal Control was sufficient, not realizing they also needed to contact the Sheriff’s Office. In response, the Sheriff's representative clarified that communication does exist between Animal Control and the Sheriff’s Office, with dispatch acting as the bridge. Deputies will assist Animal Control when needed, particularly in cases involving warrants or safety concerns. However, it is ultimately the citizen's responsibility to report serious incidents directly to law enforcement. The officer encouraged the speaker to follow up by calling Animal Control again and requesting a supervisor to ensure the matter is being addressed, and to help clarify whether an investigation has been opened or is in progress.

A citizen shared frustration over a past dog-related issue, explaining it took 20 calls, five reports, and finally direct contact with a supervisor before any action was taken. Ultimately, a sheriff's deputy had to get involved before there was progress, despite having video evidence. In response, the Sheriff's Office acknowledged the challenges but emphasized that in situations involving **immediate danger or aggressive animals**, residents should not hesitate to call the Sheriff's Office. Deputies will respond and coordinate with Animal Control as needed. They reassured the public that they will always respond to protect people and pets when safety is at risk.

A citizen asked for legal clarification about using a firearm if a vicious, domesticated animal enters their yard and poses an immediate threat. They wanted to know if they could legally shoot the animal and then call the sheriff afterward. The Sheriff's Office representative declined to give a direct yes-or-no answer, explaining that while discharging a firearm in public is generally illegal, **Nevada law allows for self-defense and defense of property**—if the person is legally allowed to own a firearm and can justify the action as necessary to protect life or safety. They added that response times can vary due to limited staffing in the North Valleys and encouraged residents to advocate to the County Commission for more patrol deputies. Ultimately, the advice was to act according to what one believes is necessary for safety, and deputies will respond, take a report, and investigate appropriately if a firearm is discharged in self-defense.

1. **REPORT ON REQUESTS FOR SERVICE FROM PREVIOUS CAB MEETINGS**Sally Johnston gave a detailed walkthrough on how residents can access information about development projects and volunteer opportunities in Washoe County. She explained that, in response to a previous CAB meeting request, she would show how to check on developments in their area and sign up for email notifications. Using the Washoe County website, she demonstrated how to find the Board of County Commissioners page, navigate to citizen advisory boards, and locate volunteer opportunities and open board positions, including how to apply online. She then showed how to use the Neighborhood Development Hub to view upcoming and active projects throughout the county. While there were no current projects specific to the North Valleys area, she pointed out that users can explore development applications by commission district, such as District 5, to see items like road abandonments and planning cases. A citizen thanked her, stating this information was exactly what they had requested
2. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELPOMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Sally Johnston demonstrated to the CAB how to sign up for any notifications for what they would like to know. They offered to assist anyone after the CAB if they need help signing up for anything.

1. **BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION**A CAB member asked why some Citizen Advisory Boards (CABs) are allowed to use libraries for meetings while theirs no longer can, noting that their group had previously met at the North Valleys Library. Sally Johnston responded that in November of the previous year, she and another staff member received notice from the North Valleys Library stating that due to staffing shortages—caused in part by uncertainty after the WC-1 failure they could no longer support after-hours use of the facility. Although the funding shortfall would not take effect until July, the library had already lost staff and couldn’t justify hiring more. As a result, CAB meetings were no longer allowed there starting January 1. To find a replacement venue, Johnston worked to secure the current meeting location, previously arranged by Commissioner Bonnie Weber. When asked if the decision came from the library trustees, Johnston clarified that it came from the North Valleys Library director, not the trustees, and that the current director is an interim whose name she could not recall.

Commissioner Herman pointed out that CABs still hold after-hours meetings in libraries and asked why theirs couldn’t do the same. Sally Johnston explained that those other libraries have separate meeting rooms with outside access codes, allowing meetings to occur without entering the main library space. In contrast, the North Valleys Library lacks a separate room, and meetings there would take place in the main area, which isn’t feasible without staff present. She emphasized that she was simply relaying what she was told by the library’s former director. The citizen acknowledged that and said they would follow up with the interim director for clarification.

A CAB member asked whether there were plans to reduce CAB meetings to every other month, expressing a strong preference for keeping them monthly. They emphasized that frequent meetings are important because things are constantly changing, and community members need to stay informed and involve recent discussions about road projects as an example. Sally Johnston responded that while there have been internal discussions related to staff overtime and budget constraints, no changes have been made to this CAB's schedule yet. She explained that attending CAB meetings is overtime for staff, who still have regular 8-hour workdays, and the County is currently reviewing how to balance staff capacity with meeting needs during ongoing budget talks.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

 There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M.