**North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board held on September 8th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. Reno Stead Airport, 4895 Texas Ave, Reno NV 89506**

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

PRESENT – Aaron Jennings, Susan VanNess, Scott Finley, Rodger Edwards, Krystal Ayers (online)

ABSENT – Sheila Herring

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF** August 11

Scott Finley motioned to approve the minutes of the August 11 North Valleys CAB meeting. Another CAB member seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**There was no general public comment
3. **CAB MEMBER/ COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/ COMMENTS**A citizen explained that there was an important meeting for the September 9th Board of County Commissioners coming up. She also explained that she could send out the Zoom link for the meeting. They were asked about the content of the meeting and it was explained that there will be a presentation on elections. They mentioned that County Commissioner Jeanne Herman would be there and that she has been an advocate for elections as she was the only Commissioner to stand up to the Secretary of State and Attorney General.

Scott Finley reported that at a previous meeting he had asked the City of Reno to provide a presentation on zoning changes around the Horizon Hills neighborhood. The City responded that they are not prepared to present because the applicant must first address planning comments related to drainageways, traffic, and railroad crossings. The project, which includes a request for a master plan amendment and zone change from large-lot residential, remains complex and no date has been set for a Planning Commission hearing. Reno emphasized that any master plan amendment must go through the full public process, including Planning Commission and City Council review with public input. He also announced that Washoe County was asked to give a short presentation on zoning and special use permit processes, including the development application form and steps from submission through final approval by the Board of County Commissioners. That presentation is planned for the October CAB meeting. Finally, Finley noted that the CAB will need to decide whether to hold the North Valleys meeting on November 10, since Veterans Day falls the following day, and suggested the discussion could take place later under commissioner announcements.
4. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District**Derek Reid Derek Reid from Truckee Meadows Fire reported that the department responded to 237 calls for service over the past month. These included 13 fires, 105 rescue and EMS calls, three hazardous condition incidents, nine service calls, 99 good intent calls, and eight false alarms. This represents about a five percent increase compared to the same time last year. He also reminded the community about the upcoming giveaway event scheduled for October 18 and 19 at the Silver Lake Station on Red Rock Road. Applications are open until September 30, with sign-ups available online at TMFPD.us and limited to 12 residents per day.

A community member asked Derek Reid to elaborate on what qualifies as a “good intent” call. Reid explained that this category is somewhat broad and vague, covering situations that don’t fall neatly into medical, fire, or vehicle accident calls. Examples can include potential lift assists or other non-emergency situations where the fire department is called to help. He noted it could be as simple as helping someone up off the floor.

When asked about service calls, Derek Reid explained that they often involve false alarm systems, such as recurring commercial fire alarms at locations like a church on Red Rock Road. Service calls can also include assisting Washoe County with biohazard cleanups, or helping people who have been exposed to pepper spray by providing water. He noted it’s another broad category that varies depending on the situation and community demographics.

Derek Reid said incident levels haven’t meaningfully increased over the years — “it’s the same old.” The conversation then turned to accidental exposures from handheld devices (he mentioned buying a “plastic gun” that could zap someone) and what happens if someone is pepper-sprayed or tased. For pepper spray the department follows a protocol using copious amounts of water to decontaminate. For taser probes (he described small hooked darts that embed in the skin) the crew can remove them on scene if law enforcement requests assistance. He also noted they carry tools/kit items to deal with those kinds of devices.

A resident asked about green waste collection and whether it was still happening at the old site; Derek Reid said the green waste collection this year is being held at the Red Rock Road location (near the old fire department/park) and that’s the information he has—he didn’t have additional details. Participants noted new fencing and signage at the Red Rock Road site and raised concerns that people from across the California line are dropping off large amounts of material. The question began to turn into a discussion and they were asked to make a comment during General Public Comment by CAB Chair Scott Finely.

A question was raised about open burning. Derek Reid clarified that open burning was still prohibited and that they can visit TMFPD.us to learn when open burning will be allowed.

**Washoe County Sheriff’s Office**
Lieutenant Nicholas Tone apologized for not attending in person because he was turned around by a crash. He reported the Sheriff’s Office has increased patrols to address reckless side-by-side vehicle use in the North Valleys, including one arrest and a towed vehicle, and added enforcement presence around Ramsey and Jean. Tone also discussed a brazen incident in Lemmon Valley where a person driving a dark SUV appeared to intentionally strike two people walking a dog and killed the dog; canvassing produced limited footage but the press release has generated a few leads. He asked anyone with information to contact patrol or the non-emergency dispatch so investigators can follow up. Otherwise, he had only the usual traffic-related updates.

A resident asked whether there will be more enforcement for e-bikes/dirt bikes and side-by-sides riding on fence lines and paths — including when riders flee and ride at night. Lieutenant Tone said enforcement is broad: deputies will address any **reckless** riding (bicycles or motorized vehicles) that meets the legal standard of “wanton disregard for public safety” under NRS/Washoe County code. Enforcement is handled case-by-case rather than targeting one vehicle type. He added that earlier darkness can actually help officers (headlights make riders easier to spot, and those who flee are harder to drive in pitch-black conditions), so it can aid in locating and stopping offenders.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Sally Johnston offered to share her screen and walk attendees through the Neighborhood Development Hub on washoecounty.gov. After checking, she found no active development projects in the immediate area (one on the site was actually in Spanish Springs). She explained how to navigate to the Hub—through the county website’s Neighborhood/Community pages or via the “Contact your commissioner” section—and said it shows local projects, policy areas, and commissioner contact info (noting Commissioner Herman welcomes calls). Sally offered to show people how to sign up for email notifications and said she’d be happy to help anyone after the meeting. She closed by thanking attendees and moving on to the next agenda item.
2. **CAB MEMBER/ COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/COMMENTS**Scott Finley noted the North Valleys CAB meeting is set for November 10, the day before Veterans Day, and said the meeting should still be held even if turnout is low because it gives residents an opportunity to receive information and provide feedback that helps advise the Washoe County Board of Commissioners.

Sally Johnston said the meeting can definitely be held on the 10th and that she found someone to cover for her because she will be off that day. She clarified she wanted the group to decide whether to hold the meeting and simply ensured there would be coverage if they chose to proceed.
3. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**Caitlin Finley asked for an NDOT/RTC presentation and update on traffic and freeway construction timelines, saying she hasn’t heard any recent information. Sally Johnston replied that she can put that topic on her list and is happy to arrange it or provide the information; she encouraged Caitlin to formally request the topic so it can be scheduled.

Kathleen Rogers asked about “chemtrail poisoning,” whether Washoe County is being affected, who can stop it, and why such programs continue—saying she’d seen reports of it in other states and expressing health and environmental concerns. Responders pointed her to the Desert Research Institute’s weather modification office as the appropriate place to get authoritative information. Participants discussed organizing a community group to address the chemtrail concerns. One speaker suggested teaming up with Kathleen and others from Spanish Springs and neighboring CABs, holding meetings (including by Zoom), gathering information, and possibly contacting the governor. They emphasized persistence, saying “don’t get discouraged”—and believed that a large, coordinated group in Washoe County could make a difference.

Earl Stipple raised concerns about Waste Management’s handling of local trash and green-waste services, saying he’s had to downsize his trash container because of issues with people dumping outside his bin. He suggested establishing more local tipping/drop-off sites—staffed demo-style locations where attendants could enforce rules—and criticized Waste Management for not doing enough to address the problem. He said he’s willing to engage with Waste Management but asked how the community could effect change, and asked others who know the process for guidance.

Scott Finley requested having someone from Waste Management come out to answer questions at a future CAB meeting.

Susan VanNess asked why she’s seeing a different waste-hauler in Spanish Springs and what it would take to get a different provider. Commissioner Jeanne Herman replied that the issue has been raised at the Commission before; she worked closely on the waste-hauler contract negotiations and pushed back against bringing in large trucks that aren’t practical for rural roads. Herman said there are local alternatives, but the contract process and a Commission vote (she referenced a 4–1 outcome) produced the current arrangement, and the situation has since deteriorated despite efforts to prevent those impacts.

A commenter complained that service is poor and that the hauler has a market monopoly. They recalled past demo/drop-off sites and said those operations used to be manageable but now attract large out-of-state loads and heavy truck traffic, which has changed routes and created chaotic conditions. The speaker noted the negative impacts come from outsiders bringing material, not locals, and expressed a hope that the county could support smaller local hauling businesses or otherwise drive change. Scott Finley encouraged residents to report issues to him, Susan, or other CAB members so the County can investigate, bring in presenters, and do due diligence to resolve problems; he noted he and Chuck have relevant experience and invited further comments

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 P.M.