

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 18, 2017

PRESENT:

**Bob Lucey, Chair**  
**Marsha Berkbigler, Vice Chair**  
**Kitty Jung, Commissioner**  
**Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**

**Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk**  
**Christine Vuletich, Assistant County Manager**  
**David Watts-Vial, Deputy District Attorney**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:16 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**17-0282      AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.**

Mr. Sam Dehne stated he thought it was inappropriate to turn the lights down in Chambers during meetings. He spoke regarding the media in Reno. He said Storey County Sheriff Gerald Antinoro won the recall election. He noted Sheriff Chuck Allen was doing a great job and should not be in the media spotlight because of deaths that occurred in the jail.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still provided a handout, which was placed on file with the Clerk. She spoke regarding residents whose homes were red tagged and whom were required to pay for permits when the Board had the ability to waive the fees. She stated the County could not accurately measure water flows without the proper tools and wondered why they were waiting to obtain the needed equipment. She thanked the Board for supporting Assembly Bill 39. She mentioned she had requested a full disclosure of the expenditures for the recent flood emergencies many times but was still waiting for the information.

Ms. Dori Denson stated she was a licensed cosmetologist and recently received two citations; one for not having an establishment license and the other for not working in an established salon. She indicated one of the citations was for \$1,000 and the other was \$500. She stated there was an establishment license under the owners of European Fitness Center and she was unable to obtain an establishment license because she did not own European Fitness Center or the salon located inside the center. She explained that she could not work without a resolution to this problem.

**17-0283**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Herman wanted to have a discussion regarding the red-tagged homes and permit fees in Lemmon Valley. She said many residents wanted to start working on their homes but could not afford the permits.

Commissioner Jung said it had not happened yet, but the District Board of Health could vote to waive the fees for the permits. She stated that Board would meet within the next week and the agenda would include an item to approve waiving the permit fees. She thought it would pass without any objections. She asked staff to help Ms. Dori Denson to resolve her citation issues. She welcomed Honorary Commissioner Ms. Adylenn Trimble.

Commissioner Berkbigler welcomed Ms. Trimble.

Commissioner Hartung said he hoped the Board would support the Youth Engaged in Service (YES) Grant item on the agenda. He noted Ms. Trimble was instrumental in starting the grant process. He welcomed Ms. Trimble and thanked her for attending the meeting.

Chair Lucey presented Ms. Trimble with a certificate proclaiming her as an Honorary Commissioner for the day.

Ms. Trimble said she was eight years old and in the second grade at Spanish Springs Elementary School. In October she applied for a \$500 Disney grant to help her community by collecting books and warm clothing for kids in need. She said with the help of her school, she collected more than 3,000 books, 900 pieces of clothing and 100 blankets. She noted the books, clothing and blankets were delivered to 16 different places including Renown and St. Mary's hospitals, the Kid's Kottage, the Children's Cabinet, schools, shelters, the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, and many other organizations. She was awarded the Disney grant and used the money to purchase more books and clothing.

**17-0284**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Introduction of new Washoe County Employees.

Assistant County Manager Christine Vuletich asked the following employees to introduce themselves to the Board:

Derek Sonderfan, Clerk's Office  
Jean Franklin, Assessor's Office  
Elizabeth Spencer, Social Services  
Kristine Hansen, Comptroller  
Mike White, Health Department  
Theron Clark, Treasurer's Office  
Jeremy Wilson, Social Services  
Elaina Bills, Social Services

**17-0285**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses.

Assistant County Manager Christine Vuletich recognized the following employees for successful completion of the Excellence in Public Service Certificate Programs administered by the Human Resources Department:

**Essentials of Support Staff**

Kim Imperial, Juvenile Services

Sarah Singleton, Clerk

**Essentials of SAP for HR Rep**

Cynda Horning, Reno Justice Court

**Essentials of High Performing**

Heidi Howden, Reno Justice Court

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**17-0286**      **7A** Proclamation – Proclaim April 16-22, 2017 as Volunteer Week.

Commissioner Jung said the proclamation for Volunteer Week came from the Washoe County Leadership Program, which was a group of employees who volunteered to determine ways the group could give back to the community. She noted the most recent event was a clothing, food and pet food drive for Lemmon Valley residents who were affected by the flooding. She said it was an employee led engagement program, which supported leadership, collaboration, service, communication and appreciation. She indicated the program plan was to develop and revamp the recognition of volunteers countywide, which would happen later in the year. She said it was an imperative program and needed involvement from departments countywide. She stated without volunteers, the County could not sustain their mission.

Commissioner Jung read the Proclamation.

Commissioner Jung stated the Former County Commissioner Bonnie Weber was instrumental during the downturn of the economy experienced in 2007-2008 and was persistent against the opposition when staff brought up liability insurance and background check costs. She did not let the issue go so staff, the lawyers and Risk Management figured out a way to cover the costs. She admitted the County would not have survived the recession without the many volunteers who did some essential work in the Parks and Recreation and Library departments, which were affected the most. She indicated the County could not operate solely on tax dollars; it took hard work, passion

and commitment, so the Board appreciated the volunteers and looked forward to seeing the Leadership Team's new and innovative program to honor them.

**17-0287**      **7D** Proclamation of Recognition for Adylenn Trimble.

Commissioner Hartung stated giving back to one's community started at a young age and Adylenn Trimble was proof of that. He noted Ms. Trimble collected 3,274 books and donated them to: the Kids Kottage; Sun Valley Elementary School; Step 2 Family Counselling Center; Libby Booth Elementary School; the Children's Cabinet, the Women and Children's Center for the Sierra; Renown Hospital Pediatrics; St. Mary's Hospital Pediatrics; a daughter of a dignitary visiting from China; the Boys and Girls Club; Fallon Youth Club; Books of Africa; Sierra Association of Foster Families; Volunteers of America Family Shelter; Washoe County Social Services; and schools in western Nevada. She collected and donated 915 warm clothing items to the Kid's Kottage; the Children's Cabinet; the Boys and Girls Club; and the Good Shephard's Clothes Closet. He said he met Ms. Trimble when he was the Principal for a Day at Spanish Springs Elementary School. Her mother invited him to the Children's Cabinet to present toys and clothing. He said he was impressed with what Ms. Trimble had accomplished; he decided to help her by providing her with a small grant so she could continue her work.

Commissioner Hartung read and presented the Proclamation to Ms. Adylenn Trimble.

Ms. Trimble said she was happy that the Board was helping her. She thanked the Commissioners for all they had done.

Dana Trimble, Ms. Trimble's mother, thanked the Board for welcoming her and she appreciated Commissioner Hartung for listening and helping with her daughter's ideas to help children in the community. She stated her daughter was persistent about applying for the Disney grant.

Robin Trimble, Ms. Trimble's father, thanked the Board. He said his daughter was such a great example and he was so proud of her.

Children's Cabinet Fund Development Director Kristen Loebbecke stated it was an honor to recognize Ms. Trimble for what she had accomplished by helping the Children's Cabinet and other organizations for children and families in the County. She said the Children's Cabinet's mission was to keep children safe and families together. She noted they had a thriving relationship within the County and the community. She thanked County Manager John Slaughter and others who sat on their Board. She thanked Ms. Trimble and her family.

**17-0288**      **7C** Proclamation – Proclaim April 16-22, 2017 as Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

Commissioner Hartung stated the community could not thrive without the emergency response from all the agencies throughout the entire County.

Commissioner Hartung read and presented the Proclamation to Chief Deputy Tom Green and Captain Jim O’Connor from the Sheriff’s Office.

Chief Deputy Tom Green said he appreciated the recognition for the dispatchers and call takers and noted it was a difficult job. He thanked the dispatchers for what they did because each call was difficult.

Captain Jim O’Connor echoed Chief Deputy Green’s appreciation for the dispatchers. The dispatchers worked extremely hard to ensure the first responders had all the information they needed before they arrived at a scene. He agreed it was a very difficult job.

**17-0289**      **7E** Proclaim May 4, 2017 as National Day of Prayer.

Commissioner Berkbigler welcomed former County Commissioner Bonnie Weber. She stated the National Day of Prayer had been highly advanced at the County by Ms. Weber. She said Ms. Weber was the advocate who worked hard on the event. She said Ms. Weber asked her occasionally to help work on the National Day of Prayer and she appreciated the opportunity to be involved.

Commissioner Berkbigler read and presented the Proclamation to Ms. Weber.

Ms. Weber thanked the Commissioners for their support of the National Day of Prayer. She noted this was the 13th year this proclamation had been presented in the County. She stated the National Day of Prayer was a national event and the United States President and the Nevada Governor each signed proclamations for the event every year. The event took place the first Thursday in May and this year the event would take place on May 4th in courtyard of the County Administration Offices. She noted Commissioner Hartung had been at the event every year since he was elected to the Board. She also thanked Commissioner Berkbigler and Commissioner Jung for attending over the years.

**17-0290**      **7B** Proclamation – Proclaim April 2017 as National County Government Month.

Chair Lucey said as the Chair of the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners and as a member of the Executive Board for the Nevada Association of Counties, it was a unique pleasure for him to read the proclamation for National County Government Month. He stated it demonstrated how important government was at the

local level and how much effort was made by City and the County Governments. He said people discussed how important state and federal governments were but what happened on a daily basis, happened through the local city and county governments.

Assistant County Manager Christine Vuletich stated in honor of National County Government Month, the Communications Division of the Office of the County Manager had implemented a social media campaign designed to bring greater awareness of all the programs and services the County offered to the community. She said they had incorporated the national hashtag for National County Government Month #NCGM for nationwide visibility as well as the local hashtag for the County #WashoeImpacts. The impact of the campaign was to receive one tweet per day for the month of April, 30 tweets in total. She noted there were currently six departments featured including Social Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Defender, Community Services, Animal Services and the Crossroads Program. She encouraged everyone to participate.

Chair Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Ms. Vuletich.

**17-0291**      **7F** Proclamation – Proclaim April 2017 as National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month.

Chair Lucey stated this proclamation was one he requested. He said every day it was discussed about the time and effort spent by Social Services to protect the most vulnerable citizens in the County, the children. He indicated the children had little or no voice and it took a tremendous amount of support and dedication by the individuals in the Health and Human Services Department to ensure these children were protected. He stated the District Attorney's Office, the Justice System, the Sheriff's Office, the firefighters and every part of the County government had a responsibility to protect the children in the community.

Chair Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Social Services Director Amber Howell.

Ms. Howell stated the County was facing a difficult situation. She said there were 953 children in foster care in Washoe County. She indicated it took a community and a village to keep children safe. She said Social Services reported 200 less children were removed from their homes this year than the previous year. She noted they were finding amazing and creative resources, and funding to provide the necessary services so children and families could stay together strong and healthy. She thanked the Board for recognizing the importance of prevention and for continuing the journey with them.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Sam Dehne spoke on Agenda Item 7A. He noted he would be filing an Open Meeting Law Complaint against the Attorney General's Office for wasting citizen's time. He spoke regarding the proclamation for Volunteer Week.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Items 7A to 7F be adopted.

### **DONATIONS**

**17-0292**      **8A** Accept a cash donation [\$68,111.20] from the Vera Silberstein Gift Trust for improvements to Bowers Mansion; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

**17-0293**      **8B** Accept cash donations [\$387,720.64] from the Wilbur May Foundation: \$220,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2016-17 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items; \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2016-17 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum; and, \$67,720.64 restricted for marketing, software and sound system improvements. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)

**17-0294**      **8C** Accept cash donations [\$48,293.08] from various businesses, organizations and individuals for Regional Parks and Open Space programs and facilities; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

**17-0295**      **8D** Accept a cash donation [\$19,530] from Lifestyle Homes Foundation for the purchase of one 2014 E-350 Van for use by Washoe County Senior Services in the North Valleys area; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)

**17-0296**      **8E** Accept cash donations to Senior Services in the amount of [\$15,804.47] for the period July 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017 and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments. Senior Services. (All Commission Districts)

On the call for public comment, Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself regarding Agenda Item 8D.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Items 8A to 8E be accepted.

**17-0297**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** Appearance: Brad Segal, President, Progressive Urban Management Associates (P.U.M.A.). Presentation and update regarding City of Reno Downtown Action Plan.

Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve thanked her colleagues and the Commissioners. She said she was excited to represent the City of Reno. She thought everyone would enjoy the presentation and thanked the Board for its support of the downtown area. She stated there were challenges with mental illness and the homeless population but she was grateful the County was so supportive.

Progressive Urban Management Associates (PUMA) President Brad Segal stated he was working on the City of Reno Downtown Action Plan. He said to Honorary Commissioner Trimble that the presentation was meant for her because in five to ten years downtown Reno would be a fun place to live, work and play. He conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk. Presentation slides were entitled: City of Reno Downtown Action Plan; Study Area; Core Values; Bicycle, Pedestrian, Infill Recommendations; District Recommendations; Action Plan; Implementation Recommendations; Management Organization; Management Organization – Best Practices; Management Organization – How?; Management Organization – Services; Management Organization – Funding; Management Organization – Next Steps; and Discussion and Questions. He stated the staff at PUMA were real estate economists and planners. They had been looking at downtown Reno from a market standpoint to determine how best to evolve over the next five to ten years. He described the downtown study area and stated over the past year they received input from more than 1,400 Reno residents through a variety of forums. He briefly reviewed each of the slides.

Commissioner Jung thanked Mr. Segal for the presentation and said she applauded the City of Reno for creating this plan. She thought it was the right time to collaborate to ensure downtown was thriving, healthy and attractive. She said there was a significant amount of property tax revenue generated from downtown. She mentioned she was on the Oversight Committee for the Community Assistance Center, the downtown homeless shelter, and said she directed staff at the last Committee meeting to look at avenues to expand the ways in which the Oversight Committee could help. She said the casework downtown was up to the County; the Cities of Reno and Sparks were not involved in Social Services. She stated the County could support or offset some of the funding for the project. She said she would love to be involved in this project and encouraged the City of Sparks to steal ideas from the City of Reno.

Commissioner Berkbigler concurred with Commissioner Jung. She stated it was a great idea. She explained all the residents who lived in the Cities of Reno and Sparks were residents of the County also. She said this project was needed to improve the downtown area. She liked the presentation but said she had not read the entire plan yet. She thanked Mr. Segal and Mayor Schieve.

Commissioner Jung pleaded with the Board to pass the government services tax to raise approximately \$16 million per year through the Department of Motor Vehicles. She said when registering a brand new vehicle there would be an additional \$28 fee, but the money could be used to help with projects such as the downtown action plan. She stated she had proposed to allow the County to take over homelessness and the homeless shelter. She said it was being reviewed to change the downtown homeless shelter to be an administration office and family shelter. She noted there could be satellite homeless shelters all around the valley so they would not be consolidated in the downtown area.

Commissioner Hartung thanked Mr. Segal and Mayor Schieve for the presentation. He stated he agreed with all of the Commissioners about revitalizing the downtown core. He said it was an economic driver and a draw to have a clean and well thought out downtown. Reno could be a place that could draw visitors 365 days a year. He said downtown Sparks was adding a large number of apartments and he thought there were some millennials who wanted to live the urban lifestyle. He said he would be happy to help with anything he could do.

Commissioner Herman thanked Mr. Segal for explaining the project to the Board.

Chair Lucey thanked Mr. Segal for his presentation. He said he and Mayor Schieve had been working toward a project such as this since they were both elected. He thought downtown Reno was the doorstep to the region in the west and downtown Sparks was the doorstep to the region in the east. He stated the community had his commitment as a Commissioner and as an individual. He explained he loved the community and his hometown and was committed to elevating the conversations to improve them.

Commissioner Hartung said Honorary Commissioner Trimble had accomplished many things and was moving the community forward. The Reno City Council wanted to see Ms. Trimble once the grant was dispersed to discuss what she had accomplished because she represented the next generation.

Chair Lucey stated this was a ceremonial meeting which included proclamations and having an Honorary Commissioner for a day. He said it was about the children and the discussions needed to continue to ensure the children had a safe, healthy and viable place to work, live, eat, recreate and entertain in the downtown area.

**11:43 a.m. Commissioner Jung left the meeting.**

On motion by Commissioner Berkgigler, seconded by Commissioner Herman, with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered to accept the presentation.

**17-0298**      **AGENDA ITEM 10** Discussion and possible direction to the County Manager to utilize two or more hours of staff time to develop a program and criteria related to a proposed Youth Engaged in Service (YES) grant program. (Requested by Commissioner Vaughn Hartung.)

Commissioner Hartung said he appreciated the Board's support on this grant. Adylenn Trimble was the driving force for the Youth Engaged in Service (YES) grant program. He stated work was needed to create logos and the framework for the grant and he requested staff time to work on the project. He hoped additional funds could be secured through outside sources and from the Commissioners. He indicated Ms. Trimble agreed to come back to tell the Board what she did with the money and how she felt she had affected her community. He thought this was a great way to get kids involved.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved.

**17-0299**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Discussion and direction to staff regarding legislation or legislative issues proposed by legislators, by Washoe County or by other entities permitted by the Nevada State Legislature to submit bill draft requests, or such legislative issues as may be deemed by the Chair or the Board to be of critical significance to Washoe County. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

Management Services Director Al Rogers stated the Board was provided a legislative report update. He said they were originally tracking almost 600 bills and currently were tracking 433 bills. He stated there were some bills that did not make it through the legislature. He indicated the team in Carson City and Reno had been working diligently to keep up with the bills. He thanked the departments who provided information to the Managers Office. He stated the bills of interest were down to 20 from 33 and the report included the status for each of the bills.

Chair Lucey asked Mr. Rogers to create the matrix to include only the viable Bills.

Mr. Rogers stated the report would be revised for the next meeting.

Chair Lucey said Assembly Bill (AB) 39 was removed and AB 140, AB 153 and the fluoridation bill did not make through the legislature. He said there were quite a few bills that did not make it, so he asked Mr. Rogers if the matrix could be prioritized by support, opposition, neutral and monitoring for the balance of the bills. He noted that would be easier for the Commissioners.

Mr. Rogers stated the report would be revised for the next meeting but he thought there would be very little movement. He said not much would be happening this week.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be accepted.

**17-0300**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Public comment.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

**17-0301**      **AGENDA ITEM 13** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Herman indicated the library in Verdi was only open one day a week and at times it opened for another half day for residents to check out books. She wanted to have more service there.

Commissioner Hartung thanked Honorary Commissioner Trimble for enduring the meeting. He stated he was looking forward to seeing her again and hearing about all of the progress she had made. He said he was excited to accompany her to the City of Reno and hoped he could get her in front of the City of Sparks. He thanked Ms. Trimble's family for attending and for teaching Ms. Trimble to make a difference.

Honorary Commissioner Trimble said she had fun and liked the meeting. She thought she could see a future in government.

Chair Lucey stated it was an honor to have Ms. Trimble on the dais. He said she was the future and thanked her for the hard work she was doing to make a difference in the community. He hoped she would tell her friends and teachers about her experience.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

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**12:07 p.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**BOB LUCEY**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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**NANCY PARENT**, County Clerk and  
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk*