

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JULY 19, 2022

PRESENT:

**Vaughn Hartung, Chair, via Zoom**  
**Alexis Hill, Vice Chair**  
**Bob Lucey, Commissioner**  
**Kitty Jung, Commissioner, via Zoom**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**  
  
**Janis Galassini, County Clerk**  
**Eric Brown, County Manager**  
**Jennifer Gustafson, Deputy District Attorney**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 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, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**22-0554      AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.**

Ms. Elise Weatherly opined the opposite of love was indifference. She said it bothered her that the people who were voted into office did things she did not approve of. She commented she would address the issue by finishing a project with Mr. Tom Gordon because she believed if she sang about it, then everything would be fine. She opined HR did not stand for human resources but stood for hidlers and runners. She talked about her experiences with human resources employees and her time working for the El Dorado Casino. She believed what mattered to God was that a person did what was right and followed the law. She thought the Washoe County judicial system should change the eFlex system to a system that was easily navigated. She said the systems mattered, the truth mattered, God mattered, and what a person did mattered.

Mr. William T. Steward talked about the Caldor fire that started in August of 2021, and the Dixie fire that started in July of 2021. He said wildfire season had arrived, and he noted there had been a couple of small local fires already. He explained Nevada County created a wildfire season guide each year, at a minimal cost. The guide included an evacuation checklist, information for people with disabilities, and code red information. He opined the County needed to do a better job of talking to the community about wildfires. He informed that the Nevada Division of Forestry told him about \$250,000 that was available for community wildfire protection plans (CWPP) to be updated or created. He acknowledged that the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District was in the process of updating its CWPP, and other fire departments had already updated their plans. He said there was \$10 million available for the implementation of projects mentioned in an updated

CWPP. He opined there was money available for the County to do a better job of making sure the community was prepared. He talked about the National Fire Protection Agency Firewise USA program he started in his community in Sparks' Vintage Hill area. The program, he explained, had a meeting every May to encourage residents to perform a walk-through and cleanup of their property.

Mr. Mark Neumann thanked Senior Services Administrative Secretary Supervisor Ryan Crane for his assistance with the seniors. He explained that Mr. Crane delivered 20 fans to the Sun Valley Senior Center for the seniors who could not travel to the Ninth Street County Complex to get a fan. He said Senior Services Division Director Steve McBride printed out a brochure for the seniors, which Mr. Neumann distributed to the Sun Valley Senior Center and the Sun Valley General Improvement District. He intended to distribute the brochure at the Sun Valley Citizens Advisory Board, but the meeting was canceled due to COVID-19 outbreaks.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar read from the Declaration of Independence. She opined the Washoe County Code did not apply to her. She read from the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution regarding property rights. She talked about Olmstead versus the United States and said the County could not restrict her to benefit her neighbor, and her private property for personal use was none of the County's business. She opined restrictions by the County destroyed the value of properties, and the Board was infringing on the Constitution.

Ms. Cindy Martinez said she was serious about being an informed voter and encouraged her fellow citizens to research candidates and make informed choices about who represented them. She opined to understand the course of the system of government, a person must understand what the constitutional government was founded on. She suggested people read the federalist and anti-federalist papers to understand what the Country was about. She informed the public that it could find information on the Nevada Policy Research Institute's website regarding what actions were taken in the Legislature and where representatives stood on the issues. She understood the people she voted for had to govern across all parties, so they could not be expected to vote in her interest only. She thought it was unfortunate that elected officials were demonized for not voting in favor of one interest. She believed all the constituents should have their voices heard because that was what constitutional governance was about.

County Clerk Jan Galassini stated emails received from Sarah Bartholomew and Jacquelyn McCloskey would be placed on file.

**22-0555**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Presentation and Update by Chief Deputy Ralph Caldwell on FY 21/22 Fourth Quarter Status Report for the Washoe County Regional Detention Facility to include security of the jail, conditions of confinement, staffing and medical care of inmates housed at the Washoe County Sheriff's Office; acknowledge receipt of Report. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

Chief Deputy Ralph Caldwell conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Jail Status Report; COVID-19; Washoe County Detention Facility Health Risk; Welfare of the Inmates; Welfare of the Inmates 4th Quarter; 5 Day Early Release; Welfare of Inmates; Medical Information; NaphCare Medical Data (2 slides); 21/22 4th Quarter ADP; ADP Graph; 21/22 4th Quarter Bookings; Bookings & Releases Graph; FY 21-22 4th Quarter Jail Data; FY 21/22 4th Quarter Jail Fights; FY 21/22 Fights; FY 21/22 4th Quarter Inmate Assistance Program (DSU) Cost Savings; DSU Graph; Staffing Update.

Chief Deputy Caldwell noted there were zero identified COVID-19 (C19) or any other infectious disease cases in the jail. Influenza-like symptoms were screened for upon arrival and inmates were routed and monitored accordingly. He reminded the last time he spoke to the Board, the jail had some instances of Fentanyl overdose that affected the health and welfare of the inmates. He opined great strides had been made to reduce Fentanyl in the jail, which included the removal of Fentanyl found in a housing unit by a recently hired deputy sheriff. The deputy was able to trace the influx of Fentanyl to a person on probation who hid the Fentanyl on himself and expected to get arrested and sell it in jail. The individual faced several additional charges as a result of this incident. He informed that NaphCare had not reported any documented Naloxone administrations in the past few months.

The male mental health unit was showcased in a news piece for its program encouraging inmates who struggled with mental health issues to participate in their own care, hygiene, and socialization. The program included calisthenics, yoga, stretching, team games, and group activities. Chief Deputy Caldwell opined the program improved the inmates' stay and participation in the court process and bettered their outcomes upon release. Chaplain Travis Sharpe administered the Getting Ahead While Getting Out class to the inmates who were in custody for extended periods of time. Chief Deputy Caldwell noted the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) was excited to facilitate the classes. He said the WCSO was able to offer a five-day early release for inmates who completed courses. He opined the courses provided motivation for the inmates to participate in the classes in a meaningful way and gave them an opportunity to better themselves while reducing their incarceration.

Chief Deputy Caldwell mentioned inmates had commented it would be helpful to have an identification card upon their release. He opined if inmates had identification cards, it would help their transition to a more productive lifestyle. He said the jail continued to refuse to take people who appeared to be unfit to survive without extensive medical care. He explained several of the grievances filed were cases where people used the wrong procedure to get over-the-counter medication or were from inmates who were missing a medication. He observed the number of patients on mental health medications was trending upwards. He noted the jail had a higher average daily population, but the percentage of inmates who received or required mental health medications continued to increase, which placed greater demands on staff and security.

Chief Deputy Caldwell noted the population as of that morning was 1,315. He said staff was triple bunking in the male and female cells because legal opinions from the West Coast showed that was a better alternative than day room bunking. The legal opinions showed triple bunking afforded greater levels of privacy and security and allowed deputies to perform their other duties without maintaining direct eyes on inmates housed in the day room. He said the jail had a higher presence and more personnel in the units to monitor and interact with inmates as a way to identify and prevent problems from surfacing into a fight. He opined that the zero in-custody deaths could be tied to staff's Fentanyl removal efforts. He noted that fights were down from the previous quarter and thought that was due to increased staffing.

Chief Deputy Caldwell explained that the Detention Services Unit (DSU) continued to arrange for the transport of inmates to attend programs. He recalled that an inmate had been released and rearrested because he immediately began burglarizing cars in the WCSO parking lot. On the second arrest, the DSU made sure the person was released to a family member for transportation home and the DSU provided additional supervision. He said the DSU saved the County approximately \$300,000 each quarter. He opined the two-pronged approach for the wraparound services the DSU provided was needed. He noted one person had left the academy, but that person took a civilian position with the WCSO. He explained the WCSO did its best to attract and retain the best-qualified candidates, and he thanked the Board for its support.

Chair Hartung thanked the WCSO and Chief Deputy Caldwell for the tour he took of the jail in July. He encouraged the Board to tour the jail to get a feel for what was happening inside. He opined Sheriff Darin Balaam was doing a great job and the WCSO staff had come up with innovative solutions. He recalled the Board discussed how the jail was the largest mental health facility in the region, and he believed the Board needed to look at how to solve that issue. He said it would not be an easy problem to solve and thought it would be a regional collective solution. He asked whether the WCSO followed up with recently released people to ensure they stayed on track.

Chief Deputy Caldwell said Deputy Anthony Edwards and Deputy Katie Akerson often attended community court on their days off to check in with inmates and remind them there were people who cared. He noted there was not a formal follow-up process in place; however, the DSU deputies were tasked with getting inmates coordinated with a program. He explained the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement team followed up with people experiencing homelessness. He was unsure whether the WCSO had the luxury to assign follow-ups on previous inmates, but he assured he would research the matter.

Chair Hartung recalled that Chief Judge Scott Pearson had researched the mental health matter. He opined that a follow-up program would cost money but would ultimately save the County money and restore people's lives. He thought a program would be a huge community benefit, and he believed the Board had different opportunities to address mental health issues. He looked forward to having a conversation regarding the matter with the WCSO staff, the courts, and the Board.

Commissioner Jung hoped that Commissioner Lucey would be involved in the data drop because he was the Board's subject matter expert on alternatives to sentencing. She noted that the goal was a smooth transition, and she acknowledged it would require labor and money. She noted the jail had wear and tear that was worse than the public schools and predicted the Board would need to research bonding or increasing taxes for a new jail in the future. She hoped staff was collaborating with County Manager Eric Brown about the matter because she thought it affected staff morale. She opined the WCSO staff had to act as social workers and counselors at times and thanked them for their good work.

Vice Chair Hill stated she had toured the jail recently and spoke with a female inmate who had concerns about visitation with her young child. She asked whether there were opportunities for incarcerated mothers to see their young children in person. She relayed the inmate was very emotional that she could not see her child. She opined the County could do better for mothers who were incarcerated. During her visit, she was able to meet with Chaplain Sharpe, and she thought his program was incredible. She noted Chaplain Sharpe had ideas on how to give inmates smooth transitions and a support system when they left the jail. She believed this was important because many inmates did not have a social safety net or had lost family and friends through addiction and other issues. She thought there were opportunities for the Board to support Chaplain Sharpe's programming, and she wanted to research how to do that for the next fiscal year. She said the DSU staff was amazing, and she enjoyed speaking with them. She asked for more details about the grievances and what types of bookings the jail got. She wanted a better understanding of why people were staying so long and what work could be done with regional partners to improve the issues.

Chief Deputy Caldwell said he would forward Vice Chair Hill daily booking recaps on a reoccurring basis. He informed there were currently 31 inmates awaiting beds at the Lake's Crossing Center. Vice Chair Hill acknowledged that had been a continuing issue for the jail. Chief Deputy Caldwell opined inmates waiting for the Lake's Crossing Center to have bed space was not good for the inmates or the WCSO. He informed that Captain Scott Iacoboni had made some progress with NaphCare for a competency treatment program. Vice Chair Hill thought some of the issues with Lake's Crossing Center would be addressed during the next legislative session.

Commissioner Lucey said he and Chief Judge Pearson had taken the issue of smooth transitions for inmates as a personal mission. He noted Chief Judge Pearson oversaw a number of the community courts, and he and Chief Judge Pearson felt there were ways to be more effective in the matter. He opined from a global standpoint, there was efficacy in smooth transitions because it created pathways for individuals and cost savings to the County. He thought data helped to create ways to steer people towards success.

Commissioner Lucey said the Board dedicated time and energy to creating alternative solutions for individuals, such as Crossroads, Sober 24, Our Place, Safe Campus, and the Cares Campus. He said that often if the mental health issues were not addressed, those people ended up in jail. He recalled he and Commissioner Jung had visited

the City of St. Louis to observe how it provided a smooth transition for inmates. He noted the Mobile Outreach Safety Team spent a lot of time and effort on being proactive, but the County also needed to work internally with the judicial system. He said the Board had to consider how to work with the Department of Alternative Sentencing to increase the number of community courts, how to monitor people in a different facet, and how to immediately provide people with services and care. He opined not all the individuals in jail were there because they needed to be there, rather they had fallen on challenging times that led them to bad decisions. He believed those people could benefit from guidance programs and different programming. He wanted to meet with Vice Chair Hill, Manager Brown, and Commissioner Jung to recount the data on programs he had researched that were effective.

Commissioner Lucey thanked the leadership at the WCSO for putting time and energy into ensuring smooth transitions for inmates. He said the WCSO did a great job of educating staff and changing the mentality towards the care of inmates. He opined that NaphCare was a great partner for the WCSO. He thought it would be beneficial for the County to meet with stakeholders and identify innovative, efficient, cost-saving, and effective ways of providing smooth transitions to inmates. He believed the Board's continued commitment to the process was significant, and he hoped the Board continued to make it a priority to provide smooth transitions out of jail. He informed that Chief Judge Lynne Simons was the chair of the Washoe County Criminal Justice Advisory Commission and a proponent of providing smooth transitions for inmates. He said he would be happy to participate in conversations to establish long-lasting programs. Vice Chair Hill thanked Commissioner Lucey for his leadership and assured that the Board would continue its discussion of the matter.

Chair Hartung noted the Board would be losing over 20 years of institutional knowledge when Commissioners Lucey and Jung left. He said Commissioners Lucey and Jung had put a lot of work into moving towards ensuring inmates had smooth transitions out of jail. He opined the Board and the courts used the first principles process, which was the practice of actively questioning assumptions about a problem and creating knowledge bases and solutions. He was supportive of Commissioners Lucey and Jung researching processes prior to their exit from the Board. He agreed with Commissioner Jung that the Board would need to rethink how it funded the jail. He mentioned he was a proponent of creating line items on tax bills, so people understood where their money went.

Chair Hartung asked whether the WCSO staff kept track of people in the detention center that the Cares Campus was working with. Chief Deputy Caldwell responded that the WCSO did not have access to the data collected by the Cares Campus. Vice Chair Hill opined there was an opportunity for collaboration between the WCSO and the Cares Campus. She said the County needed to research how to better collect the data and work together. Chair Hartung believed shared data between the two agencies would help keep people on track after they left jail.

Vice Chair Hill said she was proud to be part of a Board that looked for innovative ways to solve problems and help the community. She opined there were many organizations in town that could work together regarding data collection. Commissioner

Jung thought it would be easy for the County to change the tax bills to include itemization. She believed as much data as could legally be collected should be shared between agencies. She was happy to research ways to ensure inmates had a smooth transition from jail.

**22-0556      AGENDA ITEM 5 Announcements/Reports.**

County Manager Eric Brown reminded that on June 1, the County opened the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Reinvestment Grant Program to allow nonprofit organizations in the region to benefit from the ARPA funding the County received. The filing window for requests closed on July 15 and staff was reviewing the requests. Manager Brown informed that the County received 77 requests that totaled over \$22 million dollars, which far exceeded the \$4 million that the Board had designated for the program.

Manager Brown stated the Washoe County Leadership Academy had just been launched and the County was accepting applications for participation through August 1. He explained the program was an eight-month leadership program in conjunction with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) that was aimed at providing leadership training and civic engagement to residents. To date, the County had received over 100 applications. Staff would advise the Board members on who applied in their district, and he noted it would be difficult to decide who would participate in the program because the County had received high-quality applicants.

Manager Brown reminded that a concurrent meeting would be held with the Cities of Sparks and Reno that Friday at 1:00 p.m. The elected officials would attend virtually, but any individuals wishing to provide public comment would need to appear in Chambers. He explained that the topics to be discussed at the concurrent meeting were regionalization of fire, emergency medical services (EMS), and dispatch, as well as the proposed revised name of the Washoe County Health District. He thanked Fire Chief Donald Pelt of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for his assistance in addressing the tribal council the previous week. He reminded that the Board approved an interlocal agreement with the tribe to provide fire and EMS to Gerlach. He noted the County providing fire and EMS to Gerlach was something that had not happened for a great deal of time, but he was pleased to report that the tribal council approved the agreement and the County had deployed services the morning following the approval.

Commissioner Lucey said the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) updated the Washoe RTC Transit Optimization Plan Strategies (TOPS) for the years 2023 through 2027. He explained certain routes were adjusted and changed to maximize ridership on ride programs, flex ride programs, and access programs. He noted the Board asked for policy changes to provide outlier commuter areas quicker access to the downtown areas of Sparks and Reno. He said discussion occurred through TOPS regarding an update of the Washoe RTC technology and applications so individuals could order rides, purchase bus passes, and check wait times. The RTC hoped to see that optimization through cloud-based technology.

The RTC continued to work with UNR on the micro-mobility pilot project in downtown Reno. Commissioner Lucey said the City of Sparks saw a great benefit to its citizens with the micro-mobility project. He hoped the RTC continued to move transit funds towards the micro-mobility pilot project in Reno to increase ridership. He asked the RTC about potential free ridership on certain routes during the summer and special events to help citizens on fixed incomes due to the inflation of gas prices. He noted transit was of great importance to people, and he hoped a program would be put in place to give seniors and veterans flexibility.

Commissioner Lucey informed that a discussion with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) had occurred regarding traffic safety and speeding along the outer areas of Pyramid Highway. He shared Chair Hartung's comments with NDOT about improvements along Pyramid Highway past Calle De La Plata, towards Horizon View and Ingenuity Avenues, and to the outreaching areas. He discussed the safety issues along the Mount Rose Corridor with the State. He hoped safety improvements between Incline Village and Reno, such as roundabouts or new alignments for signalization, would improve the corridor. He opined the County would have to work with RTC staff to address safety improvements. RTC believed it needed a stronger point of contact with the County, and Commissioner Lucey asked Manager Brown to contact RTC Director Bill Thomas to identify paths forward and work on the transfer of State roads to the County. He noted that improvements, ongoing maintenance, and safety issues were a top priority for NDOT Director Kristina Swallow; however, Director Swallow and Director Thomas found challenges in communicating regarding programming and timelines.

Commissioner Lucey said the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority (RSCVA) had elected new leadership. Sparks City Councilmember Charlene Bybee was elected as chair of the RSCVA and City of Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve was elected as vice chair. He relayed that one of the big topics of discussion in the RSCVA meeting was to focus more on the organic visitor and tourism side of the region, without losing the focus on convention business. He opined that movement would push the RSCVA into the development of the downtown areas of Sparks and Reno and create an identity for the community. He thought it was important for the region to have an identity to draw people to the area. He discussed other areas in the Country that created an identity to attract visitors. He opined Reno was no longer the divorce capital and the region needed to focus on its individuality and work collectively to entice people to visit. He believed there were many wonderful things around the community besides events and conventions.

Commissioner Lucey informed he had a conversation with the executive team at the Health District regarding how to streamline the planning process for commercial and residential development. He opined the planning process should stay with one individual municipality while the developers moved through the process. He said the Accela government software had helped with the process, but additional steps would need to be taken to create efficiencies. He asked Manager Brown and Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro to continue to work with the Health District to identify potential benefits of streamlining the process with a singular point of contact. He believed the current process led to the public being bounced around between different departments.

Commissioner Lucey thanked Communications Director Nancy Leuenhagen and her staff for their work on the leadership academy. He mentioned the idea had blossomed six years ago out of the initiation of Washoe 311 and the strategic plan as a way to continue to educate the public about how the County works. He opined information would provide a global understanding of the things the County had an impact on and the policymaking the Board did, which often was lost due to immediate issues the Board had to address.

Commissioner Lucey hoped the Board would continue to work with the judicial system on increasing community outreach. He noted that he and Vice Chair Hill had worked diligently to improve services in Incline Village, and he opined it would be beneficial to improve services across the County. He stated the population had risen to half a million people and there was a billion-dollar budget to allow for more efficiencies for the community. He reminded that at the strategic plan meeting that was held earlier that year, the Board spoke about performing an audit of assets held by the County to have better outreach to the community and efficiently utilize holdings.

Commissioner Lucey mentioned he had taken a road trip through Northern California and drove through the area impacted by the Dixie Fire and the town of Greenville that was decimated by wildfire. He opined the County needed to be cognizant of its resources because many lakes were disappearing, and the County needed to be aware of the challenges and dangers of wildfires. He said there were fire dangers in historic forests and those forests took millenniums to regrow to their previous beauty. He explained wildfires were a serious issue the County needed to address, and it was important for people to be fire smart and fire safe. He hoped the region could work together collectively to address fire safety and ensure the well-being of the community and the environment.

Chair Hartung said his comments towards NDOT were not meant to be critical, and he was not always trying to find fault with NDOT. He opined that he and Commissioner Lucey needed to meet with Mr. Solaro, Washoe County Engineering and Capital Projects Director Dwayne Smith, and Manager Brown to understand where the region's growth was happening and research how the County could be proactive to address the needs of the community. He thought it was important to time the infrastructure with growth, and he said the County needed to respond to the growth through transportation and transit infrastructure. He was appreciative of the work Commissioner Lucey had done with transit and said it was important because it would help offset traffic issues.

Commissioner Jung thanked staff and Commissioner Lucey for starting the leadership academy. She was blown away by the public's response to the academy and thought it would create a citizenry that was engaged, connected, and informed of how the processes and policies worked at the County. She recommended the County keep track of the investment it put into the academy because she predicted that it would change things. She opined it was smart to work with the University of Nevada, Reno's Cooperative Extension Program (UNRCEP), and she believed it was in the best interest of the UNRCEP to be involved. She said the academy would be one of the most transformative things the Board did, and it would change the engagement, knowledge, and preparedness of citizens.

She recalled hearing the announcement about the academy on KUNR Public Radio and thought it was incredible that over 100 people had applied so far. She said the academy was a good use of County resources and looked forward to hearing about its success.

Vice Chair Hill was excited about the leadership academy and thanked Commissioner Lucey for his work to get UNRCEP involved. She noted many citizens had asked her about the cost of the academy and were surprised to hear that it was free. She believed that local government needed to do as much as possible to build trust with the citizens because many people were going through tough times.

Vice Chair Hill recalled the public hearing regarding railroad crossings in Mogul. She mentioned she had connections with Union Pacific and wanted to know whether there were any other railroad crossings with public safety issues in Washoe County. She wanted to contact Union Pacific to discuss what permissions were needed for warnings, flashers, and other measures to address public safety. She opined the rural areas had become more urban.

Vice Chair Hill said the mobility hub committee for Incline Village had been cancelled for July 25 but would meet again on August 29. The Incline Village Citizens Advisory Board meeting would be held on August 1. She agreed with Commissioner Lucey that there were opportunities for the County to do outreach regarding fire preparedness and making communities fire adaptive. She thanked Mr. William T. Steward for bringing the issues to the Board, and she was hopeful that staff would help research a way to work through the issues. She was excited about the RSCVA's decision to pursue destination management as a goal, and she thanked Commissioner Lucey for his leadership on that board. She opined there were a lot of opportunities for the RSCVA to invest in the community.

### **DONATIONS**

- 22-0557**     **6A1**     Recommendation to acknowledge various one-time in-kind gift donations at an estimated value of [\$2,474.43] from the Reno Rodeo Foundation accepted by Second Judicial District Court (SJDC) in support of the Reading Room Project during April to June, FY 2022. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0558**     **6B1**     Recommendation to: (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$4,841.64]; and (2) accept donations from various donors to Washoe County Human Services Agency Child Protective Services Fund to support welfare activities in the amount of [\$2,140.00] retroactive for the period March 26, 2022 through June 30, 2022; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0559**      **6B2** Recommendation to acknowledge a donation of 300 backpacks with notebooks and supplies from Henry Schein, Inc to Washoe County Human Services Agency to support welfare activities totaling an estimated market value of [\$12,000.00] retroactive to June 2, 2022. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0560**      **6C1** Recommendation to accept a donation of a 2006 Advanced Containment Systems mobile decontamination shower trailer valued at [\$104,000.00] from The Washoe County Honorary Deputies Association to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Division. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Lucey noted that business could not be done in the County without the gracious donations from the community. He said 2022 was the 103rd year the Reno Rodeo had been held. He explained the Reading Room Project was impactful for children who went through the courts and gave them an opportunity to get away from their familial problems. He thanked Human Services Director Amber Howell, her staff, and the Second Judicial District Court for their willingness to move the project forward. Regarding Agenda Item 6B1, he said the donations continued to help the vulnerable population who found themselves in difficult situations.

Commissioner Lucey said the donated backpacks would be used by children who needed supplies for the new school year. He opined the backpack donation was a wonderful event to see and gave children a sense of normalcy in their lives. He commented that Agenda Item 6C1 showed the commitment of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the Washoe County Honorary Deputies Association to provide the best systems possible for the community.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Elise Weatherly opined the Board should not accept the donations. She said she had donated many times to the community and found the organizations did not share her ideologies. She asked for follow-up, legal opinion, and accountability regarding the donations. She thought it was important to ensure a donation was used for its intended purpose. She asked that the Washoe County Honorary Deputies Association give awards to citizens of the County.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 6A1 through 6C1 be accepted.

**22-0561**      **AGENDA ITEM 15** Public Hearing: Appeal of the Community Services Department (CSD) Director's rejection of the submittal entitled "Merger and Re-subdivision TM of St. James Village-May 2022" which constitutes the first final map submittal for Sierra Reflections (Tentative Map Case Number TM06-001). The submittal was rejected due to the timing of submittal and substantive issues. The appellant is World Properties, Inc. The project is a 938-lot, single-family residential subdivision. The project

site is located in the Pleasant Valley area, and is bordered on the north by Pagni Lane, on the east by US Highway 395 South and to the south is Little Washoe Lake. The project encompasses 29 parcels that total approximately 759.6 acres. (APNs 046-060-45, 47 & 55; 046-080-40; 046-090-01, 04 through 18, and 23 through 26; and 046-100-02 through 04, 07 and 10). Appeals of CSD Director's decisions involving final maps are authorized in Section 110.610.50(f) of the Washoe County Code. The Board of County Commissioners (Board) may affirm, reverse or modify the decision of the CSD Director. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

Vice Chair Hill noted the Board received a request from the appellant to remove Agenda Item 15. She explained the item would be removed from that day's agenda and heard in August.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 7A1 THROUGH 7F1**

- 22-0562**      **7A1** Approval of minutes for the Board of County Commissioners' regular meetings of June 21, 2022, and June 28, 2022, and special meeting of June 24, 2022. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0563**      **7A2** Acknowledge the communications and reports received by the Clerk on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, including the following categories: Monthly Statements/Reports. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0564**      **7B1** Recommendation to approve an Employee Residence Agreement between Washoe County and Cody Burke (Community Services Department, Roads Division employee) to allow occupancy within the County owned residence located at 625 B Mt. Rose Hwy, Incline Village, Nevada commencing July 19, 2022. Employee Residence Agreements provide caretaker/security and snow removal services and response to after-hours emergencies in the area. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)
- 22-0565**      **7C1** Recommendation to approve an extension to the agreement with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for a Non-Urbanized Paratransit Program to provide for the transportation of senior citizens and people with disabilities in the amount of [\$29,000.00], retroactive to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement. Human Services Agency. (Commission Districts 1 and 5.)
- 22-0566**      **7C2** Recommendation to accept the Children's Justice Act FY23 sub-grant from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$40,050.00; no county match required] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the subaward documents; and direct the

Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

- 22-0567**      **7C3** Recommendation to accept the Medical Marijuana FY23 subgrant award from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) in the amount of [\$108,493.00; no county match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 to provide behavioral health services for clients with substance use issues, authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the grant award; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0568**      **7D1** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$20,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2022-2023; District 4 Commissioner Vaughn Hartung recommends a [\$20,000.00] grant to the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation - a non-profit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support the program's efforts to provide emotional and financial support to local children fighting cancer; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 4.)
- 22-0569**      **7D2** Recommendation, in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve the subgrant of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, to Soulful Seeds--a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes-- in the amount of \$50,000 for the operational support of the Our Place community garden, with a retroactive period from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022; approve Resolution 22-82, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net-zero cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0570**      **7E1** Recommendation to accept the 2023 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) [amount not to exceed \$7,365.00, no County Match required] as administered through the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Family Services, to be used to pay dues, travel, and training costs for the WCSO Victim Advocate, and to provide emergency housing and emergency services such as food and shelter for victims of domestic violence, for the retroactive grant period of July 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023, and if approved direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0571**      **7F1** Recommendation to retroactively approve the purchase of printing, mailing and postage services performed by SouthData for the voter notification cards that were mailed in April 2022 for the 2022 Primary elections in the amount of [\$130,505.44]. Registrar of Voters. (All Commission Districts.)

County Manager Eric Brown stated Agenda Item 7C1 was pulled from the agenda.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Elise Weatherly thanked the Board for pulling item 7C1. Regarding item 7C3, she mentioned one of her past coworkers used a large amount of marijuana, and she thought it contributed to his laziness.

Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation (NNCCF) Executive Director Holly Aycock thanked the Board for its support of the foundation over the years. She said the donated money went directly to families to allow them to focus on their child’s health, rather than household expenses.

Commissioner Lucey noted the donation to the NNCCF came from Chair Hartung’s special district funds. He said Chair Hartung’s continued dedication to the foundation was paramount. He believed Chair Hartung was an advocate for the foundation and served many medically focused nonprofits in the community.

Chair Hartung opined the Board’s support for similar efforts in the community was important. He said the Board was called to help those in the community who were struggling for their lives or the lives of their loved ones. He thanked the NNCCF for the hard work it did to support families.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 7A1 through 7F1, with item 7C1 being pulled, be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 7A1 through 7B1 and 7C2 through 7F1 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**BLOCK VOTE – 9, 10, 13, & 14**

**22-0572**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to accept a FY22 Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) subaward amendment from the State of Nevada, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) in the amount of [\$202,149.00; no county match] retroactive from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 to supplement food costs for the Older Americans Act Title III congregate and home-delivered meal programs; and authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the subgrant award and related documents; and direct the Comptroller’s Office make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Elise Weatherly said she tried the food at the Senior Center. She noted the fee of \$2 was a suggestion, not a mandate. She said the food ranged from really good to really bad.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be accepted, authorized, and directed.

**22-0573**      **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to accept a FY23 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$879,493.00; no County match] to support victim services including clothing, gas gift cards, housing support and mental health services, retroactive for the period of July 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Elise Weatherly said mental health was hard for her to grasp because she had been accused of having anger management issues at times when she just wanted a person to be held accountable for the work they did. She asked the Board not to assume a person had a mental health issue just because the person disagreed with the Board.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be accepted, authorized, and directed.

**22-0574**      **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to accept receipt of a direct grant award [\$238,382.00, no County match required] from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), FY 2020, Project number 15PBJA-20-RR-00118-SCAA, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Detention Bureau. Beginning date of the grant term is retroactive to July 1, 2018, with no end date. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be accepted and directed.

**22-0575**      **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to accept the Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Subaward # SG25588, [amount not to exceed \$279,246.00, no County match required] as administered through the State

of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, to purchase COVID-19 test kits, personal protective equipment, and FACE Plus Matching Recognition System, for the retroactive grant period of May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 and if approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be accepted and directed.

**22-0576**      **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to accept the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health for the [amount not to exceed \$439,487.00; no County match required] to be used to pay for the establishment of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, to include the following positions, as approved by the Job Evaluation Committee: one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Officer, one (1) FTE Mental Health Counselor, one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Case Manager, and one (1) FTE Grants Coordinator; funding further includes two (2) PTE Peer Support Specialist positions contracted through Northern Nevada HOPES, program training costs, and operating expenses for the retroactive grant period of April 1, 2022 - February 28, 2023, and if approved authorize Chief Roper to execute grant award documents; direct Human Resources to create one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Officer, one (1) FTE Mental Health Counselor, one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Case Manager, and one (1) FTE Grants Coordinator position, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Alternative Sentencing. (All Commission Districts.)

Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS) Chief Justin Roper mentioned staff looked for ways to better serve the community. He opined that it was no longer clear and distinct whether a person was in compliance with the terms of their probation. The underlying conditions had to be researched, and people needed to be provided treatment and services to address their conditions. He noted the staff at the DAS was excited about the grant and the possibilities it could bring to the department.

Sergeant Andrew Sherbondy provided a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He explained the Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR) program had been developed over the past year and was intended to address opioid use disorder and criminogenic activity and behaviors. He noted at the one-year mark, the STAR program would recommend discharge from probation if the benchmarks were completed. He explained staff often saw

participants end their involvement near the conclusion of the program. He opined when the resources and support began to end, self-sabotaging behavior tended to happen. To prevent this, staff met with the participants more near the end of the program to ensure the individuals would be successful when the probation department was no longer involved. He was excited about the STAR program and believed the grant would help provide a smooth transition. He thought the program was a great way to support the citizens of the County beyond incarceration and probation.

Vice Chair Hill was excited about the program and looked forward to seeing the data regarding it. Commissioner Lucey was supportive of the STAR program and believed it was part of the inclusionary process to provide programming. He opined oftentimes people made bad decisions, but the STAR program allowed those people to reemerge into society in a positive manner. He mentioned the County would continue to receive money from its opioid lawsuit, and he hoped that money would continue to go to STAR, judiciary, and human services programs. Chair Hartung stated he was supportive of the STAR program.

Commissioner Jung informed that one of the vendors for the STAR program was the Change Companies in Carson City. She explained the company was run by two Doctors of Philosophy and provided many types of training programs. She opined it was great that a Northern Nevada-based company had been used, and she encouraged the Board to research the company.

Vice Chair Hill asked what additional barriers to success the STAR program observed. She assumed housing was a barrier, and she opined people could not be expected to be successful in treatment if they were not in stable housing. Chief Roper replied that the partnerships the STAR program developed were moving towards sustainable housing. He would report back to the Board on the issue. Vice Chair Hill thanked Chief Roper for taking the initiative to apply for the grant, and she mentioned the Board supported the program.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Elise Weatherly believed there was a point where a person was given enough chances and had to be let go. She talked about her daughter who she had given many chances, and how she felt guilty for years until she realized that it was not her fault. She believed there were certain people who liked their destructive lifestyles and could not be helped. She said if there were people who did not succeed in the program, it was not the fault of staff because they had tried to help.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be accepted, authorized, and directed.

**22-0577**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve an Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and MedHealth, LLC Doing Business As (DBA) MedTrust, LLC, to provide basic medical care for people experiencing homelessness at the Nevada Cares Campus Emergency

Shelter from August 1, 2022 through August 14th, 2023, for an amount not to exceed \$519,914.00; if approved, authorize the Purchasing & Contracts Manager to execute the agreement beginning August 1, 2022 through August 14th, 2023 with the option to renew for three (3) one-year periods thereafter up to \$519,914.00 annually; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary net zero cross-fund budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Homeless Services Data and Policy Specialist Catrina Peters displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She explained the contract would provide a registered nurse and a certified nursing assistant onsite daily at the Cares Campus. An advanced practice registered nurse would come to the Cares Campus for 19 hours a week and would be able to write prescriptions. The contract was intended to reduce the number of calls for emergency services at the campus. The calls for service at the campus were tracked closely, and she noted there was a slight improvement due to additional services and staff being added. She hoped the MedHealth contract would further reduce calls for emergency services to the campus, and she noted staff would be tracking the data.

Vice Chair Hill was excited about the contract and thought it was an opportunity to save money, save the time and expense of the County's partners, and give the Cares Campus residents better healthcare. She opined it was important to highlight the contract so the community could see what was being done.

Commissioner Lucey appreciated staff's accountability and their efforts to provide services and data that showed the efficacy of the work being done. He said the Board needed to continue to see the data to ensure staff was headed in the correct direction and that funds were not wasted. He noted the project was complex and thanked staff for their work.

Chair Hartung asked whether there was monetary participation from the three local hospitals for the program. Ms. Peters said the funding for the contract came from the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Chair Hartung asked whether the hospitals had been contacted about participating in the program. Ultimately, he explained, the program was saving the hospitals money because the hospitals did not have to treat the individuals that the Cares Campus helped. Ms. Peters said she would be happy to pursue those conversations with the hospitals. Chair Hartung believed staff needed to have those conversations with the hospitals because ARPA funds were limited. He opined the medical services offered at the Cares Campus saved the hospitals money and took the pressure off of the hospitals' emergency rooms.

Special Projects Manager Dana Searcy noted that she agreed with Chair Hartung and explained the contract was focused on the initial touchpoint and emergency triage to cut requests for 911 services. The next step, she said, would be to have conversations regarding how to address medical care across all partnerships. She said the campus was seeing large numbers of emergency responses to the facility each day, and

staff found that many of those responses were things that could be handled by a nurse without needing to transport individuals to an emergency room.

County Manager Eric Brown informed that conversations were taking place with the chief executive officers of all three hospitals regarding collaborative work and sharing resources. He opined that behavioral health would be the first area impacted by these discussions because it would have an immediate impact on the detention center, the Cares Campus, and the 988 program, and it would benefit the public safety individuals. He did not sense there was any resistance from the hospitals to have a more coordinated effort with the County.

Commissioner Lucey said he and Manager Brown participated in a meeting regarding the legislative process. He explained there was a board comprised of commissioners across the State and medical professionals that managed indigent care funds. He said the Legislature would discuss indigent care. He agreed with Chair Hartung that there was a need to address the indigent care concerns, and he assured that Manager Brown had been involved in discussions with the State regarding the changes that needed to happen at the State level so County dollars could be better appropriated.

Chair Hartung was thankful the indigent care concerns were moving in the right direction. He wondered about dental health and thought people would end up at hospitals and get prescribed opioids for their pain. He thought opioids were not a long-term, viable solution. He was supportive of the contract but wanted the regional partners to understand that the agencies needed to have conversations and move in the same direction. He requested that NaphCare and the Cares Campus work collaboratively regarding treatments for individuals. He opined it was imperative that the communications between the two agencies were ongoing.

Ms. Searcy mentioned staff was working through centralizing data across the homeless services community, including the jail. She explained the centralized data would help agencies keep track of which agencies an individual was working with, information known about the person, and how to improve on the work that had already been started. She noted one of the challenges staff at the Cares Campus discovered was that while there were many medical partners onsite at the campus, individuals needed insurance to work with them. She opined the contract would bridge that gap and allow for immediate emergency triage care to stabilize individuals as they worked on getting insurance. Once those individuals had insurance, they could be transferred to one of the hospitals for primary care.

Chair Hartung was hopeful staff had a decent plan regarding where the County needed to be and the partners necessary to make the plan successful. Commissioner Lucey asked whether insurance was necessary to get services from Northern Nevada Hopes (HOPES) and the Community Health Alliance (CHA). Ms. Searcy opined every agency was at capacity, and she mentioned that staff at HOPES told her they were unable to help the Cares Campus because they were at capacity and working to build a new facility. She said staff was working closely with HOPES to develop a partnership for how HOPES could

provide immediate triage care for patients without insurance.

Ms. Peters explained that HOPES and the CHA were federally qualified health centers that accepted patients without insurance coverage; however, those agencies were at max capacity. She said the CHA was providing services and establishing patients at Our Place. She opined HOPES' new facility would be helpful in meeting healthcare needs. She informed partnership at the Cares Campus had been extended to help meet needs. Mobile One Docs would bring a medical provider and Doctor of Medicine to the Cares Campus once a week. She explained the proposed contract was intended to allow for all individuals to receive care, regardless of insurance coverage. She said staff continued to engage partners who could help build capacity and provide services at the Cares Campus.

Commissioner Lucey opined the contract was another bridge to a solution to the problem and said he was supportive of the contract. Commissioner Jung said every diversion for indigent care was a net gain for the emergency rooms and the County's budget because the County paid for indigent care. She believed once the County got all the data, it would be at a better negotiation point. She reminded when the Records Street facility was built, all the hospitals paid money towards it because the hospitals knew it was in their best interest. She believed the County should always try to divert indigent care. She mentioned that the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority and Reno Fire benefitted from the contract. She opined it would take time to negotiate a deal with the agencies.

Commissioner Jung talked about her previous experiences of walking by the river and her dismay and anger over the state of the area. She mentioned that she and Vice Chair Hill did a cleanup of the area by the river behind Indian Health Services and Walmart. She said the river had been noticeably cleaned up, which changed her experience of walking along the river downtown. She opined the lack of people living by the river was thanks to the work done by Ms. Searcy and Ms. Peters.

Vice Chair Hill said the Board was passionate about the issue and wanted to support the Cares Campus. She believed the County was working towards the goal of getting people into permanent housing.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved, authorized, and directed.

**22-0578**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve a 10% increase to a Reno Justice Court justice-of-the-peace salary (from \$79.99 per hour to \$87.99 per hour) when a the Court is operating with one fewer justice of the peace than what is authorized by NRS 4.020(1)(b); to approve an additional 10% increase (total increase of 20%) to a Reno Justice Court justice-of-the-peace salary (from \$79.99 per hour to \$95.99 per hour) when the Court is

operating with two or more fewer justices of the peace than what is authorized by NRS 4.020(1)(b); to terminate the temporary salary adjustment for justices of the peace that was approved by the BCC on October 12, 2021; to make such changes retroactive to July 1, 2022; and to authorize Human Resources to make the necessary changes. [Total FY23 net fiscal impact of \$2,008 in savings for Reno Justice Court]. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)

Vice Chair Hill asked whether the Board wanted a presentation on the item. Commissioner Lucey stated he wanted more clarity regarding Agenda Item 12.

Chief Judge Scott Pearson noted he had worked for the courts for 24 years, 12 years as a prosecutor, and 12 as a judge. In the past, the District Attorney's Office used incarceration to deal with problems regarding people with mental health issues or substance use disorders. He believed many accomplishments had been made since then and said many communities did not have a Department of Alternate Sentencing (DAS). He said the Board understood that incarcerating someone with mental health disorders was cruel for the defendant and difficult for the jail. He commended the Board for understanding that the DAS was not soft on crime but smart on crime.

Chief Judge Pearson said the Board started the first community court in the State after he and Commissioner Lucey visited the first community court in the Country. He opined the Board provided leadership and vision to the community, and the work the Board had done to bring the river back as an asset to the community was important. He thanked Commissioners Lucey and Jung for their partnership with the courts and their support. He believed the Crossroads Program would not exist without Commissioner Jung's support. He recalled when former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited the program and was so impressed with it that she talked about it across the Country. He said Commissioner Lucey had been an incredible friend to the courts and was involved in partnerships with him.

Chief Judge Pearson recalled that Judge Albright had the largest misdemeanor specialty court in Nevada, and the County paid him to stay on as a senior judge because none of the other judges were willing to do the hard work of operating his specialty court. Judge Harold Albright had been paid out of the grant received from the State to operate the program. He informed the court was entitled to seven judges and was the seventh busiest court out of the 43 courts in the State. He reminded he had come before the Board after the retirement of Judge Jack Schroeder to tell the Board the workload of the judge could be covered to save money. He explained the court was willing to save valuable County resources to put that money towards people affected by addiction and mental health. He noted the Justice Court was open more hours than any other court in the area and had great programs, like the self-help center and the Kids' Court program. He opined the Board should not be worried about the court's current resources and said the court not only got its work done but did much more for the community.

With the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 424, the court was required to work seven days a week. The court supported the passage of the bill because it allowed those arrested to be seen by a judge sooner; however, Chief Judge Pearson noted that there was a significant additional workload for the judges. He opined there should be compensation for the judges, which would be consistent with other contracts the Board had with different departments. He believed additional compensation for the judges was a better choice than filling a position.

Commissioner Lucey thanked the court employees for their continued willingness to provide services while sacrificing time away from their families. He recalled the court had come before the Board many times over the years to provide solutions to problems that were presented outside of its purview. He commended the judges for their continued commitment to the community. He noted that the passage of AB 424 had the great intention of serving the community, but it was a difficult decision because of the significant challenges it posed for many employees of the County. He opined the request from the courts was reasonable and showed the dedication and commitment of the judges to make an impactful change in the community. He believed the judges at the Justice Court should be a model to all the courts under the purview of the Board.

Commissioner Lucey noted there were inefficiencies across the County, and he hoped the Board would continue to find efficiencies. He opined the elimination of inefficiencies provided cost savings that allowed programs to work. He urged the Board to look at programming and work with the judges instead of simply paying for judges and the court to be in operation.

Commissioner Hartung recalled a letter Chief Judge Pearson wrote when Judge Schroeder retired in 2014, that estimated the cost savings of keeping the seat open at half a million dollars a year. He opined Chief Judge Pearson had been a model for how to make courts efficient in the region. He believed the judges that were working extra hours and taking higher caseloads needed to be compensated. He said it was important to find efficiencies by offering employees overtime instead of creating and filling full-time employee (FTE) positions. He was highly supportive of the request and thanked Chief Judge Pearson for not expanding the number of employees when there was a better way to solve the issue.

Commissioner Jung opined Chief Judge Pearson's proposal was a best practice and should be implemented countywide. She stated that she was pro-union and thought it was good to engage staff to choose more employee benefits in exchange for filling FTE positions. She believed it was important to be conscientious about what taxpayers demanded. She said the judges knew how to run the courts more efficiently than the Board did, and she thought the judges would inform the Board if more staff was needed. She thanked Chief Judge Pearson for his kind comments and said he was a creative thinker who came from a place of morality.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Elise Weatherly said she was grateful for the courts and believed they deserved more money. She opined the judges had to

tolerate a large number of people who believed they were right when they were not. She noted when she was in charge of a department, she always looked for more efficient ways of doing things when an employee left. She loved that the court had created an efficient process.

Ms. Cindy Martinez noted she was well aware of Chief Judge Pearson's record as a prosecutor due to her work at the Gaming Control Board, and she thanked him for his work with the DAS. She said what Chief Judge Pearson proposed affected the protection of constitutional rights, which was what she had brought up to the Board many times. She was glad the discussion had been so broad reaching because it communicated to the public about efficiencies, projects, and the pieces involved in addressing the shortcomings for challenged communities. She discussed how the COVID-19 restrictions and shutdown of the courts affected citizens' rights to due process. She opined just because a person broke the law did not mean they were not entitled to due process and an opportunity to correct their wrongdoings. She mentioned that during her time as an arresting officer, she arrested people who stole to feed their children. She said she did not enjoy arresting them, but the language of the law was clear, and she made sure her reports reflected they had done something because they were desperate. She believed a holistic approach, rather than a broad-based approach, needed to be taken,

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved, terminated, changed, and authorized.

**22-0579**      **AGENDA ITEM 16** Public Comment.

Ms. Cindy Martinez reminded when she first started attending meetings in 2020 that she and many others had legitimate concerns regarding the administrative orders that came from Carson City. She stated she had reasonable concerns regarding infringement on constitutional rights. She reminded that COVID-19 (C19) had not gone away and asked the Board to be mindful of any hysteria that came from managing agencies. She read from an article that stated there had been no change in C19 transmission levels and that rates had plateaued. She explained the article said thousands of patients were seen with mild cases of C19 and intubations had not occurred since February. She further read that only 10 percent of the C19 positive admissions were due to C19, and many of the people admitted simply had bad colds. She asked that the Board ban mandatory vaccinations, vaccination passports, and any verification of medical status. She opined verifications were a violation of medical privacy, bodily autonomy, informed consent, and freedom of choice.

**22-0580**      **AGENDA ITEM 17** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Herman understood how much work was done to obtain grants, and she thanked the people who did that hard work and presented before the Board that day. She thanked Ms. Cindy Martinez for her final public comment and said she agreed with the advice Ms. Martinez gave.

Commissioner Lucey noted that day's meeting felt like a normal meeting, and he said the Board had worked as a whole for the benefit of the community to take care of a lot of great business. He explained it was difficult to be a policymaker sometimes, but that day had been beneficial for him to know he had an opportunity to impact effective changes. He thanked the Board for its continued support and its committed dedication to the betterment of the region. He opined matters were not partisan, rather it was about who the region was as a community. He thought the work done by the Board was very important and impactful to democracy and the public process.

Vice Chair Hill asked County Manager Eric Brown for an update on the 988 program. She thought it would be helpful for the public to understand what the program was about and how to utilize it.

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**12:37 p.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**VAUGHN HARTUNG**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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**JANIS GALASSINI**, County Clerk and  
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Evonne Strickland, Deputy County Clerk*