

Audit Committee Meeting
Washoe County, Nevada
August 1, 2023, at 10:00 AM

Voting Members: Commissioner Herman, Barbara Kinnison, Charlene Hart

Non-Voting Members: County Manager Eric Brown

Other attendees: Katelyn Kleidosty (Internal Audit Manager), Louis Martensen (Internal Auditor), Commissioner Hill (alternate), Abigail Yacoben (Chief Financial Officer), Trenton Ross (Deputy District Attorney)

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM and Mrs. Kleidosty performed roll call – those listed above were present. Quorum was met.

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Mr. Bruce Parks distributed documents to the Committee, copies of which were placed on file. He expressed disappointment that the Audit Committee meeting was allowed to meet. He believed that the meeting illegally occurred and was not in compliance with Washoe County (“the County”) ordinance 15.545 (2), which required election of a Chair and Vice-Chair. He further explained that County staff was not responsible and cannot call the meeting to order. Additionally, Mr. Parks reviewed minutes of prior meetings and noted that Commissioner Hill had provided comment and voted on items on the agenda, even though she was an alternate Committee member. Furthermore, Mr. Parks noted that two Audit Committee members were not sitting on the dais. He explained that the two members should have remained on the Audit Committee until their replacements were appointed. He expressed that County staff knew the positions were vacant and the terms expired, but no action was taken. He reiterated his disappointment in the illegal activity precipitating on the Audit Committee. He questioned that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) does not have County staff run the BCC meetings, therefore County staff should not run the Audit Committee meeting. He requested that this be fixed, and Commissioner Herman adjourn the meeting immediately.

Ms. Joni Hammond stated that she was against spending an additional \$500,000 on The Elections Group. She suggested a better solution was to create a committee of community members and hire a project manager; that this solution would save the County money and a better outcome.

Ms. Janet Butcher echoed Bruce Parks comments about the two Audit Committee vacancies. She questioned why the County in general is behind in filling positions for various boards and committees such as the Library Board and the Senior Advisory Board. Ms. Butcher also echoed that there was no need to spend an additional \$500,000 on a service that can be provided by volunteers. She continued that some people have been asked to come in and offer their observations and opinions about the elections. Ms. Butcher further explains that the June 9th minutes stated Ms. Butcher stressed that the use of volunteers was not working. She

clarified she meant Washoe County Manager Eric Brown said that volunteers did not work. She reiterated that she believed volunteers did work and there were a lot of volunteers in the community. Ms. Butcher also suggested a Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the elections. Lastly, she noted The Elections Group report on the election process cost more than \$1,170 per page and was not a good return on investment.

Mr. Roger Edwards expressed concern that the County needed to get it right. He did not think most people knew what the Audit Committee did. He described the Audit Committee was a half dozen motivated people who watched the money spent, the audit process, and be sure it delved into the County's operations. He further explained that the Internal Audit Division needed more than one or two people to perform a meaningful audit of the Registrar of Voters office, due to the complexity. Mr. Edwards would like to see additional Internal Audit employees to perform such audits. He emphasized the importance of the audits for the taxpayer money, his money. Mr. Edwards stated that he was the President of the Republican Men's Club of Northern Nevada and one of a dozen people who attended the meeting who represented between ten (10) and two hundred (200) people. He kept the club informed and encouraged the members to get involved in the meetings. Mr. Edwards requested more staff and the proceedings to be squared away. He reiterated the importance of having the right people in the right place to have solutions, even if its just where the next \$100,00, \$500,000, \$800,00 actually went.

Mr. Robert Beadles addressed Commissioner Herman that the following comments were not directed at her, praised her for serving the people. Mr. Beadles echoed Mr. Parks comments and elaborated that he was disheartened the meeting occurred since the Audit Committee did not have a chair or vice chair and two vacant positions. He also expressed sadness that these meetings had become adversarial. He necessitated the district attorney should have worked for the people, instead he expressed sadness that the public servants served themselves. Mr. Beadles stated that The Election Group is not wanted in the County, but the County wants them here against the people's wishes. He alleged that The Election Group is not authorized to work in Nevada, according to the County's own rules, as The Election Group is not registered with the Secretary of State. He explained that The Election Group has physically worked in the County, and he has proof through witnesses that were interviewed. He elaborated on the claim that The Election Group was working on the project without the vote to accept the contract. Mr. Beadles argued details of the Office of the County Manager had the ability to accept the contract, but since this item is of great importance, the contract should have been voted on by the Board of County Commissioners. He expressed that there was a lack of concern for rules and laws, explaining his displeasure with the activities of the County Manager. He stated that he told the County he would sue, and he did. Mr. Beadles further explained that if the Audit Committee was in fact illegitimate, as was claimed, then he would sue the Audit Committee as well. He affirmed that the County should not have outsourced for talent that was here locally. He determined that if the County did not hire qualified Registrar of Voters or qualified Assistant Registrar of Voters and continued to farm out work to out-of-state companies meant that the County did not care about the citizens of the County and alluded to that being a reason people lost faith in the elections. He concluded that the people had had enough.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca thanked the Audit Committee for their service. She echoed the comments made by Mr. Parks and Mr. Beadles. She urged the Audit Committee to not approve the minutes from the June 22, 2023, Audit Committee meeting as she represented that she was

misquoted. She stated that the minutes represented that she said that \$2 million was spent on Drag Queen Story Hour. She said that if there's a video or audio recording of that meeting, it should be rereviewed. She claims she never said such thing to her recollection and if she did she wants someone to play it for her because she never said it and that would be absurd. But its in the meeting minutes so she urges the Audit Committee to not approve the minutes until its been reviewed. She stated that its not only the Republican Party that claimed the elections are not safe. Ms. Fiannaca referenced the Georgia Haberman report explaining that the machines were not safe and secure. She claimed that the Democratic Party also claimed the elections were not safe and secure when Hillary Clinton lost the election, and it was all on record. Ms. Fiannaca further explained it was an ongoing issue since machines were utilized. She concurred with Mr. Beadles was correct stating that 60 – 80% of the population did not think the elections were safe. She said we need to make it right in Washoe County, that people have faith in the elections; otherwise, the people are lost. She claimed we had to get back to the foundation or we cannot do business as a county. She expressed that the two chairs being empty on the Audit Committee was ridiculous and gestured to the one member who was sitting in the audience. She explained that if Amy Ghilieri can remain in her seat of the Library Board of Trustees, then Mr. Buehler should remain on the Audit Committee until the position had been filled. She said she did not understand why the same procedures are not followed for every board and committee.

Mr. Scott Finley delivered documents to be distributed to the Audit Committee members on the dais, and those documents were placed on the record. He explained that he's a resident of Washoe County, with a military background in financial management and Comptroller career field of the United States Air Force. He questioned why Washoe County mocks its residents. He explained that the Audit Committee needed to refrain from approving the minutes as written for the June 9, 2023, and June 22, 2023, meetings. Mr. Finley further explained that the Audit Committee should consider the incompetence demonstrated by The Elections Group. He recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject The Elections Group implementation plan and timeline. He returned to his earlier comments on the Audit Committee minutes and explained that the Audit Committee tried to redact Maro Wieboldt's home address at the bottom of his Washoe311 comment under the agenda documents, except the address at the top was not redacted. He elaborated that under Additional Meeting Resources the Audit Committee tried to redact Maro Wieboldt's home address at the bottom of his Washoe311 comment, but the address can still be deciphered. Furthermore, explained that the email addresses of constituents who provided public comment remained unredacted. He questioned that if the Audit Committee is not capable of auditing itself, what is the purpose of having meetings? To conclude, this was one reason why he did not believe the prior meetings' minutes accurately reflected the audio recordings. He argued that as a gesture of goodwill and transparency, the audio recordings should be by default automatically uploaded instead of requiring a public records request. Mr. Finley stated that at the Friday, June 9, 2023, Mr. Beadles provided public comment that The Elections Group was not registered with the Nevada Secretary of State, breaching NRS 76.100. He stated that on Monday, June 12, 2023, The Elections Group registered with the Secretary of State. He questioned if what The Election Group was legal and unquestionable, then why not wait a week or two weeks instead of immediately responding like they got caught with their hand in the cookie jar. He reiterated for the reasons he provided, the Audit Committee needed to delay approving the meeting minutes for June 9, 2023, and June 22, 2023, meetings and the Audit Committee should take into

account the incompetency of The Elections Group and recommend that the Board of County Commissioners reject The Elections Group implementation plan and guidelines.

Ms. Penny Brock provided documents to be distributed to the Audit Committee and those documents were placed on the record. Ms. Brock displayed a small American flag on the podium and explained the reason was because the American flag is behind the dais. She elaborated that the County was in jeopardy of losing freedoms and Constitution, because the elections were not fair and honest; especially in Nevada and five (5) other states, the swing states and that controlled the outcome of the American elections for the president, the senate, and the house. She reminded the Audit Committee to preserve the Constitution, preserve fair, honest, and safe elections. She believed that Commissioner Hill had asked The Elections Group report be reviewed by the Audit Committee and she did not understand why. Ms. Brock requested the Audit Committee think about the recommendations and vote forwarded to the County Commission. She stated that an out-of-state election group that has been terminated from other states was not wanted in Washoe County. She requested that the Registrar of Voters be replaced and if there was someone else the elections management would be fixed. Ms. Brock recommended that The Elections Group report not be accepted and not hired for the remainder of the contract. She detailed that the elections should be paper ballots, no election voting system, hand counted in the precincts, included mailed-in ballots, and counted only on election day. She further recommended to confirmed voter roles be updated monthly, remove inactive voters if the voter had not voted in the last two elections and to not participate in the Nevada centralized voting system. Ms. Brock also called to appeal AB 321 during the next legislative session. She concluded that the Audit Committee should not The Elections Group not be accepted and not hired for the extra \$500,000.

Ms. Cindy Martinez provided documents to be distributed to the Audit Committee and was placed on the record. She stated that she had received no less than three emails that purported some information that she had perceived to be inaccurate and misleading. She attended the meeting put on the record the information she had from direct knowledge, direct involvement, direct observation, and personal research and substantiated by the Audit Committee's documents, the minutes, the agendas, and video review. She explained the purpose of the Audit Committee was not to codify, the purpose of was to fulfill the policy requirements in accordance with the County Code with oversight over financial statements, system internal controls, internal audit plans, etc. She elaborated that it was not a rule making body. She noted it was on the record from the Board of County Commissioners April 11, 2023, meeting after Commissioner Andriola's motion to approve The Elections Group for \$100,000 for the report only and that report was routed through the Audit Committee for review and transparency. Ms. Martinez recounted on December 20, 2020, Commissioner Herman voted with the Board of County Commissioners which approved funding for the 2020 election and on April 11, 2023, Commissioner Herman made a motion to deny The Election Group contract which failed on a motion of two to three with Commissioner Herman and Commissioner Clark who voted against the contact. She continued on April 11, 2023, Commissioner Andriola made a motion which had The Election Group conduct an investigation in Inspector's General style inspection and that carried on a four to one vote. She questioned whether Commissioner Herman meant to vote against the contract or for the contract. Ms. Martinez concluded that she was looking forward to the presentation from County Manager Eric Brown and the Registrar of Voters, Jamie Rodriguez to understand the purpose of the report.

Mr. James Benthin provided documents to be distributed to the Audit Committee and placed on the record. He stated that words stand the test of time but lies are exposed. He opposed spending \$500,000 on The Elections Group contract. He claimed that an outside vendor was not needed to fix the elections. He questioned the legality of the meeting. Mr. Benthin referred to the document that was distributed to the Audit Committee. He explained that the article detailed the problems of past elections and offered solutions. He elaborated that Mark Cook described what he discovered about electronic voting systems, revealed disturbing proof how elections can be manipulated, and demonstrated how easily electronic voting systems could be accessed. Mr. Benthin explained after watching the video from Mark Cook that it can easily be understood how elections can be easily manipulated. He continued to explain on page three (3) the voter registration, ERIC, it described the system and how it has failed the people. Voter validation on page four (4) issues with that. Issues with tabulation with reporting.

Mr. Matthew Buehler stated that he has been a previous member of this committee as of June 30th of this year. He explained that over a year ago he mentioned to the previous auditor that a chair and vice-chair were needed according to the Audit Committee Charter. He expounded the Audit Committee were advisors and it was a citizen's board. Mr. Buehler detailed it was a way to verify the government operated properly. He questioned the legality of the meeting since a chair and vice-chair had not been elected and concluded that the only recourse was for Commissioner Herman to adjourn the meeting. He argued another meeting should be scheduled for the sole purpose of electing a chair and vice-chair. He also stated he turned in his application for the new Audit Committee appointment and hadn't heard anything. He thanked the Audit Committee for their work and requested termination of County Manager Eric Brown as he was not operating efficiently.

Ms. Darla Lee questioned the operation of the meeting even after all the comments from Mr. Buehler and other commenters. She echoed all the comments of what had been previously said. Ms. Lee explained that everyone would have to stand at a judgement seat and be held accountable for every word and action.

Mr. George Lee explained an audit was important to the operation of the County, because if people realized someone was watching they would be diligent and competent. He expressed that he did not know what the staff was like for the Audit Committee, if there was any, but Commissioner Herman had staff, but the others were not equipped with staff to do research. He stated that the Audit Committee had the responsibility of finding people who are not doing their job, had not lived up to their contract or their ability. He opposed of an activity at the meeting.

Mr. Drew Ribar questioned the legality of the Audit Committee meeting. He explained if he broke the law on the street, law enforcement would give him a ticket. He questioned why the government gets to break the law.

Ms. Deborah Mardon provided documents to be distributed to the Audit Committee and placed on the record. She stated she had been a resident of Washoe County since 1964. She thanked the Audit Committee for having the opportunity to provide public comment. She opposed the hiring of The Election Group. She pointed out that they are from out-of-state and

had been fired from other states. She questioned why Washoe County would hire this company. She expressed election integrity was important and not more troubled, dishonest elections. Ms. Mardon claimed The Elections Group wanted Washoe County to use machines. She continued that dishonest IT personnel programmed the machines to remove candidates from the elections. She did not want machines. She expressed that she wanted paper ballots, no mailed-in voting, and only absentee ballots with a good reason. She attests in-person voting with ID and paper ballots would be more affordable and result in honest elections. She asserted that when Washoe County started using machines for elections, corruption started. She questioned how much The Elections Group would cost in 2024, if Washoe County has already paid \$100,000 and expected an additional \$500,000 for 2023. She claimed in the long run Washoe County tax payers will pay over a million dollars. She stated that Washoe County has a wealth of honest, knowledgeable, experienced citizens who will do a better job. Ms. Mardon knows an experienced, qualified, honest person who applied for Assistant Registrar of Voters position, and questions why she did not get the position.

Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas provided documents to be distributed to the Audit Committee and placed on the record. She quoted Thessalonians 5:15 that taught "seek that no one turns evil for evil, rather always seek what is good both for each other and for all." She claimed it set the tone for the purpose of the meeting and the duty of the Audit Committee. She stated that most people took time to share their concerns for what was good for all, but some were only there to speak on only what benefited them which caused more harm in gaining trust and transparency in the elections. She sympathized with the pressure on the Audit Committee but encouraged the Audit Committee to make the best decision for the community. Ms. Hilton-Thomas offered a few corrections for the minutes for the June 22, 2023, meeting such as under agenda item 2, it should be 2019 not 219; a her name was spelled incorrectly under agenda item 9. She also assured the Audit Committee that Commissioner Herman proposed two resolutions to the Board of County Commissioners that would address several issues with the elections. She continued that one would establish a citizen advisory board, which the Audit Committee recommended. She continued another one would address the seven election laws already in place within the NRS that Washoe County can publicly commit to. She asked the Audit Committee to consider this when making further recommendations through this committee.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon provided documents to be distributed to the Audit Committee and placed on the record. He questioned what happened between the June 9, 2023 meeting and the August 1, 2023 meeting other than The Elections Group requesting an additional \$500,000 and the opportunity to implement procedures that no one has voted on. He reiterated questions he has asked at previous meetings. Mr. St. Jon directed a question at Deputy District Attorney Ross asking if the agenda has an item as discussion only, what can or cannot the Audit Committee do since it's discussion only. Mr. St. Jon stated that no one is going to vote otherwise it would have been placed on the agenda as for action. He further questioned what the outcome of the meeting would be since there was no vote. He questioned why he nor other conservative voices that have been deeply involved in election integrity were not called during The Elections Group interviews. He also addressed who and how are salaries proposed for those in the Registrar of Voters, how were they determined. He states that there significant amount of money for positions and when we worked as an administrative assistant at the jet propulsion lab his salary was a fraction of the administrative assistant for the Registrar of Voters.

Lastly, he questioned what will be done to ensure the public is involved in the LAT test, logic and accuracy test process, who is making sure the public has the opportunity to mark ballots to be tested for, and ensure the test ballots are no some pre-concocted sample. Mr. St. Jon continued by stating the Board of County Commissioners needed to define the word cast and questioned when that would happen.

Ms. Sandee Tibbett echoed all the commenters before her except for Ms. Martinez's comments. She defended Commissioner Herman stating that she is human and made a mistake, in which she has tried to correct with an appeal. Ms. Tibbett explained that The Election Group was originally voted down by the Board of County Commissioners and then brought back to the Commissioners for another vote after Commissioner Andriola was appointed by Governor Joe Lombardo. She expressed hope that the Audit Committee had researched The Elections Group and realized the company had been fired in other states. Ms. Tibbett expressed frustration with The Elections Group, Commissioner Hill, and County Manager Eric Brown. She questioned whether anyone knew that Mr. Beadles has an \$80,000 challenge to anybody that can prove him wrong of election fraud in Washoe County and no one has been able to claim it. She claimed that election integrity does not exist in Washoe County, people do not trust the elections, and most feel their vote does not count. She stated that trust needed to be restored by terminating The Elections Group, County Manager, Registrar of Voters, and hire Tracey Hilton-Thomas, clean up the voter roles, terminate use of machines, and mailed-in ballots. She continued with requiring voter ID with paper ballots and same day voting at the precinct level.

Mr. Tom Green stated he was running for County Commissioner in District 4. He thanked the volunteers that served on the Audit Committee and appreciated their time. He struggled to wrap his head around the cost of The Elections Group when there were capable citizens that were willing to help. He asserted that it was about power and trust and not only for the people in Washoe County but all over the country as everyone have lost faith in our election process. Mr. Green stated he has been voting in Washoe County since 1990 and never questioned an election until COVID and the mailed-in ballot processed. He requested we move back to a place of transparency and garner trust from the people. He asserted that we want people to believe in the process and the way to do that was to open the doors and let them in. He said he does not understand when he read about people not having the ability to do an on-site visual inspection during the election. He questioned what was trying to be hidden. He asserted his whole mantra is representing citizens and the truth. He states he was supporting the other public commenters and requested Washoe County not spend the money on The Elections Group. He commended his service from the Registrar of Voter's office and complimented the employees in the office. He said when there was a parade of citizens complaining about issue after issue, they should be listened to. He said Washoe County does not need to spend \$500,000 when there were people capable of doing it.

Ms. Pam Darr stated that she is the precinct 411 captain. She knocked on doors and talked to people. She explained that she knows there are problems with the elections. She stated she thinks it was a bad idea to hire a company where all the employees are from one party, especially since Washoe County has Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and Green Party. She elaborated that there should be representation in the room. She concluded that she was not standing up for one party or another, only for the community.

Ms. Betty Thiessen stated she was resident of Washoe County for the last 55 years and has voted in every election she was eligible for. She was opposed to hiring The Elections Group. She did not understand what the Audit Committee was for. Ms. Thiessen questioned what is audited and wanted to know more about it. She said if the Audit Committee had a vote, vote no. She offered there was plenty of help in Washoe County that was knowledgeable, and she offered her own help at the last three Board of County Commission meetings free of charge.

Mr. Scott Myer stated he had been a resident of Washoe County and the State for 46 years. He believed that he and others felt like they had not been heard and that the Audit Committee was just going through the motions because the committee had to let people speak. He wanted people to work together, the voters included. He described the military term mission creep. He questioned why the illegal meeting occurred. He explained that it is not mission creep but a power creep. He defined power creep as power getting more power, that people become obsessed with power. He felt that the Audit Committee sat on the dais looking down on the people in the audience. He requested the Audit Committee to take into consideration what the voters wanted.

Ms. Val White agreed with Mr. Parks comments regarding the legality of the Audit Committee meeting. To her it appeared the law was being disregarded. She requested Deputy District Attorney Ross to give an opinion on the legality after public comment. She asked for County Manager Eric Brown to be terminated. She questioned how public comment was handled. She expressed frustration that it took a year and a half for her to get a question about a remodeling project at the County Complex answered. She continued to address the issue with the Registrar of Voter's office. She expressed the lack of need for The Elections Group, because the people reported the violations to the Secretary of State. She argued that the investigations were not thoroughly completed. Ms. White also called for the termination of the Registrar of Voters. She then questioned the use of electronic digital systems that were fraught with fraud because it hides everything and does not offer any transparency. She elaborated that even geniuses could not see what was going on and cannot verify the information.

Ms. Victoria Myer was looking for a photograph to display on the overhead screen. She commented that she had shown the image to the Board of County Commissioners. She described the photograph as she was searching for it. She described that she had been standing in the doorway of the Registrar of Voter's office when the early voting polls had closed. She watched as the ballots had come in through the public hallway instead of through the secured garage. She continued that people were coming in and out and when they had started to dissipate, Ms. Myer had noticed in the middle of the public hallway a blue ballot bag and black cases containing the computers used to place votes. She mentioned that she had forwarded the image to the Secretary of State as well. She explained that it was a break in the chain of custody. Ms. Myer echoed Ms. White comments. She said that The Elections Group is not needed and Washoe County needed to fix its own elections. She recommended that there was a very qualified person, Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas, to be the Registrar of Voters. She continued to explain about the photograph that she waited for twelve (12) minutes with the ballot boxes in the hallway before the bags and boxes were retrieved. She stated that she is against spending her property tax dollars going to The Elections Group. She concluded that there was too much room for fraud. Lastly, Ms. Myer stated the computer was hooked up to the internet and the tabulator was too but that was protected by Homeland Security.

Mr. Cliff Nellis stated he was a 48-year resident of Washoe County. He stated that he wanted to provide a general perspective. He expressed that The Elections Group was not needed, especially for \$500,000. He suggested this money would be better spent reducing the property taxes of senior citizens that own their homes and had low income or something similar. He explained that in he observed in 2020 and 2022 the tapes used on the electronic voting devices were not used for recounts. He continued that if there is an actual recount, it should be done with physical humans. He expressed frustration with the Democratic Party and the school district. He stated that rank voting would eliminate the Democracy in the United States. He stated that he was opposed to hiring The Elections Group.

Mr. Bruce Foster stated that he is a resident of Washoe County and was co-precinct captain with Ms. Darr. He stated that they had walked their precinct the last two sessions. He said that most people he talked with expressed that they do not trust the County Commission and do not trust the election system. He continued that people believed the elections were rigged by the previous legislation under the guise of COVID. He questioned what we are doing here. He argued that if individuals had good character and virtuous ideal then there would not need be at this point. Mr. Foster displayed a photograph of a shopping cart on the overhead screen. He explained the correlation of the picture was how corrupt the whole concept between the elections and system, the ARPA funding, and how the homeless. He encouraged others to send their cart art photographs to the County Commissioners. Lastly, Mr. Foster deferred to the other commenters such as Mr. Beadles and Ms. Hilton-Thomas who stated specifically what should be done.

Mr. Fred Myer displayed the photograph Ms. Victoria Myer was looking for. It is an image of the ballot bags and boxes located in the public hallway, as described by Ms. Victoria Myer. Mr. Myer explained there is a chain of custody issue. He stated that there are thousands of people behind each one of these seats, thousands of people in the community that agree with the other commenters. He mentioned that he had talked to people in the community, and even though they had not attended meetings, they have given up on the elections system. He gestured to the folks behind him and stated that these people don't give up. He compared Nevada to a business. He questioned whether the books would be turned over to another company at the end of the day or if you count your own money. He concluded that the money would not be turned over. He questioned why The Elections Group was hired for \$500,000. He expressed that the votes should be counted by Washoe County residents.

Ms. Susie Van Ness played a video that contained no audio. The video was described by Ms. Van Ness as a Registrar of Voters employee and the Registrar of Voters go behind where the residents in the observing tank could not see and it cannot be seen on camera. She continues to describe someone had ballots, the ballots were put into the tabulator, and then the ballots get handed back to the Registrar of Voters. She claimed there was sneaking of ballots. She explained that this was one reason there was no trust. Ms. Van Ness had directed some of her comments at the Registrar of Voters. Commissioner Hill interrupted and asked the Deputy District Attorney to remind the commenter she needed to address her comments to the Committee as a whole. Ms. Van Ness had no other

Emails received through Washoe311 were placed on the record.

Agenda Item 3: Approval of Minutes for June 9, 2023, Meeting

Ms. Kleidosty asked the Audit Committee members if they had any questions regarding the minutes.

Commissioner Herman explained from what she had heard from this public comment session, she felt that the meeting should not continue. She elaborated that it felt like a total loss of time for everyone and nothing was going to be accomplished. She stated that it should have been brought before the Board of County Commissioners. She did not understand how it got to the point where there was no vote. Commissioner Herman made a motion that the meeting be terminated, regrouped at another time. She requested the Deputy District Attorney's help in making a motion.

Deputy District Attorney Ross clarified the intent of Commissioner Herman's motion was to terminate the meeting because there was no action for the Committee to take and a second would be required.

Ms. Kleidosty asked if there was a second for Commissioner Herman's motion. Ms. Hart seconded the motion.

Deputy District Attorney Ross called a recess. Deputy District Attorney Ross, Ms. Kleidosty, and Commissioner Hill left Chambers.

Commissioner Herman addressed the audience and expressed that she felt when people show up for a meeting to speak that they should be heard. She elaborated that was what America was about and that's why it was important to her.

Deputy District Attorney Ross, Ms. Kleidosty, and Commissioner Hill re-entered Chambers. Deputy District Attorney Ross requested Commissioner Herman redo her motion to include the adjournment of the meeting after second public comment.

Commissioner Herman made the motion to terminate the meeting except for the second public comment which would be heard. Ms. Kleidosty asked for a second on the motion. Ms. Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Hart, Ms. Kinnison, and Commissioner Herman voting "I".

Agenda Item 4: Approval of Minutes for June 22, 2023, Meeting

The item was not heard as the meeting was terminated.

Agenda Item 5: Presentation by Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager, and discussion by the Audit Committee – implementation plan and timeline for The Elections Group report. Recommendations, including objectives, scope of work, feedback and insights, timing, staffing, improved processes, technology improvements, facility spacing, and next steps.

The item was not heard as the meeting was terminated.

Agenda Item 6: Audit Committee Member Comments

The item was not heard as the meeting was terminated.

Agenda Item 7: Public Comment

Commissioner Hill left the meeting prior to the start of public comment.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca thanked Ms. Hart, Commissioner Herman, and Ms. Kinnison for recognizing that the meeting was not proper. She also thanked Deputy District Attorney Ross for his opinion. She explained that there was an opportunity to do it over and do it right. She stated that it would behoove as the residents of Washoe County to do it right for the Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and everyone who lived in Washoe County. She also argued it would behoove the residents of Washoe County if Mr. Buehler and Mr. Randy Brown remained on the dais until there was an Audit Committee appointment so business can be done in a more proper fashion and adhere to the charter.

Ms. Janet Butcher thanked the Audit Committee for doing the right thing. She also stated that she did not understand why the volunteer positions on the Committee were not filled immediately. She pointed out that there should be two more people on the dais. She told a story about a job interview and how she did not get hired because she knew more than the person hiring. She stated the situation was similar because there is an extremely qualified person not getting hired.

Mr. Scott Finley provided documents to be distributed to the Audit Committee and placed on the record. He also displayed the documents on the overhead projector. He explained that he's a resident of Washoe County, with a military background in financial management and Comptroller career field of the United States Air Force. He questioned why Washoe County does not respect privacy and whether it understands what consent means. He continued to say that the Audit Committee needed to state an official privacy policy and recognize all personally identifiable information about Washoe County resident's other than their first and last name is private information. He elaborated that for transparency purposes the Committee needed to state a due diligence policy and by default upload the audio recordings of the meetings within 30 days. He claimed at the end of the last Board of County Commissioners meeting, it was brought to his attention that the Audit Committee was responsible for uploading public comments at prior meetings that contained personally identifiable information. He sought to verify the information, but the main Washoe311 public records request was out of operation for at least three weeks. He stated on Friday, he found out that he can submit a public records request through the Clerk's Office, which he did. He explained for transparency the audio recordings of the Audit Committee meetings should be uploaded automatically, without anyone having to submit a public records request. He stated that Washoe311 was launched in May 2018 and was considered software as a service, a cloud-based delivery model that allowed any users to access software applications over the internet. Mr. Finley further explained that the service was operated by the company Granicus, headquartered in Denver, Colorado. He argued that the company should have focused on correcting the issues with Washoe311 rather than

implementing the new Speak Up platform. He further argued that Washoe County should design their own software for Washoe311 instead of using the purchased software.

Ms. Penny Brock summarized the March 28, 2023 Board of County Commission meeting on the vote regarding The Elections Group. She included that County Manager Eric Brown hired the company in December. She explained that the vote was tied and therefore defeated. She elaborated that it could only be readded to an agenda if the prevailing vote requested the item. She claimed it was illegal to readd the item to the agenda, but it happened anyway. Ms. Brock summarized the new vote on April 11, 2023 Board of County Commission meeting to be a four to one, which passed The Elections Group. She explained that Commissioner Herman inadvertently pushed the wrong button and didn't know it. She continued to explain that Commissioner Herman requested the item be brought back again and the vote was at the next meeting, Commissioner Herman and Commissioner Clark voting against The Elections Group. She stated the Audit Committee should understand the history of how The Elections Group ended up in the Audit Committee. She requested that County Manager Eric Brown and the Registrar of Voters be terminated. She continued that there were qualified people to fix the problem without having to spend \$500,000.

Ms. Cindy Martinez was confused as to why the meeting continued for public comment even though the motion was to terminate the meeting. She expressed disappointment that she would not hear the presentation from County Manager Eric Brown and the Registrar of Voters. She stated she had full faith in the Audit Manager because she knew the background she had as they came from the same agency. She explained in 2021 the Republican Women of Reno formulated brigade of action concept one of which was the election brigade. They had offered to volunteer, but it was determined that volunteers could not be utilized in the Registrar of Voter's office because of privacy, statutes, and federal regulations. She explained in February 2022, Mr. Parks and her, in the capacity of chair and vice-chair of the Washoe County Republican Party, met with Commissioner Herman to review her resolution. Later, Ms. Martinez stated she was misinformed about the direction provided by the District Attorney's office and the elements of the resolution were in direct conflict with state statute. She noted if they want changes to the election laws then it would have to be accomplished through the Nevada legislature. She continued on to say on July 15, 2021 Carol Feinberg, Mark Lenoard, and her and met with County Manager Eric Brown to discuss elections, COVID-19 restrictions, and the CARES Campus and that information can be found Conservative Talk Lunch's website. She expressed support for The Elections Group report, the County Manager, and the Registrar of Voters.

Mr. Gary Butcher thanked the Audit Committee for their actions. He stated that it took courage and hoped it continued.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon showed an image on the overhead screen and provided a copy for the record. He told a story of when he was in a bank. He explained that they had a bill counter and a stack of \$100, which are standard. The bank had spent about 15 minutes working on the machine that only counts bills. He questioned that if it took them that long to fix a bill counter, how can we rely on tabulators to provide correct information. Mr. St. Jon that he had applied for the Audit Committee appointment. He had 15 years of experience in writing algorithms for the financial industry. He hoped to get an interview. He stated that he had several questions from the June 9, 2023 meeting but no one reached out to him to discuss. He would like to address a

few the questions now. He questioned when the Board of County Commissioners were going to define the term cast ballots. He also questioned when the resolution for an elections citizen advisory board would be proposed.

Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas, who was an applicant for the assistant Registrar of Voters position, expressed frustration about the resistance in the Registrar of Voter's office to working with individuals from different political parties. She highlighted her extensive experience in Washoe County elections and her ability to work collaboratively with different political parties. The speaker raised concerns about the transparency and integrity of the hiring process for the assistant Registrar of Voters position, and pointed out that the person responsible for scheduling interviews was ultimately hired. She also corrected false assumptions made by Ms. Martinez about Commissioner Herman's vote on The Elections Group contract, emphasized that the vote was recorded incorrectly, and that Commissioner Herman had requested to put it back on the agenda to clarify the record. Finally, the speaker announced she intended to run for Washoe County District 4 due to her unsuccessful attempts to improve the elections process.

Mr. James Benthin expressed concerns about the election system's weaknesses and issues, including problems with voter registration, voter validation, the ERIC system, tabulation, and reporting. He referenced a document he had previously submitted, which outlined these problems and provided solutions for restoring honesty, transparency, and trustworthiness to the voters. The proposed solutions included complete voter validation, tabulation, and reporting at the precinct level, discontinuing the use of the ERIC system, cross-referencing voter rolls against other states, and preserving voter rolls on paper. Mr. Benthin also advocated for discontinuing electronic poll books, machine-counted ballots, mail-in ballots, e-voting, and phone voting. He urged the hiring of local experts who are already familiar with the issues and solutions, rather than hiring an out-of-state group, and suggested allocating \$500,000 for this purpose.

Mr. Roger Edwards commended the group for their sensible voting, acknowledging that the voices of the 25 individuals present represented thousands of Washoe County residents. He expressed disappointment in the way the District Attorney conducted himself. The speaker also criticized the lack of a chair pro tem for the Audit Committee, deeming the proceedings currently in limbo. He expressed regret that Ms. Hilton-Thomas, deputy of Registrar of Voters, was not utilized as a resource due to a decision made by the human relations board. The speaker emphasized the importance of getting things right in Washoe County, considering its pivotal role in Nevada's politics as a swing county.

Ms. Joni Hammond thanked the Audit Committee for cancelling the meeting. She expressed concern about time, since it was already August 1, 2023, and the elections are next year. She pointed out that there are a lot of recommendations and items to implement before the elections. She requested that the Committee think about using a citizen's advisory board for elections. She also recommended that Washoe County utilize volunteers to implement changes and hire a project manager to provide logistical support.

Adjournment

At 12:00 PM the meeting was adjourned.