



STATE OF NEVADA

BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re **Leo Blundo**, Commissioner,
Board of County Commissioners,
Nye County, State of Nevada,

Ethics Complaint
Case No. **19-130C**

Subject. /

REVIEW PANEL DETERMINATION NRS 281A.730; NAC 281A.440

The Nevada Commission on Ethics ("Commission") received Ethics Complaint No. 19-130C ("Complaint") on January 2, 2020, regarding the alleged conduct of Leo Blundo ("Blundo"), Member, Nye County Board of County Commissioners ("Board"), State of Nevada. The Commission issued its *Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation* on February 18, 2020, which instructed the Executive Director to conduct an investigation regarding Blundo's alleged violations of NRS 281A.400(1), (2) and (7).

Blundo is a public officer as defined in NRS 281A.160, and the Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to NRS 281A.280 because the allegations contained in the Complaint relate to Blundo's conduct as a public officer and have associated implications under the Ethics Law.

On May 13, 2020, a Review Panel ("Panel") consisting of Barbara Gruenewald, Esq. (Presiding Officer) and Commissioners Brian Duffrin and Amanda Yen, Esq., reviewed the following: 1) Ethics Complaint No. 19-130C; 2) Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation; 3) Blundo's Response to the Complaint; 4) Investigatory Exhibits; and 5) Executive Director's Recommendation to the Review Panel.¹

The Panel unanimously finds and concludes that the facts do not establish credible evidence to support a determination that just and sufficient cause exists for the Commission to render an opinion in the matter regarding the alleged violations of NRS 281A.400(1), (2) and (7). Accordingly, it dismisses the Complaint, with prejudice.

Furthermore, pursuant to NRS 281A.730(4), the Panel reasonably believes that Blundo's conduct warrants the issuance of a Confidential Letter of Caution to ensure Blundo recognizes his obligations to separate his public duties from his private interests, as previously opined by the Commission in *In re Blundo*, Comm'n Op. Nos. 19-026C and 19-027C (2019) and *In re Gilman*, Comm'n Op. No. 14-73C (2016). Notable distinctions exist from those cases to Blundo's conduct in this matter regarding his use of a County Commission meeting to declare a public invitation to an event at his private business, and a Letter of Caution will serve to clarify these distinctions but ensure his duty to ensure that Commissioner Comments during a public meeting are solely for sanctioned, official matters.

¹ All materials provided to the Review Panel, except the Ethics Complaint and the Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation, represent portions of the investigatory file and remain confidential pursuant to NRS 281A.750.

The Review Panel hereby orders the issuance of this Panel Determination dismissing the Complaint with prejudice, and with a Confidential Letter of Caution.

Dated this 13th day of May 2020.

REVIEW PANEL OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

By: /s/ Barbara Gruenewald
Barbara Gruenewald, Esq.
Presiding Officer

By: /s/ Brian Duffrin
Brian Duffrin
Commissioner

By: /s/ Amanda Yen
Amanda Yen, Esq.
Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that I am an employee of the Nevada Commission on Ethics and that on this day in Carson City, Nevada, I transmitted a true and correct copy of the foregoing **REVIEW PANEL DETERMINATION** via U.S. Certified Mail and electronic mail addressed as follows:

Leo Blundo
c/o Brian R. Hardy, Esq.
Marquis Aurbach Coffing
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89145

Certified Mail No.: 9171 9690 0935 0037 6387 47

Email: bhardy@mclaw.com
cc: mmonkarsh@mclaw.com

Dated: 5/13/20



Employee, Nevada Commission on Ethics