



**STATE OF NEVADA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS**
<http://ethics.nv.gov>

**MINUTES
of the meeting of the
NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

The Commission on Ethics held a public meeting on
Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.
at the following location:

**Nevada Commission on Ethics
704 W. Nye Lane
Suite 204
Carson City, NV 89703**

These minutes constitute a summary of the above proceedings of the Nevada Commission on Ethics. Verbatim transcripts are available for public inspection at the Commission's office located in Carson City.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Cheryl A. Lau, Esq. appeared telephonically and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Also appearing telephonically were Vice-Chair Keith A. Weaver, Esq. and Commissioners Barbara Gruenewald, Esq., Teresa Lowry, Esq., and Amanda Yen, Esq. Appearing in Carson City were Commissioners Brian Duffrin, Phillip K. (P.K.) O'Neill, and Kim Wallin, CPA. Present for Commission staff in Carson City were Executive Director Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson, Esq., Commission Counsel Tracy L. Chase, Esq., Associate Counsel Judy Prutzman, Esq., and Executive Assistant Kari Pedroza.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

2. Public Comment.

The Chair asked for public comment. No public comment was provided.

3. Approval of Minutes of the December 4, 2018 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Yen moved to approve the December 4, 2018 Minutes. Commissioner Wallin seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

4. Discussion and approval of a Proposed Stipulation concerning Ethics Complaint No. 18-062C regarding Lawrence Weekly, Chair, Board of Directors, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, State of Nevada.

Chair Lau recognized that Mr. Lawrence Weekly was not in attendance but that he was provided proper notice of the Agenda Item and understood that the Commission would proceed in his absence.

Associate Counsel Judy A. Prutzman, Esq. appeared on behalf of the Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson and provided an overview of the Ethics Complaint Case No. 18-062C and the Proposed Stipulated Agreement. The Complaint alleged that Mr. Weekly violated the Ethics Law when he used approximately \$1,400 worth of Southwest Airlines gift cards purchased by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (“LVCVA”) for personal travel. A Review Panel consisting of 3 members of the Commission on Ethics determined that just and sufficient cause exists for the Commission to render an Opinion regarding the allegations pertaining to NRS 281A.400 subsections (1), (2), (7) and (9).

The Proposed Stipulated Agreement reflects that Mr. Weekly supported an outside audit of the LVCVA’s purchase/receipt of Southwest Airline gift cards and publicly accepted responsibility for his personal use of such gift cards under certain circumstances. However, the personal use of LVCVA property and the failure to reimburse the entire amount of his personal flights results in a willful violation of the Ethics Law and the imposition of a \$2,398.64 civil penalty (\$1,000.00 penalty plus an additional \$1,398.64 penalty equal to twice the financial amount realized for the cost of the flight that was not reimbursed).

Commission Counsel Tracy Chase stated for the record that Commissioners Gruenewald, Wallin and Yen served as members of the Review Panel and would be precluded from participating in this item.

Commissioner Duffrin made a motion to accept the terms of the Stipulated Agreement as presented by the parties and direct Commission Counsel to finalize the Stipulation in appropriate form. Chair Lau seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried as follows:

Chair Lau:	Aye.
Commissioner Duffrin:	Aye.
Commissioner O’Neill:	Aye.
Commissioner Lowry:	Aye.
Vice Chair Weaver:	Aye.

5. Report by the Executive Director on agency status and operations and possible direction thereon. Items to be discussed include:
- Education and Outreach by the Commission
 - Case and Opinion Status Update
 - Meeting Schedule
 - FY19 Budget Update
 - Commission’s 2019 Bill Draft Request No. 23-191

Education and Outreach by the Commission: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson provided an update on the Commission’s efforts in training, outreach, and education conducted during the fiscal year. She informed the Commission that she has received a few additional requests for training for newly elected officials and would be providing trainings in Las Vegas later in the week as well as the following week. She extended an invitation to any interested Commissioners to attend any presentation.

Case and Opinion Status Update: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson summarized the Case Status Log which identifies all pending cases before the Commission and pointed out the overall increase in cases received during the current fiscal year which she would highlight at the upcoming Legislative meetings.

Meeting Schedule: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson referenced the 2019 Commission Meeting schedule provided to the Commission, reiterating that meetings would be

scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month and asked that Commissioners be available on these days. She stated that the next meeting in February would be a brief teleconference and the March meeting would likely be held in Las Vegas.

FY19 Budget Update: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson reserved her budget update for the next Agenda Item.

Commission's 2019 Bill Draft Request No. 23-191: The Executive Director provided an update to the Commission on the status of the proposed Bill Draft Request (BDR). She reported that staff has received a draft of the proposed BDR from the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) and are awaiting the final version of the proposed BDR and once received will provide it to the Commission. She stated that the next steps will include presentations to both the Assembly and Senate Committees on Legislative Operations and Elections. She asked the Commission for questions and/ or concerns about the plan going forward in the Legislative Session.

Commissioner O'Neill asked to be apprised of upcoming presentations to the Legislature so that the Commissioners may attend and provide support to staff. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson confirmed that she would keep the Commissioners apprised of the schedule.

Commissioner O'Neill moved to accept the Executive Director's report. Commissioner Lowry seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

6. Consideration and approval for the Executive Director to pursue Requests for Enhancements from the Legislature for the Commission's Biennial Budget (FY20 – FY21), including, without limitation:

- Salary Enhancements
- Additional Staff Position
- Travel funds for Investigations
- Digital Training/ Outreach Platform
- Travel funds for Outreach/ Training
- Conversion to Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS)
- New Office Lease (Additional Space)
- Equipment Replacement
- Staff Cell Phones
- Investigatory Resources
- Additional Training funds to attend the annual Conference on Governmental Ethics Law (COGEL)

Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson outlined the above Enhancements that were requested as part of the Commission's "Agency Requested Budget" to the Governor for the next biennium, but were not included in the Governor's Recommended Budget. Director Nevarez-Goodson explained the need and justification for these enhancements which were previously supported by the Commission and requested whether the Commission would like to pursue these enhancements through a requested Budget Amendment or further consideration by the Legislature. Training enhancements were discussed by the Commission which could be included as an amendment to the Commission's Bill. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson notified the Commission regarding current budget (FY19 Budget) expenditures for LCB's services in drafting regulations and in the amount of \$5,500. To fund the expense the approved budget for equipment replacement was used, which will delay computer replacement.

Commissioner Wallin made a motion to approve the Executive Director's report including the pursuit of enhancements. Commissioner Gruenewald seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

7. Commissioner comments and identification of future agenda items. No action will be taken under this agenda item.

No commissioner comments.

8. Public Comment.

No public comment.

9. Adjournment.

Commissioner Wallin made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Commissioner Duffrin seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:

[/s/ Kari Pedroza](#)

Kari Pedroza
Executive Assistant

[/s/ Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson](#)

Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson, Esq.
Executive Director

Minutes approved February 20, 2019:

[/s/ Cheryl A. Lau](#)

Cheryl A. Lau, Esq.
Chair

[/s/ Keith A. Weaver](#)

Keith A. Weaver, Esq.
Vice-Chair