



**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, October 16, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.
at the following location:

**State of Nevada
Commission on Ethics Office
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. A recording of the meeting is available for public inspection at the Commission's office.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Cheryl A. Lau, Esq. appeared in Carson City and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Also appearing in Carson City were Commissioners Brian Duffrin, Philip K. (P.K.) O'Neill and Kim Wallin, CPA. Appearing telephonically were Vice-Chair Keith A. Weaver, Esq. and Commissioners Barbara Gruenewald, Esq., Teresa Lowry, Esq. and Amanda Yen, Esq. Present for Commission staff in Carson City were Executive Director Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson, Esq., Commission Counsel Tracy L. Chase, Esq., Associate Counsel Casey Gilham, Esq., Senior Legal Researcher Darci Hayden, Investigator Erron Terry, and Executive Assistant Kari Pedroza.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

2. Public Comment.

Written Public Comment was submitted by Tina Trenner. See attached.

3. Approval of Minutes of the August 21, 2019 Commission Meeting.

Chair Lau stated that all Commissioners were present for the August meeting and may participate in this item.

Commissioner Wallin moved to accept the August 21, 2019 Minutes as presented. Commissioner Duffrin seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

4. Discussion and consideration of Proposed Stipulation regarding Consolidated Ethics Complaints, Case Nos. 19-026C and 19-027C (Blundo). (Portions of this Item may be exempt from Nevada's Open Meeting Law, See Notes)

Chair Lau stated Review Panel Members Duffrin, Lowry, and Yen were precluded from participating in this matter.

Chair Lau asked the parties in the Complaint to identify themselves for the record. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson appeared before the Commission in this matter and Brian R. Hardy, Esq. appeared telephonically to represent Subject Leo Blundo, who did not appear.

Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson provided a brief overview of the Proposed Stipulated Agreement which would resolve two Ethics Complaint Cases concerning subject Leo Blundo, Nye County Commissioner. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson summarized that both Complaints alleged Nye County Commissioner Blundo violated the Ethics Law when he used his public position to secure services, favors and/or unwarranted preferences or advantages for himself, his private business and/or his fiancé. Specifically, the Complaints alleged that Blundo improperly used his public position as a County Commissioner by requesting that his fiancé be appointed to the Pahrump Tourism Advisory Committee (PTAC) Board and requesting that PTAC feature all businesses in Pahrump, including local restaurants such as his own.

Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson informed the Commission that the Proposed Stipulation Agreement dismisses the allegations associated with Commissioner Blundo's attempt to request or secure an appointment to the PTAC Board for his fiancé as there was insufficient evidence to support the violation. However, the Stipulated Agreement would find a single non-willful violation of the Ethics Law implicating NRS 281A.400(1), (2), (4), (7) and (9) for Blundo's conduct related to the use of his official position to influence subordinates in a manner related to his private restaurant business. She stated that the agreement confirms that the Subject now understands that it is improper for him to use government time or his position as a County Commissioner to make statements or request services/favors in a public capacity that may affect his personal interests. In reaching the resolution that Commissioner Blundo's actions did not constitute a willful violation, the Executive Director noted several mitigating factors which are outlined in the Proposed Stipulation, including that Blundo's conduct did not result in a financial benefit and that he had cooperated in the investigation and had no prior Ethics violations on his record. She concluded her presentation by advising the Commission that the Stipulated Agreement signified the Commission's public admonishment of Blundo's conduct and that she believed the resolution was reasonable and fair.

Brian R. Hardy, Esq., on behalf of Subject Blundo, reiterated that Commissioner Blundo recognized no financial benefit and he expressed his appreciation to the Commission staff for their diligence.

Commissioner Wallin moved to accept the terms of the Stipulated Agreement as presented and directed Commission Counsel to finalize it in appropriate form. Commissioner Gruenewald seconded the Motion.

The Motion was put to a vote and carried as follows:

Chair Lau:	Aye.
Vice-Chair Weaver:	Aye.
Commissioner Duffrin:	Abstain.
Commissioner Gruenewald:	Aye.
Commissioner Lowry:	Abstain.
Commissioner O'Neill:	Aye.
Commissioner Wallin:	Aye.
Commissioner Yen:	Abstain.

5. Presentation and approval of the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report prepared by the Executive Director pursuant to NAC 281A.180(2).

Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson referred the Commission to the updated draft of the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report provided in the meeting materials and informed them that Commissioner feedback from the August meeting had been incorporated into the presented report. She went over the changes with the Commission and highlighted the addition of the recent national study in which the Commission received a ranking of 8th in the Country for its enforcement and transparency. She also noted that the ranking was based on FY18 data, and had it included the data from FY19 with the increased case load and enforcement, the ranking likely would have been higher.

Commissioner Wallin asked some questions regarding the new charts and Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson assured her that the numbers would be reviewed again prior to publication.

Commissioner Duffrin commented that he views this report as a good marketing tool and believes it is a helpful guide showcasing the work of the Commission this year. He shared his appreciation for Commissioner Wallin reviewing the numbers provided in the report.

Commissioner Wallin suggested holding a press release after the publication to highlight the Commission's work and accomplishments.

Commissioner O'Neill asked whether staff distributes the report to other agencies or the Governor's office, and the Executive Director replied that the report was provided to the Governor's office and the Legislative Counsel Bureau in previous years.

Commissioner Wallin moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report as presented with the few modifications discussed by the Commission. Commissioner Yen seconded the Motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

6. Report and recommendations by Executive Director on agency status and operations and possible direction thereon. Items to be discussed include, without limitation:

- Upcoming Commission Meetings
- Quarterly Case Status Update & Resource Needs
- FY20 Budget Status

Upcoming Commission Meetings: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson confirmed that the next Commission Meeting would be on November 13, a week earlier than the normal third Wednesday of the month to accommodate holiday schedules. She provided that an adjudicatory hearing would take up the majority of that meeting and that Southern Commissioners may be asked to travel to Northern Nevada to attend. She also informed the Commission that the December Meeting would be cancelled due to the holidays and staff travel for the annual COGEL conference. Commission Counsel Chase noted that there may also be an Advisory Hearing at the November meeting.

Quarterly Case Status Update & Resource Needs: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson provided a quarterly update on the case status which allowed for a bird's eye view of the number of cases being reviewed and investigated. She pointed out that the number of Ethics Complaints filed remained steady and the number of Complaints without waivers of statutory time frame for investigation seemed to be increasing. The Executive Director detailed the shortfalls in delaying investigations, including lapses in memories and access to records. Accordingly, the Executive Director transitioned to the next Agenda Item regarding the need for additional resources.

FY20 Budget Status: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson informed the Commission that the allotted budget for court reporting expenses had already been used for the Fiscal Year, for transcription of investigatory interviews and discovery demands under the increased case load. She anticipates that the Commission will need to request additional funds from the Interim Finance Committee (IFC). The Executive Director noted that while appearing at IFC, the Commission might also consider requesting additional assistance with its demands for investigatory resources through a temporary six-month contracted attorney/ investigator position.

Commissioner Wallin asked if, based on case load, it might be more prudent to request a permanent position instead of going before IFC on more than one occasion. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson replied that she would seek a permanent position when building the budget for the next biennium and provided a background on the similar approach taken in 2012 to acquire the Associate Counsel position in 2013.

Commissioner Duffrin agreed that Commissioner Wallin's concern was valid and suggested the position request be for a longer term than six months.

Commissioner O'Neill concurred with Commissioner Duffrin and offered that tracking hours spent on Investigations could assist with funding requests. He suggested the request for an additional position be more directed to an additional Investigator than an Attorney. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson responded that the Commission needs a person qualified to prepare legal reports and recommendations based on investigations.

Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson noted that the total funds requested would come from the State General Fund for the State's 28% portion and the Local Governments' 78% portion would come from the reserves in the Commission's budget.

In continuing her report on the Budget, Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson provided an update on the Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS) conversion and informed the Commissioners that the server was in the process of being converted to the State's virtual system. She further provided that the EITS desktop team would be setting up the new computer equipment soon and would let Commissioners know when to bring in their tablets to be updated through EITS.

As a final matter, Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson recognized the appointment of Casey Gillham as the Commission's new Associate Counsel and welcomed him to the team.

Commissioner Gruenewald moved to accept the Executive Director's agency status report as presented. Commissioner Lowry seconded the motion. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson asked whether the motion included an approval for her to request additional funds before IFC as discussed and the Chair affirmed.

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.

Commissioner Wallin informed the Commission that it was Global International Ethics Day.

8. Public Comment.

No public comment.

9. Adjournment.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 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 November 13, 2019:

/s/ Cheryl A. Lau

Cheryl A. Lau, Esq.
Chair

/s/ Keith A. Weaver

Keith A. Weaver, Esq.
Vice-Chair

Kari Anne Pedroza

From: Tina Trenner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 11:47 PM
To: Nevada Commission on Ethics
Subject: Blundo

Nevada Ethics Committee

October 15, 2019

Dear Sirs,

It is with some hesitation I am write to you. Just recently your board found Mr. Blundo was involved in " RETALITORY CONDUCT"

I feel he will retaliate against me for this , but I must write as my code of ethics/honor will not allow me to be silent.

First let me explain I have known Mr. Blundo for at least 10 years. I meet him at his fathers restraurant. 10 years ago Mr. Blundo wore skin tight black T-shirts and several gold chain necklaces. He spoke with a very thick "WISE GUY" NYC accent and used De's, Dems and do"s...as his vocabulary.. I asked his father when they had moved out of NY... and he said they never lived in NY...So I asked where Leo was raised. And his father said " Las Vegas" Really ?

Mr. Blundo's many run in's with the law has not stopped his political aspirations. If I am not mistaken he has run 7 times. I ran against him in 2018 for a County Commission seat. I lost by 8 votes. And before you think this is sour grapes. I assure you it is not. One of the main reasons I ran was to keep him from getting into the position he is in. In only 8 months he is racking up Ethics violations. I ran because I saw this day coming a long time ago.

Mr. Blundo and his girl friend stalked me while I was canvassing homes for my election. I had to file with the Sheriff. They would take pictures of myself and volunteers in an intimidating way. Follow us from house to house and stare at us.

On election day Mr. Blundo spent hours in front of the polling place. I understood that to be a violation. Several people signed sworn affidavits that he was in front of the polls and we had video of him helping people into the polling place and into their cars. Because we didn't know exactly what he said the SoS would do nothing. I couldn't know what he was saying as I was obeying the law and staying 100 feet away.

Mr. Blundo takes zero responsibility for his behavior. He will be innocent and pure at your meeting. He thinks he is above the law, above your committee and his actions prove it. As his most recent exploit was taking not 1 , but 2 Handicapped parking spaces at the Fall Festival 2 weeks ago, and reportedly complaining he was a "Commissioner" and deserved " Special parking" . As I understand this, there are photos of this at Nye County Sheriff office. Plus being circulated by citizens in emails.

School bus drivers take drug tests and background checks, while elected people waltz through un vetted.

DUI's , a Hit and Run and other crimes haven't stopped him.

I look forward to your decision.. our government is so dysfunctional, I pray for something but expect little. Another slap on the wrist.

Tina Trenner