

Agenda Item 3



**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 20, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.
Virtually via Zoom as follows:

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://zoom.us/j/91546548605?pwd=UGsrUU54N3VrZDE2bGk4RmNaTG9SUT09>

Zoom Meeting Telephone Number: 669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 915 4654 8605

Passcode: 419023

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 Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM appeared via videoconference and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Also appearing via videoconference were Vice-Chair Brian Duffrin and Commissioners Barbara Gruenewald, Esq., Teresa Lowry, Esq., and Thoran Towler, Esq. Commissioner Amanda Yen, Esq. appeared telephonically. Commissioner Damian R. Sheets, Esq. was excused from the meeting. Present for Commission staff via videoconference were Executive Director Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson, Esq., Commission Counsel Tracy L. Chase, Esq., Associate Counsel Ann Wilkinson, Esq., Investigator Erron Terry, Senior Legal Researcher Darci Hayden and Executive Assistant Kari Pedroza.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

2. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes of the November 18, 2020 Commission Meeting.

Chair Wallin stated that all Commissioners were present for the November Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Towler moved to approve the November 18, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Lowry seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

4. Report by Executive Director on agency status and operations and possible direction thereon. Items to be discussed include, without limitation:
- Case Status Update
 - FY21 Budget Status
 - Upcoming Biennial Budget – Governor’s Recommended Budget
 - 2021 BDR Status (AB 65)
 - 2021 Legislative Session Outline
 - Update on COVID-19 Emergency Protocols
 - Education and Outreach

Case Status Update: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson referenced the quarterly case log spreadsheet included in the meeting materials which provides the current status of pending cases and confirmed that while the Commission received full case detailed logs, the logs provided in the public materials were redacted to protect confidential information. She explained each log and its purpose for tracking cases from receipt through the investigatory process or dismissal.

FY21 Budget Status: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson reiterated that during the Special Session of the Nevada Legislature held in July, the Commission’s proposed budget cuts were approved for the FY21 budget to address the budget shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. She reminded the Commission that the cuts included travel funds, court reporting and the closure of the Las Vegas office.

Upcoming Biennial Budget Reductions – Governor’s Recommended Budget: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson referred the Commission to the Governor’s Recommended Budget provided to them and posted on the Commission’s website with the meeting materials that morning. She pointed out that the Commission’s budget recommended by the Governor would be brought back up to the Fiscal Year 2019 base amount as requested. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson reported that the salary enhancement requested by the Commission was not included in the Governor’s Recommended Budget, however funds to replace the Commission-issued tablets were included. She shared that staff would obtain quotes for replacement tablets based on Commissioner feedback in regard to preferred device.

2021 BDR Status (AB 65): Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson informed the Commission that since the Commission’s BDR was assigned an Assembly number that it will originate in the Assembly and an overview presentation will be provided to the Assembly Legislative Operations and Elections Committee before the formal bill hearing. She shared her intent to meet with the Assembly Chair and Vice-Chair prior to the bill hearing to answer any questions they might have in regard to the Commission’s bill. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson provided that historically the Executive Director and Commission Counsel has conducted outreach to state and local stakeholders via their legal representatives to address any questions or concerns with the Commission’s proposed bills.

2021 Legislative Session Outline: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson explained the process by which staff is tracking the Commission’s bill as well as other bills that could potentially impact the Commission. She added that the Commission would be kept apprised of these bills throughout the Legislative Session. Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson informed the Commission that she and Executive Assistant Pedroza had recently attended the Fiscal Note training provided by the Legislative Counsel Bureau Fiscal Analysis Division and would be prepared to respond to any Fiscal Note requests received by the Commission with the assistance of the Governor’s Office of Finance liaison.

Update on COVID-19 Emergency Protocols: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson reported that the Governor has continued his recent “Statewide Pause” directive and the Commission’s office staff have continued to comply with the Governor’s directive by working

remotely. Administrative office staff have commuted to the office sporadically for purposes of postal mail and voicemail retrieval and processing.

Education and Outreach: Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson provided the Commission with the Commission Training log which reflects the education and outreach opportunities already held as well as projected training sessions in FY21. She informed the Commission of her intent to record a training video to be posted on the Commission's website.

Commissioner Lowry moved to accept the Executive Director's agency status report as presented. Commissioner Yen seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried as follows unanimously.

5. Commissioner comments on matters including, without limitation, identification of future agenda items, upcoming meeting dates and meeting procedures. No action will be taken under this agenda item.

Chair Wallin thanked Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson for her service to the Commission over the last almost twelve years, wished her well in future endeavors and informed her that she would be missed.

Vice-Chair Duffrin echoed the Chair's sentiment and expressed his gratitude for the hard work of Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson on the record.

Commissioner Gruenewald agreed with the Chair and Vice-Chair that Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson would be missed. She thanked Yvonne for her guidance through some difficult cases and her hard work in implementing Commission policies and procedures.

Commissioner Lowry opined that the State of Nevada continues to be fortunate with Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson remaining in public service. She thanked Yvonne for her stellar work for the Ethics Commission over the many years.

Commissioner Yen shared an anecdote about meeting Yvonne when they both worked for McDonald Carrano and her enthusiasm in being able to work with Yvonne again at the Commission when Commissioner Yen was appointed. She expressed her appreciation for Yvonne's professionalism and the clarity with which she explained all issues and matters before the Commission.

Commissioner Towler stated the while he did not get to know Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson and work with her for as long as he had hoped to, he congratulated her on her new opportunity and thanked her for serving the Commission.

Commission Counsel Chase shared what a pleasure it has been working with Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson so closely over the years and expressed her gratitude to Yvonne for showing her the ropes at the Commission.

Senior Legal Researcher Hayden credited Yvonne with leading the Commission staff through difficult times and shared her appreciation to Yvonne for being such a great boss.

6. Public Comment.

Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson expressed her gratitude to the Commission and Commission staff for their kind words and stated that it had been an extremely difficult decision to depart from the Commission for her new position with the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Executive Director Nevarez-Goodson informed the Commission that no public comment was received by the Commission.

7. Adjournment.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

/s/ Kari Pedroza

Kari Pedroza
Executive Assistant

/s/ Tracy Chase, Esq.

Tracy Chase, Esq.
Acting-Interim Executive Director

Minutes approved February 17, 2021:

Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM
Chair

Brian Duffrin
Vice-Chair

DRAFT