

MINUTES of the meeting of the NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

The Commission on Ethics held a public meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the following location:

White Pine County Library 950 Campton Street, Conference Room Ely, NV 89301

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 and on the Commission's YouTube channel.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Scott Scherer, Esq. appeared in person in Ely and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He noted for the record that the meeting agenda was posted with the incorrect address and that notice had been posted at the agenda address and Investigator Erron Terry was present at the location to redirect anyone who arrived for the meeting to the correct address. Chair Scherer added that there would be additional public comment opportunities if needed. Vice Chair Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM and Commissioners Teresa Lowry, Esq., John Miller, and Brianna Smith, Esq. also appeared in person. Commissioners John T. Moran III, Esq., and Terry Reynolds appeared via Zoom videoconference. Commissioner Michael E. Langton, Esq. was absent. Present for Commission staff in Ely were Executive Director Ross E. Armstrong, Esq., Commission Counsel Elizabeth J. Bassett, Esq., Acting Associate Counsel Curtis Hazlett, Senior Legal Researcher (SLR) Intern Paul McMahon and Executive Assistant Kari Pedroza. Investigator Erron Terry was present at the other location and later joined the meeting in person after ensuring no public showed up to the incorrect address. Outreach and Education Officer (OEO) Sam Harvey appeared via Zoom videoconference.

2. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

Chair Scherer reiterated that if anyone from the public arrived directed by Investigator Terry at the agendized location the Commission would hear public comment out of order upon their arrival and request to comment or as soon as the item being considered concluded.

Chair Scherer shared his understanding that Commission Counsel Bassett had a discussion with the Attorney General's Office about the incorrect address on the agenda. Commission Counsel Bassett confirmed she spoke with the Attorney General's Office and reviewed previous opinions and the advise from both was to post notice at the originally agendized location directing the public to the correct location, have someone at the original location for a period of time at the beginning of the meeting to redirect the public to the correct location, and that person would inform staff at the meeting if public were enroute to the correct location. Commission Counsel Bassett acknowledged that Commission staff has complied and the distance between the two locations is less than a five minute drive. She also confirmed that Executive Assistant Pedroza updated the location on the Commission's website the night before the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of the April 16, 2025, Commission Meeting.

Chair Scherer stated that Commissioner Smith was excused from the April 16, 2025 meeting and was therefore precluded from participating in this item; all of the remaining Commissioners could participate.

Vice Chair Wallin moved to approve the April 16, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried as follows:

Chair Scherer: Aye.
Vice Chair Wallin: Aye.
Commissioner Lowry: Aye.
Commissioner Miller: Aye.
Commissioner Moran: Aye.
Commissioner Reynolds: Aye.
Commissioner Smith: Abstain.

4. <u>Discussion and approval of a Proposed Stipulated Agreement concerning Ethics Complaint No. 24-148C regarding Ryann Juden, Former City Manager, City of North Las Vegas, State of Nevada.</u>

Chair Scherer introduced the item and stated for the record Vice Chair Wallin and Commissioners Moran and Smith served as members of the Review Panel and were precluded from participating in this item pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4). He asked the parties to the Complaint to identify themselves for the record. Todd Creer, Esq. with Kamer Zucker Abbott appeared via Zoom video conference on behalf of Ryann Juden, who was not in attendance but was provided proper notice of the Agenda Item and understood that the Commission would proceed in his absence. Appearing on his own behalf was Executive Director Armstrong.

Executive Director Armstrong presented an overview of Ethics Complaint Case No. 24-148C, outlined the Proposed Stipulated Agreement and explained the terms of which were that Mr. Juden agreed to stipulate to one non-willful violation of NRS 281A.400(10), the alleged violations of NRS 281A.400(2), (3), (7) and (9) were previously dismissed by the Review Panel, and the Executive Director would notify the City of North Las Vegas of its option to void the consulting contract pursuant to NRS 281A.540.

Mr. Creer thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak in support of the stipulation. He stated that his client is a faithful civil servant who followed what he believed was the correct course of action, was very transparent in having the clause of his employment agreement exercised, made sure he went through the proper channels, and the agreement was approved by the City Council. Mr. Creer emphasized that his client's conduct was in no way willful or intentional and agreed with the proposed non-willful recommendation. He further stated that the interest of all parties, the City of North Las Vegas and Mr. Juden were aligned given his position, Mr. Juden has significant knowledge and connections to ongoing projects and the City wanted to ensure a smooth transition to Mr. Juden's successor.

Commissioner Reynolds stated that he would reluctantly be voting to accept the terms of the Stipulated Agreement because although he felt that the 3-year contract was unconscionable he acknowledged that that was out of the Commission's jurisdictional scope.

Commissioner Lowry stated her agreement with Commissioner Reynolds' comments and noted that but for the limitations of the Ethics in Government Law she would not vote to approve the proposed Stipulated Agreement.

Chair Scherer asked Commission Counsel Bassett to confirm that the contract issue in this case is beyond the Commission's statutory authority and Commission Counsel Bassett provided the confirmation. Chair Scherer stated that while we may not like the contract length and

amount that matter is not necessarily a violation of the Ethics Law. He asked Commission Counsel if that statement was correct and Commission Counsel Bassett agreed that contract terms are not regulated by the Ethics Law, however the manner in which the contract was negotiated and the timing of it would be implicated by the Ethics Law. Chair Scherer asked Commission Counsel whether she confirmed if the city attorney is independent under the City of North Las Vegas structure and Commission Counsel confirmed that she did confirm that fact.

Commissioner Miller 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 the appropriate legal form. Commissioner Lowry seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried as follows:

Chair Scherer: Aye.

Vice Chair Wallin: Abstain pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4).

Commissioner Lowry: Aye. Commissioner Miller: Aye.

Commissioner Moran: Abstain pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4).

Commissioner Reynolds: Aye.

Commissioner Smith: Abstain pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4).

5. <u>Discussion and possible action to approve a Proposed Stipulated Agreement concerning Ethics Complaint Case No. 24-168C regarding Dwayne McClinton, Director, Governor's Office of Energy, State of Nevada.</u>

Chair Scherer introduced the item and stated for the record Vice Chair Wallin and Commissioners Moran and Smith served as members of the Review Panel and were precluded from participating in this item pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4). He asked the parties to the Complaint to identify themselves for the record. Nicole Ting, Esq. with the Nevada Attorney General's office appeared via Zoom video conference on behalf of Dwayne McClinton, who was not in attendance but was provided proper notice of the Agenda Item and understood that the Commission would proceed in his absence. Appearing on his own behalf was Executive Director Armstrong.

Chair Scherer asked Executive Director Armstrong to provide his presentation. Executive Director Armstrong presented an overview of Ethics Complaint Case No. 24-168C and the Proposed Stipulated Agreement. He noted the changes to the Proposed Agreement since the last Commission meeting and explained the proposed terms included that Mr. McClinton agreed to stipulate to one willful violation of NRS 281A.400(1), the Commission would impose a civil penalty of \$1,000 and admonish Mr. McClinton providing the Stipulated Agreement as written expression of disapproval of his conduct. Executive Director Armstrong informed the Commission that the Golden Knights confirmed the value of each ticket was \$350. The terms further include that Mr. McClinton would coordinate Ethics Law training for himself and staff of the Governor's Office of Energy within 60 days following the finalization of the stipulation.

Nicole Ting, Esq. emphasized that her client, Mr. McClinton had no history before the Commission and that he believed his visit was to benefit his agency in observing firsthand what the Knights could bring into a potential sponsorship. She acknowledged that Mr. McClinton now understands his error and the conduct will not reoccur.

Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve the Stipulated Agreement. Commissioner Lowry seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried as follows:

Chair Scherer: Aye.

Vice Chair Wallin: Abstain pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4).

Commissioner Lowry: Aye. Commissioner Miller: Aye.

Commissioner Moran: Abstain pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4).

Commissioner Reynolds: Aye.

Commissioner Smith: Abstain pursuant to NRS 281A.220(4).

Commission Counsel Bassett reported that Investigator Terry contacted her to let her know that there hadn't been any members of the public to arrive at the incorrect agendized location at a half an hour into the meeting.

6. Report by Executive Director on agency status and operations.

Chair Scherer introduced the item and asked Executive Director Armstrong for his presentation.

Executive Director Armstrong introduced SLR Intern McMahon to the Commission and welcomed him to the team.

Executive Director Armstrong referenced the Executive Director's report included with the meeting materials and directed the Commission to the data points and potential hurtles information included pertaining to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Executive Director Armstrong reported that the Commission's Language Access Plan was being considered by the Interim Finance Committee that day and he may have to step out to testify for a brief moment. He noted that the Commission's biennial budget is now closed and that the Commission received most of its requested enhancement allocations including the case management system enhancement. Executive Director Armstrong shared that staff will be beginning the Request for Proposal process for its new case management system soon.

Executive Director Armstrong highlighted the recent review panel determinations section of his report and stated that he would be providing this information in his report going forward.

Executive Director Armstrong noted that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled to be held in Reno on August 20 and would include elections for the Commission Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Vice Chair Wallin asked how long the Request for Proposal process would take and Executive Director Armstrong responded that it depends on if the chosen vendor is already contracted with the State of Nevada.

No action was taken on this Item.

7. Review of 2025 Legislative Session report from the Executive Director and possible formation and appointment of Commissioner(s) to a Legislative Committee to work on Legislative matters during the interim.

Chair Scherer introduced the item and asked Executive Director Armstrong for his presentation.

Executive Director Armstrong provided an overview of the Commission's Legislative history and acknowledged that the Commission did not have a bill of its own this session, but staff was monitoring eight recently passed bills for implementation purposes. He recommended the formation of a Legislative Committee of the Commission to discuss the next Legislative session and organize a plan going forward.

Chair Wallin shared that she had previously served on the Commission's Legislative Subcommittee and that she would be interested in serving in that capacity again. She noted that she was in favor of a Legislative Committee.

Commissioner Reynolds stated that he would be interested in serving on the Legislative Committee and Commissioner Miller agreed to serve as well.

Commissioner Lowry made a motion to appoint Vice Chair Wallin and Commissioners Miller and Reynolds to form a Legislative Committee of the Commission in order to evaluate

legislative priorities for the 2027 legislative session and any necessary administrative rulemaking and to report back to the Commission with recommendations. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The Motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

8. Report on Outreach and Education Presentation, and possible direction thereon.

Chair Scherer opened the item and asked OEO Harvey for their presentation.

OEO Harvey referenced the written report provided in the meeting materials and highlighted social media follower increases and trends, recent trainings and upcoming training opportunities scheduled including campaign training and endorsement best practices for newly appointed and elected officials. They provided information on recent social media polls and engagement. OEO Harvey shared feedback received through surveys completed by recently trained participants. They informed the Commission about upcoming quarterly quality improvement meetings scheduled among Commission staff. OEO Harvey discussed recently published press releases and responses to public records requests.

Chair Wallin shared that she recently spoke with a former Commissioner, and they stated they loved the trivia questions and were overall very impressed with the social media outreach efforts of OEO Harvey. She stated that OEO Harvey is doing an excellent job and thanked them for their hard work.

OEO Harvey thanked Executive Director Armstrong for continuing the education and outreach efforts in their absence.

No action was taken on this Item.

9. Commissioner Comments.

Vice Chair Wallin welcomed SLR Intern McMahon to the team and thanked Commission staff for doing a great job. Vice Chair Wallin thanked Executive Assistant Pedroza for coordinating the meeting noting that she knows the rural meetings bring extra efforts, which she appreciated. Chair Scherer echoed Vice Chair Wallin's comments.

10. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:	Minutes approved August 20, 2025:
/s/ Kari Pedroza	/s/ Scott Scherer
Kari Pedroza	Scott Scherer, Esq.
Executive Assistant	Chair
/s/ Ross Armstrong	/s/ Kim Wallin
Ross Armstrong, Esq.	Kim Wallin, CPA, CMA, CFM
Executive Director	Vice Chair