



STATE OF NEVADA

BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re **Christine Hoferer**, Commissioner,
Mineral County Board of County
Commissioners, State of Nevada,

Ethics Complaint
Case No. 21-038C

Subject. /

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

The Nevada Commission on Ethics (“Commission”) received Ethics Complaint No. 21-038C on June 14, 2021, regarding the alleged conduct of Christine Hoferer (“Hoferer”). On August 2, 2021, the Commission instructed the Executive Director to investigate alleged violation of NRS 281A.400(5).

Hoferer 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 Hoferer’s conduct as a public officer and have associated implications under the Ethics Law.

On January 19, 2022, a Review Panel¹ consisting of Vice-Chair Brian Duffrin (Presiding Officer) and Commissioner Barbara Gruenewald, Esq. considered the following: (1) Ethics Complaint; (2) Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation; (3) Hoferer’s Response to the Complaint; (4) Executive Director’s Recommendation to the Review Panel with Summary of Investigatory Findings; and (5) Relevant Evidentiary Exhibits.²

Under NAC 281A.430, the Review 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 violation of NRS 281A.400(5).

Although the matter is being dismissed, the Review Panel determines that a Confidential Letter of Instruction shall be issued to advise Hoferer of her duty to avoid conflicts as a public officer in regard to release of information obtained through her public position, which is not available to the general public. Pursuant to NRS 281A.730, the letter of instruction is confidential, but it may be considered in any subsequent Ethics Complaint that relates to similar conduct or related issues.

///

¹ A vacancy occurred in the Review Panel given the absence of Commissioner Sheets. Pursuant to NAC 281A.177(2), the remaining members of the Review Panel shall continue to serve and act upon matters.

²All 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.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

The Review Panel dismisses this Complaint for lack of sufficient credible evidence of a violation and issues a Confidential Letter of Instruction in the matter.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2022.

REVIEW PANEL OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

By: /s/ Brian Duffrin
Brian Duffrin
Chair/Presiding Officer

By: /s/ Absent
Damian R. Sheets, Esq.
Commissioner

By: /s/ Barbara Gruenewald
Barbara Gruenewald, 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:

Ross E. Armstrong, Esq.
Executive Director
Elizabeth J. Bassett, Esq.
Nevada Commission on Ethics
704 W. Nye Lane, Suite 204
Carson City, NV 89703

Email: RArmstrong@ethics.nv.gov

Email: ebassett@ethics.nv.gov

Christine Hoferer
c/o Katherine F. Parks, Esq.
Thorndal Armstrong Delk
Balkenbush & Eisinger
6590 S. McCarran Blvd.
Suite B
Reno, NV 89509

Email: KFP@thorndal.com
cc: PSB@thorndal.com

Certified Mail No.: 9171 9690 0935 0037 6365 83

Dated: 1/20/22



Employee, Nevada Commission on Ethics