

STEVE SISOLAK
Governor

ELISA CAFFERATA
Director

KARA M. JENKINS
Administrator



COMMISSIONERS
Connye Y. Harper, Chair
Tiffany Young, Secretary
Ivette A. Fernandez
Krista Wahnefried
Jocelyn Cortez

MEETING MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Equal Rights Commission

Date and Time of Meeting Monday, January 31, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Place of Meeting: Nevada Equal Rights Commission
1820 E. Sahara, Suite 314, Conference Room
Las Vegas, NV 89104

Meeting ID: **880 1324 0587**
Passcode: **357930**

The following items may be taken out of order and/or items may be combined for consideration. Items may also be removed from the agenda or the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (Commission) may delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. Prior to the commencement and conclusion of a contested case or a quasi-judicial proceeding that may affect the due process rights of an individual, the Commission may refuse to consider public comment. See NRS 233B.126.

Commission Members Present: Chair Connye Harper; Tiffany Young, Secretary, Ivette Fernandez; Jocelyn Cortez.

Commission Members Absent: Krista Wahnefried.

Others Present: Asheesh Ballah, Deputy Attorney General; Kara Jenkins, Administrator, NERC; Lila Vizcarra, Chief Compliance Investigator, NERC; Darrell Harris, NERC Supervisory Compliance Investigator, Investigator II, NERC; Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant III, NERC; Christina Ennis, Administrative Assistant II, NERC; Maria Fatima Aguirre, Administrative Assistant Intern, NERC.

1. **Call to Order** -
Connye Harper, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m.

2. **Roll Call, Confirmation of quorum, and Verification of Posting** - *Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada Equal Rights Commission (NERC)*

Roll was called to confirm that a quorum was present, and Ms. Peterson confirmed that

3. Public Comment:

Members of the public will be invited to speak before; however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per person at the discretion of the chair.

Chair Harper announced the First Public Comment Session and asked for any comments. Hearing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

4. For Possible Action - Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes – Connye Harper, Chair

- October 28, 2021, Commission Meeting Minutes

Chair Harper asked if all had opportunity to review the meeting minutes and said she would entertain a motion for approval if no changes were requested.

Commissioner Tiffany Young raised the motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Ivette Fernandez seconded her motion. Chair Harper asked for a vote and all present approved.

5. Discussion/for Possible Action – Administrator’s Update – Kara Jenkins, Administrator

- Welcome Commissioner Jocelyn Cortez

Administrator Jenkins thanked the Chair and greeting the Commission. She proceeded to provide an update to the Commission.

Hiring Freeze ends – The Governor’s Finance Office approved NERC’s request to fill its vacant positions held open due to budgetary concerns impacted by COVID. NERC will commence with recruitment efforts shortly. Ms. Jenkins commented this is really good news as increased staffing levels will be the needed support for NERC in closing more cases.

Remote Work - Ms. Jenkins further emphasized that while most investigators have been working remotely, the office has been maintained and kept open throughout the past two years, and she had pride and relief that the team remained safe, and no one had taken ill.

Commissioner Jocelyn Cortez appointment – Ms. Jenkins further announced that the Governor had appointed Jocelyn Cortez, present this meeting. She mentioned her extensive background in immigration rights, she experienced and highly qualified in the law in that area, particularly with DACA, and NERC is very happy to have her as a member of the Commission. She indicated that Commissioner Cortez may have an interest in concerns related to human trafficking.

In conclusion, Ms. Jenkins commented that Senior DAG Sophia Long was not present as she is taking much needed leave time, and DAG Bhallah was present in her stead, and we will see her at the next meeting. She then invited Commissioner Cortez to provide a brief background.

Commissioner Jocelyn Cortez thanked Ms. Jenkins and announced that she was pleased to attend her first meeting with the commission, adding that was exciting to work with all of them and was impressed with all their qualifications, from the investigators to all of the commissioners.

Ms. Cortez continued to state that she is from Las Vegas and has practiced employment law before segueing into immigration law. She noted that she had dedicated her practice to helping to advocate on behalf of immigrant families (mostly in the Spanish-speaking realm) and she takes her role in the community very seriously. For example, helping lay people understand more about immigration law, and hopefully in making better choices. She stressed the importance of education. She added that she is interested in trafficking, but she is also interested in other trends that are being seen by NERC in general and seeing how see can be a benefit to the commission.

Chair Harper thanked her for joining the Commission and looked forward to meeting in the future.

Commissioner Tiffany Young welcomed Commissioner Cortez to the commission.

Commissioner Cortez thanked all for the comments and reiterated she looked forward to the opportunity to meet them in person as well.

6. Second Public Comment – *Connie Harper, Chair*

Members of the public will be invited to speak; however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per person at the discretion of the chair.

Chair Harper announced the Second Public Comment Session and invited members of the public to speak. Hearing no comments, she proceeded to adjourn the meeting.

7. Adjournment – *Connie Harper, Chair*

Chair Harper adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Nevada Equal Rights Commission Meeting
Monday, January 31, 2022 – 2:30 p.m.

Notice: Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting or information regarding obtaining supporting materials for the meeting should contact Coralie Peterson, Nevada Equal Rights Commission (NERC), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at (702) 486-4010 or by writing to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (NERC) 1820 E. Sahara Ave., Suite 314, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104; or fax (702) 486-7054 on or before the close of business on Friday, January 28, 2022.

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations on or before 9:00 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting: DETR, 2800 E. St. Louis, Las Vegas, NV; DETR, 500 East Third St., Carson City, NV; DETR, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 3405 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 4500 Sunset Road., Henderson, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 2827 N. Las Vegas Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 1929 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 172 Sixth St., Elko, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 480 Campton St., Ely, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 121 Industrial Way, Fallon, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 475 W. Haskell, #1, Winnemucca, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 4001 S. Virginia St., Suite G, Reno, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 2281 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV; GRANT SAWYER OFFICE BUILDING, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV; LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADAWORKS 639 Isbell Rd., Ste. 420, Reno, NV; WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS, 7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, NV. This agenda was also posted on DETR's Web site at www.detr.nv.gov. In addition, the agenda was mailed or e-mailed to groups and individuals as requested.