

**Commission for Women
Department of Administration
July 9, 2020**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEVADA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

July 9, 2020

The meeting of the Nevada Commission for Women was called to order by Chair Jo Etta Brown at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2020, via teleconference call. **Exhibit A** is the meeting agenda, **Exhibit B** is NCFW June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes, **Exhibit C** is copy of the Black Lives Matter Solidarity Statement from the Nevada Commission for Women. All exhibits are available and on file in the Department of Administration, Director's Office.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richann Bender
Jo Etta Brown
Durette Candito
Heather Engle
Diane Fearon
Brenda Hughes
Jennifer López

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Flor Bernal-Gonzalez
Ann Silver

D of A STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Molly Walt

OTHERS PRESENT:

N/A

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comment

Chair Jo Etta Brown called for public comment. No public comment.

Agenda Item #4 – FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Review and approval of Minutes from June 25, 2020, Nevada Commission for Women meeting.

Commissioner Richann Bender made the motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Durette Candito seconded the motion. Action to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 – FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – To approve the Black Lives Matter Solidarity Statement written by Commission Chair Jo Etta Brown for public distribution by the Nevada Commission for Women

Commissioner Richann Bender made the motion to replace the Nevada Commission for Women solidarity statement with the National Association of Commissions for Women on black lives with the sentence preceding the statement on black lives “The Nevada Commission for Women

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stands with people impacted by injustice and echoes the sentiments of the National Association of Commissions for Women". Commissioner Diane Fearon seconded the motion. Action to approve the motion passed: 6 votes for and 1 vote against.

Agenda Item #6 – INFORMATION ONLY – Commissioner Updates

No Commissioner updates were reported.

Agenda Item #7 – INFORMATION ONLY – New Business/Comments or items of discussion

Chair Jo Etta Brown asked Commissioners if there was any discussion on the proposed budget cuts or anything the Commissioners might have heard regarding the proposed budget cuts. Commissioner Heather Engle voiced her concern and asked why Director Freed didn't cut travel and operating expenses from the Department of Administration Director's Office before reducing the Nevada Commission for Women's Management Analyst position from a full-time position to a part-time position, when everyone is working from home, travel and operating for the Director's office would be reduced. Ms. Walt informed Commissioner Engle that her concern was previously brought to the attention of Chair Brown and requested that Chair Brown seek clarification from Director Freed before bringing Commissioner Engle's concern to legislators. Chair Brown informed the Commission that her discussion with Director Freed indicated that Director Freed made cuts across the board and the only thing left to cut was the Commission's staff salary to meet her 19% budget cut requested by the Governor's Office. Chair Brown asked Commissioners how they would like to move forward with the proposed budget cuts that will affect the Nevada Commission for Women. Chair Brown informed Commissioners they can contact legislators and make public comment as a private citizen. Chair Brown stated she was not quite sure the Commission should bring forward specific items that could be cut within the Department of Administration to avoid the budget cut to the Commission's staff position is because all the divisions under the Department of Administration have taken cuts. Chair Brown is waiting for clarification from Director Freed regarding the cuts made by other divisions within the Department of Administration. Commissioner Bender asked if other staff within the Department of Administration are being cut and/or reduced. Chair Brown stated that vacant positions within the Department of Administration are not being filled, but the Nevada Commission for Women being the only Commission under the Department of Administration, the Commission for Women is the only staff reduction. Commissioner Candito stated that in today's circumstances, it is very sad that women are being affected during this pandemic worse than men and the affects will take women years to recover. She finds it horrible that the Nevada Commission for Women is taking a cut and she would like to encourage fellow Commissioner to put pressure on legislators to avoid the budget cut to the Nevada Commission for Women. Under new business, Chair Brown mentioned the Gender Bias Survey and she is trying to put together a report on the survey. Chair Brown asked all Commissioners to email her any information they might have regarding the Gender Bias Survey. Chair Brown will then put together a report, email it to staff before sending it to the Secretary of State's office.

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Chair Brown also reported on the ERA and National Association of Commission for Women is now involved in a lawsuit. Chair Brown will bring the information to the Commission at a later date.

Agenda Item #8 – Public Comment

No public comment

Agenda Item #9 – FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Walt

Molly Walt, Staff, Nevada Commission for Women

Exhibit A	Meeting Agenda
Exhibit B	DRAFT June 25, 2020 NCFW Meeting Minutes
Exhibit C	Copy of the Black Lives Matter Solidarity Statement from the Nevada Commission for Women