CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

African American Advisory Board

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026, 11:00 A.M.
City Council Committee Room
One Civic Plaza, 9th Floor, Suite S9300, Albuquerque, NM 87102
To join virtually: Zoom Link Meeting ID: 880 2314 2446

Voting Members Present

(1) Beverly Gaines, Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico Designee (In person)
(2) Rita Powdrell, African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico Designee (In person)
(3) Ava Silver, University of New Mexico African American Student Services Alternate (In Person)
(4) Nicole Bedford-Jacobs, University of New Mexico Hospital-African American Community Liaison Designee, Interim Vice Chair (In person)
(5) Patrick Barrett, The New Mexico Center of Black Excellence Designee, Interim Chair (In person)
(6) Hope Thomas, New Mexico Black Lawyers Association Rotating Member (Zoom)
(7) Officer Rob Duren, Albuquerque Police Department Black Ambassador(s) Designee (Zoom)
(8) Clarence Smith, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Albuquerque Branch Designee (In person)
(9) Dr. Xeturah Woodley, Albuquerque Public Schools African American (AA) Equity & Engagement Coordinator (In person)
(10) Dr. Lisa M. Taylor, Community Health Subject Matter Expert (Zoom)
(11) Marcus Porter, Community Subject Matter Expert, (In person)
(12) Ayanna Zahra, Community Subject Matter Expert (In person)

Members Absent

(1) Rachel Mwadi, New Mexico Black Leadership Council Alternate
(2) Bishop David C. Cooper, Ministers Fellowship Designee
(3) Rev. Darnell Smith, Baptist Ministers Union Designee
(4) State of New Mexico Office of African American Affairs (Declined to participate)
(5) Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission (Declined to participate)

Other Attendees

- Dr. Lisa Christopherson (In person)
- Dezlynn Gallegos (In person)
- Tonya Covington (Zoom)

City Staff Present

- Nichole Rogers, City Councilor, District 6 (In person)
- Ziarra Kirksey, Policy Analyst to Councilor Rogers, City Council (In Person)
- Chevonne Watson, Administrative Assistant/Project Support, City Council (In person)
- Chris Sylvan, ONC Neighborhood Liaison, City Council (In person)
- Vince Higgins, Public Information Officer, City Council (In person)
- Victor Hall, Associate Counsel, City Council (In person)
- Garrett Cornelius, Council Technology & Logistics Specialist, City Council (In person)
- Vanessa Baca, ONC Manager, City Council (Zoom)
- Neema Pickett, African American Community Liaison, Office of Equity and Inclusion (Zoom)

Minutes

I. Call to Order

a. Welcome
Interim Vice Chair Nicole Bedford-Jacobs called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

b. Roll Call
City staff called the roll. Councilor Rogers welcomed Ayanna Zahra, the Board's newest community subject matter expert, whom City Council confirmed the night before.

c. Confirmation of Quorum
Staff confirmed a quorum. For the first time, all three-community subject matter expert seats were filled.

II. Approval of Agenda

a. Review of November 3, 2026 Agenda
Marcus Porter moved to approve the agenda. Clarence Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a roll-call vote. Interim Chair Patrick Barrett arrived during the vote and cast his.

III. Review of Previous Minutes

a. Review of October 6, 2026, Meeting Minutes
Interim Chair Barrett moved to approve the October minutes. Beverly Gaines seconded. The minutes passed on a roll-call vote, with Dr. Lisa Taylor abstaining.

IV. Public Comment

a. (2 Minutes per Speaker)
Interim Chair Barrett opened the floor. There was no public comment.

V. Board Leadership and Updates

a. Community Subject Matter Expert Appointment Updates

- Dr. Lisa Taylor is gathering data on Black health in Albuquerque and across New Mexico. The goal is to gain a clear picture of where things stand so the data can shape the Board's work.
- Marcus Porter thanked the Board for having him. He's excited to give people a voice and connect them to the resources they need, especially through the subcommittees.
- Ayanna Zahra introduced herself. Less than 24 hours after her appointment, she stated that the Board matters to her, to Albuquerque's small businesses, and to the community as a whole. Her focus is raising equity and making sure everyone is represented fairly.

b. Headshots and Biographies

- Members who missed headshots last time were asked to take them before leaving.

VI. Governance and Bylaws

The Board walked through the draft bylaws section by section. Rather than vote on amendments one at a time, members agreed that staff will fold every change into a clean copy, and the Board will vote on the bylaws as amended at the December meeting.

a. Review and Discussion of Proposed AAAB Bylaws

- Dr. Woodley asked where education fits, since the Board added it last month. Councilor Rogers confirmed it should stand on its own and hadn't made it into the draft yet.
- Beverly Gaines asked where technology belongs. Interim Chair Barrett first argued for a category of its own. Members discussed AI, quantum, and other emerging fields, job training and economic mobility. It was decided that technology belongs in both Economic Mobility and Education. Dr. Taylor asked that technology equity sit at the foundation wherever it lands, since it matters in schools and in health care. The Economic Mobility language will now read "workforce development, technology equity, entrepreneurship," and Education will include technology equity.

- Dr. Woodley asked whether the Board needed to spell out every thread now. Councilor Rogers said no. The bylaws carry a one-sentence definition for each area, and the subcommittees will drill down into the who, what, when, and how.
- Rita Powdrell reminded the Board that it agreed last month to cover incarceration under Missing and Murdered. Councilor Rogers suggested adding "support for justice-impacted families" to that area's sentence, which covers missing and murdered cases, incarcerated relatives, and the youth affected when a parent goes to prison. Interim Chair Barrett supported that wording.
- Marcus Porter asked how the Board will address issues like missing and murdered Black family members. Do subcommittees refer people to APD, host events, or something else? The subcommittee would review the timeline and lapel camera footage with help from Officer Duren, then recommend process fixes to APD. It was also discussed who could support families of missing and murdered individuals such as providing housing and ensuring they have access to food while in town.
- Each subcommittee will choose one thing to work on this year and report back. Councilor Rogers would also like the Board to issue policy statements when something affects the Black community.
- Mr. Porter pointed out that two state-level Black organizations that are not part of this Board. Councilor Rogers noted that with the election shifts and new state leadership, many groups are scrambling to decide who should recommend names to the new governor. She suggested this Board help identify real subject matter experts rather than putting names forward "just because they're Black." Interim Chair Barrett added that transition teams will form right after tonight and move quickly.
- Councilor Rogers urged the Board to look beyond its own seats, which are now full. The Black community needs people on the Lodgers' Tax board and other key City, County, and State Boards
- **Article III, Section Four.** Vice Chair Bedford-Jacobs noted that the draft bylaws state the Mayor appoints and Council confirms community experts, but it skips the ordinance step where permanent members review applications and make recommendations. That language will be added. Councilor Rogers explained that every application comes to the Board unfiltered. Staff are logging all applicants on a spreadsheet with their status, will ask each one to pick a focus area, and will send each subcommittee chair their list.
- **Article XIII, Section One.** Vice Chair Bedford-Jacobs asked that the bylaws call for an annual review, since the Board is new and growing. Mr. Porter pointed out that Article XIV already lets members propose written amendments at any time. Councilor Rogers recommended keeping both: amendments any time, plus a yearly look at what's working. Ms. Zahra asked whether to set a date. The Board agreed to review the bylaws annually, as leadership change is a natural moment for that review.
- **Article IX.** Vice Chair Bedford-Jacobs asked whether the Board could request a response from the Mayor or Council within 60 to 90 days of a recommendation. Councilor Rogers checked with Victor on how reports travel. They usually go to Council as an executive communication (EC) from the Mayor, or possibly as an OC

under Council, and staff will research both options. Formal responses are rare. Instead, boards get a 10-minute presentation to Council, typically with their annual report, and can ask for feedback then.

- **Subcommittee membership.** Ms. Powdrell asked whether community members can join subcommittees without going through the formal application. Councilor Rogers said anyone who wants to serve still needs to apply, which is how staff track their information and pass it to the chairs. No mayoral appointment is needed. Subcommittees fall under the Open Meetings Act, so their meetings must be public and posted.

VII. Subcommittee Leadership and Action Items

a. Review of Subcommittee Focus Areas and Responsibilities

- **Use what already exists.** Councilor Rogers pointed to the City Clerk's website, which already lists training and duties for board chairs and co-chairs. The Board will review that list and adapt it.
- **Mandatory training.** Clarence Smith said anyone serving on a subcommittee should be trained and understand the role, similar to NAACP officers. Councilor Rogers agreed the requirement should cover Board members. Staff will add a training section to the bylaws and add Education and Technology to the standing working groups in Article VII, Section Two. She has asked the City Clerk to lead a training during a regular Board meeting, likely in January, so no one has to add another date to the calendar.
- **Accountability.** Vice Chair Bedford-Jacobs asked whether the bylaws hold working groups to yearly objectives or reports. Councilor Rogers said the accountability is built in: a voting Board member leads each subcommittee. Each group's first order of business is choosing its one action item for the year and leads report progress to the full Board for the annual report. Article VII also limits authority. Working groups advise the Board, can't bind it or speak for it without a Board vote, and can convene advisory circles on issues outside the focus areas.
- **Structure.** Ayanna Zahra asked when subcommittee structure will be discussed. Councilor Rogers said each subcommittee decides for itself, including whether to add a community co-chair. The Board didn't want to be prescriptive.
- **Guest experts.** Vice Chair Bedford-Jacobs confirmed the distinction. People who want to join a subcommittee and have a say must apply. Experts who drop in for a meeting or two to share knowledge don't need to apply.
- Interim Chair Barrett stepped away from the meeting during this discussion. Vice Chair Bedford-Jacobs presided for the rest of the meeting.

VIII. Subcommittee Leadership Roster

a. Economic Mobility was the only subcommittee without a lead. Marcus Porter volunteered. Ayanna Zahra seconded, and the Board approved him on a roll-call vote. The full roster:

Subcommittee / Focus Area	Board Lead(s)
Economic Mobility	Marcus Porter
Missing and Murdered Black Persons and Families, including Justice-Impacted Families	Officer Rob Duren
Cultural Events and Heritage Preservation	Rita Powdrell
Health Outcomes and Disparities	Nicole Bedford-Jacobs, with Dr. Lisa Taylor
Civic Engagement and Representation	Clarence Smith and Bishop David C. Cooper
Education (including Technology Equity)	Dr. Xeturah Woodley, with Ava Silver

Other Board members may join any focus area they choose.

b. Community Applicant Placement and Engagement

The Board is still accepting applications, and members were asked to spread the word. Staff will finish the applicant spreadsheet so each lead knows who asked to join. In December, the Board will set subcommittee meeting dates so the work can start in the new year.

IX. Announcements

a. Albuquerque Museum – Overcoming Hateful Things: Stories from the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Imagery – November 7, 2026

- **Opening Saturday.** Board members received a special invitation for opening day, Saturday, November 7, 2026. The galleries are open until 5:00 p.m. Dr. David Pilgrim, the collection's founder from Ferris State University, gives his public talk at 2:00 p.m. The museum is still working out the rest of his Saturday schedule. Ms. Zahra will forward the invitation to members who didn't receive it, including Dr. Taylor. Councilor Rogers encouraged anyone who can to attend the talk.
- **Recording the talk.** The Board has asked the museum to have One Albuquerque Media record the talk. The recording will go on the AAAB website and, ideally, the museum's exhibition page for anyone who can't attend.
- **A Board event for youth.** The exhibition runs through April 11, 2027, and Councilor Rogers wants the Board to plan its own event to get students there. Dr. Woodley explained challenges involved in establishing APS field trip. Councilor Rogers noted it took years to work out logistics for the 300-plus BSU students who attend the Black Health Expo. Ms. Powdrell suggested taking over one of the museum's free Third Thursday community nights, where families can come with their students. Vice Chair Bedford-Jacobs suggested asking schools to offer extra credit. Members leaned toward February for Black History Month. The night could double as the Board's

introduction to the community and include a healing space. Dr. Woodley will take the event to BSU sponsors, and outreach will extend to college chapters, including CNM.

- **Concerns about the lens.** Ms. Zahra said she's tired of seeing Black people dehumanized in exhibits. Images of other groups are often blurred or contextualized, while Black people are objectified. She urged the Board to be more vocal and to preview exhibits before they're promoted to students. Councilor Rogers said she vetted the exhibit before bringing it to the Board. The collection was assembled by a Black curator from items gathered from Black families, in a spirit of overcoming rather than retraumatizing. Her bigger worry is commentary from visitors seeing this history for the first time, which she experienced at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Ms. Powdrell added that Dr. Pilgrim is the keynote. A question from the audience was asked how to find the recording. Councilor Rogers said the AAAB and museum websites.

b. Board Member and Community Partner Announcements

- **Health Talk at Macedonia Baptist Church (Clarence Smith).** A family that has lost several members to an incurable disease is bringing in the doctor whose clinical study includes them. He'll speak about a condition that is often misdiagnosed and rising in the Black community. Saturday November 7 at 10:00 a.m. at Macedonia, 1509 Edith Blvd. SE. Food will be served.
- **Black Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn (Beverly Gaines).** Thursday November 6, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with Raúl Bujanda, the City's Executive Director of Public Safety, speaking on City and public safety resources. Lunch provided. Register at bccofnm.org.
- **Black Healthcare Careers Expo (Dr. Xeturah Woodley).** Friday, November 13, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the APS Berna Facio Professional Development Center, Comanche and Louisiana, a joint event of APS and UNM Hospital, and middle schoolers are attending again this year.
- **APS African American Advisory Council (Dr. Woodley).** Standing members who aren't receiving Dr. Woodley's meeting emails should contact her. The City Council is also creating a way for new members to apply.
- **Creators Collab NM Film Festival (Marcus Porter).** Mr. Porter founded Creators Collab about a year and a half ago to help artists build sustainable careers. Its short film festival takes place in February at the Guild, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Categories are drama, documentary, animation, comedy, and horror. Details at creatorscollab.org.
- **UNM African American Student Services (Ava Silver).** Dr. Stone has accepted a new role in UNM Student Affairs. Forums for three director finalists are November 9, 10, and 12, each at noon. Ms. Silver will share the Zoom link through Vince. AASS is also hiring a Student Success Specialist; the posting is on UNM Jobs and AASS social media.
- **La Montañita Co-op board (Ayanna Zahra).** Ms. Zahra is running for the co-op's board. She wants to bring in the Black farmers and suppliers the co-op doesn't

currently represent and build partnerships across New Mexico. She is the only woman and only Black candidate among six. Members can vote through November 14.

- **NAACP Albuquerque Branch election (Clarence Smith).** Branch election is next Saturday November 14, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Members in good standing will receive the ballot by email. Mr. Smith is a candidate. People can join online by QR code, which staff will include in the notes.
- **MLK March, January 16, 2027 (Nicole Bedford-Jacobs).** Vice Chair Bedford-Jacobs sits on the march committee, which is changing things up this year with a community-focused gathering. The committee is assembling hygiene kits for the unhoused and requests donations: travel toothpaste, mouthwash, body wash, and similar items. It also needs granola bars, coffee, and hot chocolate for the crowd. She's organizing a health fair with screenings and is recruiting health vendors, Black-owned businesses, and Divine Nine organizations. The drop-off location will be shared after next week's committee meeting. Anyone, including APS, is welcome to join the committee.

c. Upcoming Community Events and Opportunities: Civic Engagement and the 2027 Legislative Session

- Mr. Smith urged members to get politically involved now. The new administration will bring changes affecting OAAA, the MLK Commission, and the Black community. Legislative interim committees meet year-round, so members should know their legislators, contact them early, and be at the Roundhouse more than one day a year. He also urged members to back the African American Museum and Cultural Center's effort to secure property and recalled how the community won the state MLK holiday. He urged members to show up for the Black women who serve in elected office, including Councilor Rogers.
- Ms. Gaines said the Board needs a clear position on recommendations to the new administration. Groups are already setting up meetings and arguing over who has the authority to recommend names. She believes this Board represents enough of the community to speak, and that it should define the community's needs now instead of waiting for the February session.
- A member described City directors walking out en masse during Councilor Rogers' questioning at a recent Council meeting, and disrespectful remarks from the room. She asked the Board to consider a statement and to show up at the next meeting. Councilor Rogers confirmed the CAO sent a letter saying directors no longer had to attend because of her line of questioning.
- Ms. Gaines suggested the bylaws ask members to attend City Council meetings. Council holds about 22 meetings a year, so Councilor Rogers proposed a minimum of two per member, in person or online, plus the meeting where the Board presents its report. Dr. Woodley suggested placing it under member expectations in Article III. Members were also encouraged to make public comment on any topic, even a thank-you for new speed bumps, so more Black faces are seen and heard.

- Councilor Rogers will add legislative priorities to the next agenda. The goal is a priorities document for each focus area that the Board can hand to legislators, starting with Black representatives and senators. Ms. Gaines, who sits on the African American Day at the Legislature committee, will tell organizers the Board would like to present its priorities. The Board will invite legislators to the December meeting for a question-and-answer conversation.

IX. Action Items and Next Steps

a. Review and Assign Follow-Up Responsibilities

- **City Staff** – Prepare a clean, amended bylaws draft and circulate it before December meeting. It should cover: education as its own focus area; technology equity in Economic Mobility (after workforce development, followed by entrepreneurship) and in Education; support for justice-impacted families in the Missing and Murdered area; application review step in Article III, Section Four; an annual review in Article XIII, Section One; Education and Technology under the standing working groups in Article VII, Section Two; a new training section; and a City Council attendance expectation of at least two meetings a year under Article III.
- **City Staff** – Update the record so Beverly Gaines is listed by that name when she attends for the Black Chamber.
- **City Staff** – Research whether Board reports go to Council as an EC through the Mayor or an OC under Council and bring both options to the Board.
- **City Staff** – Keep logging all community applications on the spreadsheet, ask each applicant to choose a focus area, and send each subcommittee lead their list.
- **City Staff** – Draft a full-year 2027 calendar of Board and subcommittee meetings for the website, including a City Clerk training during a regular meeting, likely in January.
- **City Staff** – Share the City Clerk's chair and co-chair duties so the Board can review and adapt them.
- **City Staff** – Email headshots to Board members.
- **City Staff (Vince and Jordan)** – Post announcements, flyers, and the Jim Crow exhibit talk recording to the AAAB website, social media, and nmblack.com.
- **City Staff** – Include the NAACP membership QR code in the notes.
- **City Staff** – Double-check that all past agendas and minutes have been approved, so any remaining housekeeping can happen in December.
- **Ayanna Zahra** – Forward the Albuquerque Museum invitation to members who didn't receive it, including Dr. Taylor.
- **Dr. Xeturah Woodley** – Share the Board's exhibition event with APS BSU sponsors once it's planned.
- **Dr. Woodley and Beverly Gaines** – Start arranging buses for students attending African American Day at the Legislature in February.

- **Beverly Gaines** – Let the African American Day at the Legislature committee know the Board would like to present its legislative priorities.
- **Subcommittee Leads** – Choose one action item for the year and report progress to the full Board.
- **Marcus Porter** – Send the Creators Collab film festival flyer to Vince.
- **Ava Silver** – Send the AASS director forum Zoom link to Vince.
- **Clarence Smith** – Send NAACP health forum information to Dr. Taylor.
- **Nicole Bedford-Jacobs** – Share MLK March donation drop-off location once the committee confirms it.
- **Board Members** – Review the amended bylaws ahead of the December vote, take headshots if you haven't yet, and keep encouraging community members to apply.

b. Confirm Next Meeting Date and Location

- Tuesday, December 1, 2026 11:00 a.m. Hybrid, in person and via Zoom (Location to be distributed by City staff)
- December will be a working meeting and a celebration. Expect the business to take about an hour, followed by a holiday potluck and fellowship. Staff will provide the main dishes, and members are asked to bring sides. City directors and local legislators will be invited to meet the Board. The agenda will include:
    i. Vote on the amended bylaws
    ii. 2027 Board and subcommittee meeting calendar
    iii. 2027 legislative priorities, with a question-and-answer conversation with invited legislators
    iv. Whether to make the interim Chair and Vice Chair permanent now that the full Board is seated
    v. Any remaining housekeeping on past agendas and minutes
    vi. Board swag and outreach items, as time allows

X. Adjournment

With no further business, Vice Chair Bedford-Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.