



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

African American Advisory Board

Tuesday, September 1st, 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) Jordan Locke, State of New Mexico Office of African American Affairs Designee Interim Chair (In person)
- (2) Clarence Smith, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Albuquerque Branch Designee (In person)
- (3) Karla Causey, Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico Designee (Zoom)
- (4) Rita Powdrell, African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico Designee (Zoom)
- (5) Rachel Mwadi, New Mexico Black Leadership Council Alternate (Zoom)
- (6) Officer Rob Duren, Albuquerque Police Department Black Ambassador(s) Designee (Zoom)
- (7) Ava Silver, University of New Mexico African American Student Services Alternate (Zoom)
- (8) Patrick Barrett, The New Mexico Center of Black Excellence Designee Interim Vice Chair (Zoom)
- (9) Felecia Adams, New Mexico Black Lawyers Association Rotating Member (Zoom)

Members Absent

- (1) Bishop David C. Cooper, Ministers Fellowship Designee
- (2) Rev. Darnell Smith, Baptist Ministers Union Designee
- (3) Nicole Bedford-Jacobs, University of New Mexico Hospital-African American Community Liaison
- (4) Albuquerque Public Schools African American (AA) Equity & Engagement Coordinator
- (5) Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission (Declined to participate)
- (6) Vacant- Community Subject Matter Expert
- (7) Vacant- Community Subject Matter Expert
- (8) Vacant- Community Subject Matter Expert

Other Attendees

- Beverly Gaines, Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico Alternate (Zoom)
- Dr. Lisa Christopherson (In person)
- Ayanna Zahra (In person)

- Zora Sanders (In person)
- Marcus Porter (In person)
- PK Hemmons (In person)
- Adri Norris (In person)
- Bryant Johnson (Zoom)
- Jordan Tate (Zoom)
- Chantal (Zoom)
- Tonya Covington (Zoom)
- Jordan Tate (Zoom)
- Sabrina (Zoom)
- Andrea Tammy (Zoom)
- Charles X (Zoom)
- Dr. Lisa M Taylor (Zoom)
- Eugene Pickett (Zoom)
- Hope Thomas (Zoom)
- Indigenous Hands (Zoom)
- Kennet Win (Zoom)
- Linzee (Zoom)
- MClinton (Zoom)
- Ralph L. Mims (Zoom)
- Sonya Smith (Zoom)
- Sunny Sampson (Zoom)
- Brenda (Zoom)
- Cmuhumure (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)
- Julia Coulloudon, Deputy Director/General Counsel, City Council (In person)
- Victor Hall, Associate Counsel, City Council (In person)
- Garrett Cornelius, Council Technology & Logistics Specialist, City Council (In person)
- Markela Clinton, Field Representative, Office of the Mayor (In person)
- Neema Pickett, African American Community Liaison, Office of Equity and Inclusion (In person)
- Vanessa Baca, ONC Manager, City Council (Zoom)
- Rada Moss, Financial Empowerment Manager, Health, Housing, Homelessness Dept. (In person)
- Dionne Epps, Open Space Visitor Center Manager, Parks and Recreation

Minutes

I. Call to Order

a. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Nichole Rogers in the City Council Committee Room, City Council Offices.

b. Roll Call

Members and guests introduced themselves. Representatives from participating organizations and other public attendees were present.

c. Confirmation of Quorum

A quorum was confirmed. Nine voting members were present at the meeting.

II. Review of Agenda

a. Review of September 1, 2026 Agenda

The September 1, 2026, agenda was reviewed and accepted by consensus. Due to the current organizational structure and pending officer elections, no formal vote was taken.

III. Review of Previous Minutes

a. Review of August 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2026, meeting minutes were reviewed. Due to the current organizational structure and pending officer elections, no formal vote was taken.

IV. Board Membership and Representation

a. Updates on Designees and Alternates

- i. Staff advised that when a member organization has identified an alternate, both the designee and the identified alternate may submit biographies and participate in Board headshots for publication on the AAAB website.
- ii. The NAACP Albuquerque Branch representative advised that the Branch is currently conducting officer elections, with the election scheduled for November. The Branch requested that submission of its biography and headshot materials be deferred until its officer elections are concluded.
- iii. The Albuquerque Public Schools African American Equity and Engagement position remains vacant, and Albuquerque Public Schools has not identified a representative to the Board. The Board noted that this vacancy has delayed coordination with the school district.

b. Board Consideration of Community Subject Matter Expert Applications

- i. Scoring criteria. Members reviewed the previously adopted applicant scoring criteria, which include subject-matter expertise, community connections, lived experience, commitment to equity and inclusion, civic engagement and collaboration, representation and diversity of perspective, availability and participation capacity, and overall alignment with the Board's mission. Applicants

are scored to a total of 100 points, with additional consideration provided for youth applicants. Each scorer also provides an overall recommendation of strongly recommend, recommend, recommend with reservations, or do not recommend.

- ii. Recusal. Patrick Barrett advised that he did not submit scoring sheets for the applicants because he is personally acquainted with a majority of the applicants, and he requested to be recused from voting on the applicant selections. Members noted that recusal is available to any voting member and that the recusal would be recorded.
- iii. Incomplete scoring. Staff reported that of the approximately fourteen Board positions, nine members have participated regularly in the applicant review process, and that five completed scoring sheets have been received. Legal advisors recommended that the Board proceed with caution considering the incomplete scoring record.
- iv. Recess for tabulation. A recess was taken to allow the submitted applicant scores to be compiled into a scoring matrix for Board review.
- v. Applicants receiving the highest scores. Based on the scoring sheets received, six applicants received the highest cumulative scores:
 - Dr. Lisa Christopherson
 - P.K. Hammons
 - Ayana Zahara
 - Marcus Porter
 - Tonya Covington
 - Dr. Lisa Taylor
- vi. Number of applicants forwarded. The Board had previously contemplated forwarding five applicants to the Mayor's Office. Staff advised that the authorizing ordinance is silent as to the number of community applicants forwarded from the Board to the Mayor's Office. By consensus, the Board determined to forward all six identified applicants.
- vii. Applications received after the evaluation deadline. Three additional applications were received on the morning of the September 1 meeting, after completion of the Board's evaluation process. The Board considered whether to return the applicants to the scoring cycle or to proceed with the completed evaluation. By consensus, the Board determined to proceed with the six evaluated applicants and to invite the later applicants to participate through Board subcommittees. Members reaffirmed that applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis and that subcommittee membership is not limited in number.
- viii. Healthcare-designated position. Dr. Lisa Taylor was identified as the healthcare-specific subject-matter expert candidate required under the authorizing ordinance. Dr. Taylor will work cooperatively with the with the University of New Mexico Hospital representative. Dr. Taylor noted for the record that Lisa Christopherson also holds healthcare credentials in the field of public health; staff advised that

Ms. Christopherson's application was submitted under the education subject-matter area. The Board affirmed Dr. Taylor as the healthcare designee.

- ix. Next stage of appointment. The Board agreed to forward the six identified applicants, together with their applications and supporting materials, to the Mayor's Office. The Mayor will conduct the next stage of the appointment process, selecting the healthcare designee and two additional subject-matter experts, subject to City Council confirmation.
- x. Applicants not selected. Members noted that applicants not appointed to the Board remain able to participate fully through the Board's subject-matter subcommittees, and several applicants present volunteered to do so.

V. Governance and Bylaws

a. Selection of Interim Chair and Interim Vice Chair

The Board discussed the need to seat interim leadership so that formal Board action could occur. Staff and legal advisors recommended the selection of interim officers to serve until the community subject-matter expert appointments are completed, at which time the full Board would conduct elections for permanent officers.

- i. Staff explained that the authorizing ordinance requires a chair and vice chair to be seated before the Board may vote, and that seating interim officers would allow the Board to act on pending business without further delay.
- ii. Members were asked to identify volunteers before nominations were made.
- iii. Jordan Locke volunteered to serve as either Interim Chair or Interim Vice Chair.
- iv. Felecia Adams declined to serve due to workload constraints and offered to support the Board in other capacities.
- v. Patrick Barrett volunteered to serve as Interim Vice Chair if no other member came forward.
- vi. Jordan Locke was nominated by Felecia Adams to serve as Interim Chair and Patrick Barrett was also nominated by Felecia Adams to serve as Interim Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Clarence Smith, NAACP Albuquerque Branch.
- vii. Jordan Locke and Patrick Barrett were selected by acclamation as Interim Chair and Interim Vice Chair, respectively. Interim officers will serve until the subject-matter expert appointments are completed and permanent officer elections are conducted.
- viii. City staff committed to providing the interim officers with training, administrative support, and the resources necessary to facilitate future Board meetings.

b. Governance and Bylaws

The Board determined that the remaining meeting time was insufficient for a substantive discussion of governance and bylaws.

- i. Members agreed that governance and bylaws will be the first substantive agenda item at the October 6, 2026 meeting, to be led by the interim officers.

- ii. Members discussed treating the bylaws as a living document subject to amendment as the Board's organizational needs develop and noted that the Board may amend its bylaws without City Council action.
- iii. City staff will resend the governance and bylaws materials to Board members in advance of the October meeting for review.
- iv. The Board may consider adoption of the bylaws at the October meeting if a quorum is present and members determine that the discussion is sufficiently complete.

c. Proposed Ordinance Amendments

- i. Members noted that the authorizing ordinance does not currently include a youth-specific position and identified the addition of such a position as a proposed ordinance amendment.
- ii. Members noted that the Board must also determine its assigned department as part of the anticipated ordinance amendments.
- iii. Staff advised that the ordinance does not address tie votes, and that the Board's membership structure was designed to reduce that possibility. Legal advisors are available to advise the Board should a tie occur.

VI. Board Priorities and Action Items

a. Community Engagement and Outreach

The Board discussed upcoming community events and opportunities to increase awareness of the AAAB within Albuquerque's African American community.

- i. Albuquerque Public Library Exhibit. Robin Wilkinson announced an exhibit addressing the Green Book and the history of Albuquerque, on display at the downtown Albuquerque Public Library. The exhibit includes oral histories from Albuquerque residents and highlights local citizens connected to the route. The exhibit is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will remain available through September 25, 2026.
- ii. New Mexico State Fair. Members identified the New Mexico State Fair and the African American Pavilion as significant outreach opportunities. It was noted that participation in the pavilion was limited in the prior year. Staff advised that the Office of African American Affairs is not responsible for pavilion scheduling; members indicated that Expo New Mexico and identified individual coordinators may be responsible. Additional coordination is required to determine responsibility for pavilion scheduling and opportunities for Board participation. The Albuquerque Public Library advised that it will host a table at the fair.
- iii. Black Chamber of Commerce. Beverly Gaines announced a Lunch and Learn scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2026, entitled Is Your Business Grant Ready? How to Find and Pursue Funding Opportunities, to be facilitated by Talon St. Lowe, founding chief executive officer of New Mexico Grant Administration. A flyer with registration information will be distributed to Board members.
- iv. Artist Awards. Members were informed of an Artist Awards presentation scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Expo New Mexico,

including refreshments and an opportunity to meet the awardees. Event information will be distributed for Board and community participation.

- v. New Mexico Black Lawyers Association. The Association announced its annual Raymond Hamilton Scholarship event, scheduled for October 17, 2026, at approximately 11:30 a.m. Proceeds support scholarships for Black law students. Additional information is available on the Association's website, and a flyer will be shared with the Board.
- vi. NAACP Albuquerque Branch. The Branch reported that general membership meetings are held monthly on the second Saturday of the month and that the organization is currently conducting officer elections for president, vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and executive board members at large. Branch contact information will be provided to the Board.
- vii. Umojo ABQ Health Fair. Shantam Humoury, Founder of Umojo ABQ, announced a health fair scheduled for October 24, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the César Chávez Community Center. The organization serves refugee and immigrant women of African descent and is seeking organizational partners, vendors, and donations.
- viii. Community Center Renaming. Councilor Rogers advised that a public vote is underway on renaming the César Chávez Community Center, that residents who live, work, study, or play in Council District 6 are eligible to participate, and that one of the three finalist names honors a Black woman from the International District. The voting link will be distributed to members.

b. Centralized Community Calendar

Members discussed the use of nmblack.com as a centralized calendar for African American community events throughout New Mexico.

- i. The website is independently maintained as a community service and includes an "Add an Event" submission function on its events page.
- ii. Submissions may include one-time or recurring events and may specify dates, times, locations, links, street addresses, and uploaded flyers.
- iii. Member organizations were encouraged to submit their events in order to improve coordination, statewide visibility, and community awareness.

c. Civic Engagement

The Board discussed voter registration and election participation as areas of focus for the civic engagement subcommittee.

- i. P.K. Hammons advised that she has been a registered voter registration agent with Bernalillo County since 2023 and volunteered to provide voter registration services at Board outreach and tabling events, including transmittal of completed forms.
- ii. Members identified September 15 as National Voter Registration Day and discussed coordinating voter registration activities during September. Members noted that online voter registration closes approximately thirty days before an

election, while same-day registration remains available. Members recommend confirming Bernalillo County's National Voter Registration Day activities.

- iii. Members discussed Bernalillo County's recruitment of paid poll workers, at a reported rate of \$200 per day and \$300 per day for youth workers, with applications available through the Bernalillo County Clerk's website. Members encouraged outreach to younger residents and to University of New Mexico students, noting the campus polling location and the benefit of poll workers who reflect the community and are proficient with election technology.
- iv. Civic engagement activities will be incorporated into the work of the Board's civic engagement subcommittee.

d. Youth and Education

Members discussed opportunities to expand the Board's engagement with African American youth.

- i. Suggestions included youth mentoring, partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters and comparable organizations, engagement with elementary and secondary schools, and a Board-supported vetting or recommendation pathway for mentors, recognizing that Albuquerque Public Schools conducts its own background checks.
- ii. Members discussed increasing Board presence at end-of-year graduation and rites-of-passage ceremonies, recognizing mentors at those events, and highlighting community elders and leaders.
- iii. Members discussed coordination with Albuquerque Public Schools and the need for a district representative connected to African American equity and student engagement. Tonya Covington advised via the meeting chat that the Black Student Union representative position has been renamed; staff will confirm the correct designation and representation with the district.
- iv. The Board discussed adding a youth-specific position as part of future ordinance amendments.
- v. Members recommended assigning defined subject areas, or "pillars," to incoming community members and subcommittees to improve accountability, documentation, and follow-through.

e. Branding, Communications, and Website

The Board finalized and approved its branding and marketing package.

- i. Logo design and Pan-African branding. Jordan Tate presented emblem designs incorporating Pan-African colors and tree imagery representing roots and connection to New Mexico heritage. The emblem incorporated feedback on color contrast, background darkness, and visual balance. Two rounded-edge versions were presented; members selected the left-side version as the preferred option.
- ii. Design iterations and refinement. The Board discussed design refinements including the addition of more reds in the tree roots to enhance visual representation, adjustment of the overall triangular balance and proportions for

enhanced visual effect, and consideration of design symbolism. Members noted that black and white versions could be used for outline applications and that the design should remain visually distinct from other community emblems.

- iii. Member feedback on emblem details. Councilor Rogers indicated preference for the gold rendering, noting that the tree imagery connects to New Mexico heritage and that the gold rendering provides visual brightness. Members noted that convex versus concave design elements affected visual balance, with some concern that certain design elements were visually busy. Beverly Gaines indicated support for the tree imagery and recommended that background darkness could be adjusted to lighter values for improved visibility of the complete tree logo. P.K. Hammons indicated preference for a bold rendering. Clarence Smith suggested that the emblem could be adapted for use as a lapel pin.
- iv. Design decisions. The Board noted that some contrast was affected through the addition of tree imagery and determined to use color adjustment to ensure visual consistency across applications. Members approved the tree-based design and authorized Jordan Tate to finalize the emblem using the selected design direction.
- v. Symbolism and meaning. Members discussed the visual and symbolic meaning of design elements, including the significance of Pan-African colors and the connection to New Mexico heritage represented through the tree imagery.
- vi. Board member biographies and photographs will be added to the AAAB website.
- vii. Board members and organizational alternates identified by their member organizations may submit biographies and participate in Board headshots.
- viii. Headshots will be taken during the October 6, 2026 meeting. Board business will be conducted during the first portion of the meeting, with headshots taken thereafter. Members agreed that photographs should be visually consistent; no specific clothing color will be required.
- ix. Staff will begin updating the website once biographies and photographs are received.
- x. Members discussed obtaining outreach materials, including a Board-branded tablecloth bearing the Board emblem, for use at future community events.

f. Organizational Capacity and Community Partnerships

- i. Salad Bowl America Cultural Magazine. Bryant Johnson thanked the Board, the Black Chamber of Commerce, and community organizations for supporting recent cultural events, reporting attendance of approximately 275 at the associated gala. The magazine debuted August 15, 2026, with an October New Mexico edition and a November Texas edition forthcoming. Community organizations and businesses were invited to contribute content and interviews.
- ii. Organizational sustainability. Members discussed the need for durable organizational infrastructure and defined programming before expanding

community outreach, noting that community institutions are frequently under-resourced and that visible, sustained work supports credible recruitment.

- iii. African American Day at the New Mexico Legislature. The Board discussed participation in African American Day at the Legislature. Patrick Barrett advised that planning is underway and that the planning committee is in the process of securing a legislative sponsor from the House of Representatives. The Board expressed interest in participating, contributing potential policy priorities, and maintaining an informational table at the event. Mr. Barrett agreed to convey the Board's interest to the planning committee.
- iv. Visit of the Kenyan Ambassador. Members were informed that the anticipated visit of the Kenyan Ambassador has been rescheduled to October 2026. The Board discussed coordinating its broader community introduction with the Ambassador's visit if scheduling permits. Councilor Rogers will provide the finalized schedule when available.

VII. Presentations

a. Scheduled Presentations

No formal presentations were scheduled or provided during the meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

a. Community Public Comment Period – 2 Minutes per Speaker

The formal public comment period was conducted earlier in the meeting. The Chair reopened the floor for additional public comment prior to adjournment. Comments received during the meeting are summarized as follows:

- i. Marcus Porter – Observed that organizations serving African American interests are frequently under-resourced and lose momentum and urged the Board to establish durable programs and demonstrated work product before broad recruitment, so that community members can be invited to something substantive.
- ii. P.K. Hammons – Identified herself as a registered Bernalillo County voter registration agent and offered to provide voter registration services at Board outreach and tabling events.
- iii. Ayana Zahara – Recommended that defined tasks and subject-matter pillars be assigned to incoming community members so that initiatives are tracked and carried forward.
- iv. Rachel Mwadi – Requested clarification on whether biographies and headshots are required from each participating representative of a member organization or from the designee alone.
- v. Shantam Humoury, Umojo ABQ – Announced the October 24 community health fair at the Cesar Chavez Community Center and invited organizational partners, vendors, and donations.
- vi. Bryant Johnson, Salad Bowl America Cultural Magazine – Thanked community organizations for supporting recent cultural events and invited contributions to upcoming editions of the magazine.

- vii. Robin Wilkinson, Albuquerque Public Library – Announced the Green Book exhibit and confirmed the Library will host a table at the New Mexico State Fair.
- viii. Beverly Gaines, Black Chamber of Commerce – Announced the September 23 Lunch and Learn on grant readiness and offered to distribute registration materials.
- ix. Nima – Announced the September 9 Artist Awards presentation at Expo New Mexico and requested community support for participating artists.
- x. Mr. Pickett – Asked whether the Board will participate in developing the agenda for African American Day at the Legislature and whether the Board intends to identify and advocate legislative priorities.
- xi. Community participants – Raised additional issues regarding youth engagement, neighborhood conditions and public safety, education, organizational capacity, outreach opportunities, and community representation.

IX. Next Steps

a. Review of Assigned Responsibilities

- i. **Current Board Members and Alternates** – Submit biographies to City staff before or at the October 6, 2026 meeting and participate in scheduled Board headshots.
- ii. **City Staff** – Forward the six selected subject-matter expert applications, resumes, and supporting materials to the Mayor's Office for the next stage of the appointment process.
- iii. **City Staff** – Resend the governance and bylaws materials to Board members in advance of the October 6, 2026 meeting.
- iv. **City Staff** – Post Board member biographies and headshots to the AAAB website following receipt of materials.
- v. **City Staff** – Provide the Interim Chair and Interim Vice Chair with officer training, meeting facilitation support, and administrative resources.
- vi. **City Staff** – Follow up with Albuquerque Public Schools regarding the vacant African American Equity and Engagement position and confirm the correct designation of the Black Student Union representative seat.
- vii. **Jordan Locke and Patrick Barrett** – Assume the duties of Interim Chair and Interim Vice Chair and work with City staff to prepare for and facilitate future Board meetings.
- viii. **Board Members** – Review the governance and bylaws materials in preparation for extended discussion and possible adoption at the October 6, 2026 meeting.
- ix. **P.K. Hammons** – Coordinate voter registration services at Board outreach and community tabling events, with emphasis on September activities in advance of registration deadlines.
- x. **Civic Engagement Subcommittee** – Distribute Bernalillo County poll worker recruitment information, confirm County National Voter Registration Day activities, and identify voter registration opportunities.

- xi. **Patrick Barrett** – Convey the Board's interest in participating in African American Day at the Legislature, including a request for an AAAB informational table, and report back on the planning committee's response.
- xii. **Member Organizations and Community Partners** – Submit upcoming community events to nmblack.com and forward flyers and registration information to City staff for distribution to the Board.
- xiii. **Board and City Staff** – Determine responsibility for African American Pavilion scheduling at the New Mexico State Fair and identify opportunities for Board participation.
- xiv. **Board and City Staff** – Obtain Board-branded outreach materials, including a tablecloth bearing the Board emblem, for use at community events.
- xv. **NAACP Albuquerque Branch** – Provide Branch contact information to the Board and submit biography and headshot materials following the conclusion of Branch officer elections in November.
- xvi. **Councilor Rogers and City Staff** – Provide additional information regarding the rescheduled October visit of the Kenyan Ambassador once the schedule is finalized and distribute the Cesar Chavez Community Center renaming ballot link.

b. Confirmation of Upcoming Meetings and Locations

The Board confirmed that it meets on a standing schedule on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the African American Advisory Board will be held:

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

City Council Committee Room

One Civic Plaza NW, 9th Floor, Suite S9300, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Board business will be conducted during the first portion of the meeting. Governance and bylaws will be the first substantive agenda item. Board member headshots will be taken following the conduct of business.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.