



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

African American Advisory Board

Tuesday, June 2nd, 11:00 A.M.

Black Chambers of Commerce New Mexico, 700 4th St Suite A SW 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 (Zoom)
- (2) Karla Causey, Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico Designee (In person)
- (3) Rita Powdrell, African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico Designee (In person)
- (4) Cathryn McGill, New Mexico Black Leadership Council Designee (Zoom)
- (5) Nicole Bedford-Jacobs, University of New Mexico Hospital – African American Community Liaison Designee (Zoom)
- (6) Patrick Barrett, Center for New Mexico Black Excellence Designee (Zoom and later in person)
- (7) Officer Rob Duren, Albuquerque Police Department Black Ambassador(s) Designee (Zoom)
- (8) Bishop David C. Cooper, Ministers Fellowship Designee (Zoom)
- (9) Rev. Willie Russell, Baptist Ministers Union Alternate (In person)

Members Absent

- (1) Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission (declined to participate)
- (2) Brandi Stone, University of New Mexico African American Student Services Designee
- (3) Felecia Adams, New Mexico Black Lawyers Association Designee
- (4) Rep. Pamela Herndon, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Albuquerque Branch Designee
- (5) Albuquerque Public Schools AA Equity & Engagement Coordinator

Other Attendees

- Beverly Gaines, Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico Alternate (In person)
- Fredrick Vandt (Zoom)
- Jordan Tate (Zoom)
- Larico Treadwill (Zoom)
- Deon Watson (Zoom)
- Eugene Pickett (Zoom)
- Andrea Watson (Zoom)
- Brenda Hollingsworth-Marley (Zoom)
- Emmanuel Asonye (Zoom)
- Ayanna Zahra (Zoom)

City Staff Present

- Nichole Rogers, City Councilor, District 6 (In person)
- Ziarra Kirksey, Policy Analyst to Councilor Rogers, City Council (In person)
- Vincent Higgins, Public Information Officer, City Council (In person)
- Chris Sylvan, Neighborhood Liaison (ONC), City Council (In person)
- Chevonne Watson, Administrative Assistant/Project Support, City Council (Zoom and later in person)
- Neema Pickett, African-American Community Liaison, Office of Equity and Inclusion (Zoom and later in person)
- Rada Moss, Office of Financial Empowerment (In person)
- Nic Derico, City Legal Department (Zoom)

Minutes

I. Call to Order

a. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Nichole Rogers at the Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico.

b. Roll Call

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

c. Confirmation of Quorum

The board discussed quorum requirements. Members noted that formal voting cannot occur until a Chair and Vice Chair are selected. Elections for these positions will take place after community subject matter expert positions have been filled.

II. Approval of Agenda

a. Review and Approval of June 2, 2026 Agenda

The June 2, 2026 agenda was reviewed and accepted by consensus. Due to the current organizational structure and pending officer elections, no formal vote was taken.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

a. Preview and Approval of May 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

May 5, 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. State of New Mexico Office of African-American Affairs

1. Designee is Jordan Locke

2. Alternate is Ezra Herbert

ii. Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission (Declined to participate)

iii. Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico

1. Designee is Karla Causey

2. Alternate is Beverly Gaines

- iv. African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico
 - 1. Designee is Rita Powdrell
 - 2. Alternate is Eric Spurlock
- v. New Mexico Black Leadership Council
 - 1. Designee is Cathryn McGill
 - 2. Alternate is Rachel Wadi
- vi. University of New Mexico African American Students Services
 - 1. Designee is Brandi Stone
 - 2. Alternate is vacant
- vii. University of New Mexico Hospital – African American Community Liaison
 - 1. Designee is Nicole Bedford-Jacobs
 - 2. Alternate is vacant
- viii. Center for New Mexico Black Excellence
 - 1. Designee is Patrick Barrett
 - 2. Alternate is vacant
- ix. New Mexico Black Lawyers Association
 - 1. Designee is Felecia Adams
 - 2. Alternate is vacant
- x. Albuquerque Police Department Black Ambassador(s)
 - 1. Designee is Rob Duren
 - 2. Alternate is vacant
- xi. Ministers Fellowship
 - 1. Designee is Bishop David C. Cooper
 - 2. Alternate is vacant
- xii. Baptist Ministers Union
 - 1. Designee is Reverend Darnell Smith
 - 2. Alternate is Reverend Willie Russell
- xiii. NAACP Albuquerque Branch
 - 1. Designee is Rep. Pamilya Herndon
 - 2. Alternate is Patty French
- xiv. Albuquerque Public Schools AA Equity & Engagement Coordinator
 - 1. Designee is vacant
 - 2. Alternate is vacant
- b. Updates on Community Subject Matter Experts

The Board discussed the selection process for Community Subject Matter Experts. Thirteen applications were received. Members identified several criteria to guide the review process, including:

- i. Expertise in economic mobility
- ii. Missing and murdered Black persons advocacy
- iii. Cultural events and heritage preservation
- iv. Health outcomes and disparities

- v. Civic engagement and public participation
- vi. Residency or employment within Albuquerque
- vii. Lived experience

The Board emphasized the importance of diverse representation, including youth participation, while acknowledging potential scheduling challenges for high school students due to daytime meeting times. Members agreed to review applications individually and reconvene at the next meeting to make selections.

V. Governance and Bylaws

a. Review Draft Bylaws

The Board reviewed the draft bylaws for the African American Advisory Board.

Discussion included:

- i. Valuing lived experience alongside professional expertise and education credentials.
- ii. Separating the operational work plan from the bylaws documents.
- iii. Including clear governing and controlling clauses.
- iv. Ensuring alignment with applicable ordinances and legal requirements.

Member Cathryn McGill advised that legal review would assist in confirming compliance. Members agreed to review the bylaws and provide revisions before the next meeting

VI. Board Priorities and Action Items

a. Civic Engagement and Public Participation

The Board discussed strategies to support civic engagement, economic empowerment, and community visibility.

- i. Jordan Tate, a public attendee, offered to assist with the development of the branding package for the Board, including:
 - 1. Logo design
 - 2. Marketing materials
 - 3. Event flyers
 - 4. Website branding assets
- ii. Members discussed incorporating Pan-African and local Albuquerque elements into the visuals.
- iii. Plans were also discussed to schedule professional headshots for the board members at One Albuquerque Studio.

b. Upcoming Events

The Board discussed upcoming events, including:

- i. Juneteenth celebrations throughout Albuquerque
- ii. Food Is Medicine event on June 27
- iii. Homeownership Lunch and Learn on June 24 at the Black Chamber of Commerce (11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.)
- iv. Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) 8-week business bootcamp is still ongoing

VII. Public Comment

- a. Community Public Comment Period (2 minutes per speaker)
 - i. Members and public attendees shared comments regarding economic development, workforce trends, support for Black-owned businesses, housing affordability, and community engagement opportunities.
 - ii. Public attendee Frederick Vandi raised concerns regarding workforce changes related to artificial intelligence and encouraged community support for Black-owned businesses.

VIII. Next Steps

- a. Review Assigned Responsibilities

Members agreed to:

- i. Review Community Subject Matter Expert applications
 - ii. Submit feedback and proposed revisions to the bylaws
 - iii. Continue planning branding and marketing materials
 - iv. Coordinate participation in upcoming community events
- b. Confirm Upcoming Meetings and Locations
The next meeting will be held on July 7, 2026, at UNM Hospital, located at 1650 University Blvd.
Future meetings will be held as follows:
 - i. August 4, Office of African American Affairs, at 1310 San Pedro Dr NE
 - ii. September 1, NM Black Leadership Council, at 1314 Madeira Dr SE
 - iii. October 6, Ayana Denise Skin, at 122 Tulane Dr SE, Ste. 1
 - iv. November 3, APD Police Academy, at 5412 2nd St. NW
 - v. December 1, TBD, City Council Hosting Holiday Gathering
 - c. Identifying Items for Future Meetings
Future agenda items include:
 - i. Selection of Community Subject Matter Experts
 - ii. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - iii. Final review and adoption of bylaws
 - iv. Standing committee and working group development
 - v. Branding package updates

IX. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 12:36 P.M.