



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

African American Advisory Board

May 5, 2026 at 11 am

Members Present

- Karla Causey- Black Chambers of Commerce
 - Rita Powdrell- African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico
 - Moriah Baca- Albuquerque Public Schools- African American Equity & Engagement Coordinator
 - Pamelya Herdon- NAACP Albuquerque Branch
 - Cathryn McGill- New Mexico Black Leadership Council
 - Brandi Stone- UNM African American Student Services
 - Nicole Bedford-Jacobs- UNM Hospital African American Community Liaison
 - Patrick Barrett- Center for New Mexico Black Excellence
 - Felecia Adams- New Mexico Black Lawyers Association
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Community Members Present

- Ayanna Zahra
 - Tonya Covington
 - Marcus J. Porter
 - Danielle Kirven
 - Kenneth Winfrey
 - Kenneth Winfrey
 - Dr. Emmanuel Asonye
 - Shatriece Lewis
 - Moriah Baca
 - Dr. Jeron Cambell
 - Brenda Pickett
 - Fedrick Vondi
 - Fee Adams
 - Dannelle Kirven
 - Danyl Deloach
 - Jasmine Cornick
 - Sonya Smith
 - Jordan Locke
 - Alicia Harrison-Bailey
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Staff Present

- Ziarra Kirksey- City Council
 - Vincent Higgins- City Council
 - Julia Coulloudon- City Council
 - Chris Sylvan- City Council
 - Chevonne Watson- City Council
 - Neema Pickett- Office of Equity and Inclusion
 - Nicholas Derico- City Attorney Office
 - Rada Moss- Office of Financial Empowerment Ayanna Zahra
 - Tonya Covington
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Minutes

I. Call to Order

a. Welcome

The meeting was called to order with a welcome from Councilor Nichole Rogers at 11:05 A.M. Participants joined both in person and via Zoom, with Brandi Stone beginning introductions.

b. Statement of Board purpose and Mission

The board's purpose was reviewed; to provide equity-centered policy guidance on issues impacting Black communities in Albuquerque across five focus areas:

- Economic mobility
- Missing and murdered Black persons
- Cultural events and heritage
- Health outcomes
- Civic engagement

c. Roll call of members and Attendees

Roll call confirmed a quorum. Office of African American Affairs and Ministers Fellowship & Baptist Ministers Union were noted as absent.

II. Approval of Agenda

a. Review and Adopt Inaugural Meeting Agenda.

The agenda was motioned by Karla Causey. Rada Moss seconded motion. Passed Unanimously.

III. Member Introductions

a. Confirm Origination Designees and Alternatives

- i. Black Chambers of Commerce designee is Karla Causey. Beverly Gaines as alternative.
- ii. African American Museum and Cultural Center designee and alternative are TBD.
- iii. New Mexico Black Leadership Council designee is Cathryn McGill, Alternative is Rachel Mwadi.
- iv. UNM African American Student Services designee is Brandi Stone.
- v. UNM Hospital designee is Nichole Bedford-Jacobs.
- vi. New Mexico Center of Black Excellence designee is Patrick Barrett.
- vii. New Mexico Black Lawyers Association designee and alternatives are TBD.
- viii. APD Black Ambassadors designee and alternatives are TBD.
- ix. Ministers Fellowship and Baptist Union designee is Bishop David Cooper.
- x. NAACP Albuquerque Branch designee Pamela Herdon and alternative is Patty Franch.
- xi. Albuquerque Public Schools designee and alternatives are TBD.
- xii. 3 community members are TBD.

b. 1-Minute introductions from each member

Members and attendees introduced themselves, sharing goals and expectations. Common themes included collaboration, representation, and advancing community-driven solutions.



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- c. Review of member Roles and Expectations
Roles included policy development, reviewing City policies, elevating community priorities, and issuing statements on key issues.

IV. Adoption of Temporary Meeting Rules

- a. Parliamentary Procedures Overview
Basic procedures were introduced for managing discussion and decision-making.
- b. Open Meetings Act Compliance
Compliance requirements were acknowledged by the board.
- c. Temporary Governance Procedures for Inaugural Session
Discussion held on temporary rules; adoption initiated, with refinement to follow.
- d. Village Meeting Agreements
The board and community members agreed on village agreements which were, 1. Respect 2. Step up to Step Back 3. Address Topics not people 4. Tolerance 5. Walk with Grace 6. Give and Receive grace 7. Restoration of relationships 8. Practice Forgiveness 9. Diversity and Cultural Tolerance 10. Black Experience is diverse 11. Invite facilitators 12. Purposeful Listening.

V. Bylaws, Policy, and Procedures Review

- a. Review Draft Bylaw
Draft bylaws were reviewed, focusing on roles, responsibilities, and governance.
- b. Discuss Governance Framework
Discussion included recruitment of three community subject matter experts (applications under review)
- c. Review Meeting Procedure and Operational Policies
Attendance requirements were established:
 - Removal after three consecutive absences or
 - Missing 50% of meetings annually without good cause
- d. Prepare for Formal voting at Next Meeting
Board will continue to review and finalize bylaws at a future meeting.

VI. Board of Leadership and Organization Decisions

- a. Selection of Chair
- b. Selection of Vice Chair
Selection of leadership positions was tabled until subject matter experts are appointed (anticipated in July meeting).
- c. Operational Structure
 - i. Determine Regular Meeting Schedule
Board agreed to schedule meetings for the first Tuesday of every month, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
 - ii. Select Meeting Locations
 - Ayanna's (Nob Hill)
 - Black Chamber's of Commerce
 - University of New Mexico
 - Dream Spring
 - Potential tour of ACES Tech
- d. Establish Initial Subcommittees or Working Groups
Discussion initiated; a subcommittee on missing and vulnerable populations proposed.



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VII. Board Priorities & Initial Action Items

- a. Vote on Recommendations, Letters, or Requests for Data
No formal vote conducted, quorum confirmed but voting deferred pending full attendance.
- b. Identify, immediate Policy/Community Priorities
Key priorities discussed:
 - Missing and vulnerable populations
 - Foster care system involvement
 - Inclusion of Black trans voices
 - Potential addition of educational outcomes as a focus area

VIII. Public Comment

Speakers urged residents to make the change needed in Albuquerque. Participants highlighted the importance of diverse representation in the city council meetings.

IX. Next Steps

- a. Review Assigned Responsibilities
Members review bylaws and provide feedback.
- b. Confirm Next Meeting Date
Next meeting scheduled **June 2nd at 11:00 A.M. at Black Chamber of Commerce of NM.**

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.