



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
COMMISSION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

Topic: Monthly Meeting
Date/Time: June 18, 2021 at 8:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Contact: Terry Sloan, Liaison

MEMBERS

Dr. Lloyd Lee
Denise Zuni
Jimmy Secatero
Dr. Maggie George
Kimberly Gleason
Lorenzo Jim

Rebecca Riley (Chair)
Brittany Schulman (Vice Chair)
Thelma Antonio (Secretary)
Kyle Tapaha
Kim Benally

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order** by Rebecca Riley, Chair. Roll call and invocation.
Denise Zuni, Brittney Schulman, and Jimmy Secatero are absent.
- 2. Approval of meeting agenda.**
Motion to approve meeting agenda was made by Dr. Maggie George; seconded by Kyle Tapaha; none opposed; agenda is approved.
- 3. Approval of meeting minutes for April 16, 2021**
Motion to approve May 21, 2021 minutes was made by Kim Gleason; seconded by Kyle Tapaha; none opposed; Dr. Maggie George and Kim Benally abstain; minutes are approved.
- 4. New Business**
 - a) Gerard Bartlett with Jennifer Garcia, APD Ambassadors Program

Police Officer Gerard Bartlett presents the Albuquerque Police Departments new community engagement program developed in 2021 with oversight by Lt. Jennifer Garcia. Officer Bartlett presented a PowerPoint. The goals of the program are to build trust within the community, develop partnerships, and facilitate communication with the public. After learning of the commission, it became necessary to “learn about the indigenous ways of knowing, living, and experiencing” and becoming acquainted with Native Americans. Through initial contact with Isiah and Commissioner Lorenzo Jim, he had learned many things about the Native Community, the difference in tribes, and handling outreach with humility and compassion.

“Creating sustainable pathways for culture sharing” to better understand people of color is an initiative he is working with. Recruiting was recognized as lacking people of color is the police workforce. Ambassadors are assigned to many groups: cultural, faith-based groups, LGBTQ, veterans, and disability are several. “Helping relationships” is a goal to generate general compassion among citizens. He is a certified counselor and a doctoral student at UNM.

Lt. Garcia states it is the goal to better the department for the community. Creating a more diverse department especially in recruiting Native Americans will be an outreach effort. The ambassador program will be molded to the communities wants and needs. Although the program is under the department it is not their program, but it administers the effort to build trust within the communities.

Commissioner George responded to the trust issue including native citizens coming from outside the state and the country. It is a learning process to understand why Native Americans are in the city, their history, and lack of being at the table are components of building trust.

Commissioner Lee also responded to the trust issue in reference to communication and dialogue and how trust will be built. He offers advice in recognizing history and will take time as long as the relationships develop and learning the history of citizens that are being served.

Office Bartlett shared his experience when he first learned of the existence of First Nations, stating that he didn't know the organization existed. He shared his experience to recognize his self-awareness and that it will take time to build trust and relate to native citizens.

Terry asks how the program will provide outreach to the community. He learned opportunities are imbedded in cadet training. Officer Bartlett mentioned that Commissioner Jim through his profession provides a three-hour training course to new cadets about Native American issues and cultural aspects and historical trauma. He plans to increase the amount of training in the future.

Chair Riley appreciates the goals and the importance of the program and practice to be put into policy. It is important that the conversation continues, and that Officer Bartlett is welcome to keep in touch with updates and any assistance that is needed.

City of Albuquerque Updates

- a) CABQ Updates: *CABQ Native American Affairs Liaison Terry Sloan, CABQ Native American Affairs Coordinator, Dawn Begay*

Terry met with Living Cities program regarding housing. There is a possibility of a land trust group, private homebuyer, and the possibility of bringing in Navajo Housing Authority to buy land and build homes. A summer healthy youth camp is underway. An RFP is out to host a conference and is being planned for October for youth inspired by a United Nations concept for sustainable goals and youth leadership.

Dawn: OEI is working on a racial equity platform and working on a draft assessment that includes community engagement and outreach information for community input. The goal is to increase communication and capture the most vulnerable populations. Maps were used to identify areas targeted for vaccinations, evictions, and areas in needs of services. Recruitment is underway to increase native and people of color candidates to fulfill positions especially at the west side shelter and the new Gateway Center. There is an initiative to work with homeless services providers to provide a list of recommendations to better provided services to unsheltered native Americans. One recommendation is to increase Isiah's position. The city has planned to provide "cultural responsive services" but it has not been defined nor has it created a criterion of type of services. City has put together a data committee to look into more businesses and seeking women or minority owned businesses to conduct business with the city. The OEI webpage contains more information. Learning opportunities and workshops are listed on the website as well with community events. A joint land acknowledgment between the city and county is under discussion as to how it will be stated such as a resolution or official statement and a meeting will be scheduled.

The state and city social vulnerability map is updated every two years using census data.

- b) Public Comment
No public comments were received.
- c) Discussion Items

In-person Meetings

Chair Riley asks the commission of their preferences for future meetings whether commissioners are comfortable with in-person meetings. Commission George responds that she prefers virtual meetings and did stress that more emphasis should be taken with the strategic plan to update and plan tribal consultations with the city. Other commissioners are in favor of meeting in person, especially for members who haven't met other commissioners in person. Commissioner Lee offers a hybrid option as UNM is doing.

Vacancies

Commissioner Schulman will be vacating her position representing the government sector at the end of this month. She will be moving out of state. The representative for the environmental sector will be joining this month after confirmation from the OEI office. There are other vacant positions; APCG representative and three Pueblos that haven't appointed a representative. A notice and application will be posted on the website.

Commissioner Gleason announces that her organization, Two Worlds is looking for a board member. She was also told that a flyer can be placed on the website.

Strategic Plan Update

Chair Riley relates that a longer meeting time should be scheduled to update the strategic plan. A coordinated planning session was suggested. Terry will search for a space. One space suggested was a space near SIPI. Calendar updates will also be addressed.

Townhall Event

Chair Riley suggests that a townhall could be coordinated to help Native Americans that are experiencing homelessness and learn the needs or problems they are facing. Commissioner Tapaha has intentions of coordinating outreach and is seeking help to organize a process. He had discussed his intentions with Officer Bartlett. He would like to conduct a street survey team and he is working on organizing a process.

Commissioner Lee suggested requesting a status report on a MOU with the Navajo Nation and the city regarding homelessness because a large number of the population is Navajo. He offers his support and resources. Commissioner Tapaha will seek outreach to other organizations and the Navajo Nation. He related his experience and would like to find solutions. He is spear heading a subcommittee regarding the homelessness issue.

Terry works with the Mayor's collaborative to prevent veteran's suicide and homelessness, especially involving Native American veterans offers information to assist Commissioner Tapaha. It is a collaboration with other city agencies and he will extend him a meeting invite. He suggests he create a strategic plan and get involved by attending organization meetings.

Terry announced that he was requested to be on a panel regarding workforce development and welcomes input from the commissioners. He is reaching out to tribal leaders for input as well.

Laura Harris provided Commissioner Tapaha information of the Chief Seattle Club which is a National Coalition to end Indigenous urban homelessness. A representative is needed for the Albuquerque area. She will send contact information. Chief Seattle Club is a Seattle urban organization.

Next meeting is Friday, July 16th at 8:00 a.m.

5. Adjournment at 8:08 pm

Commission Chair:  Date: 7/18/21