

**Staff Report**  
**Board Meeting Date: June 25, 2026**

**DATE:** June 16, 2026

**TO:** District Board of Health

**FROM:** Kristen deBraga, Senior Environmental Health Specialist  
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**SUBJECT:** Recommendation for appointment to the Food Protection Hearing Advisory Board as a member. Staff recommends: The appointment of Ms. Joni Hammond for a three-year term beginning on July 1, 2026, and concluding on June 30, 2029. Applicants include: Derrek Brown, Veronica Cortes, Kevin Futamachi, Mark Gregory, Vance Hardin, Gary Thomas, and Suzanne Ward. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

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**SUMMARY**

In accordance with the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Food Establishments (food establishment regulations) Section 240.085, Creation of the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board, staff is recommending the District Board of Health (DBOH) appoint Ms. Joni Hammond for a three-year term to the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board (FPHAB).

**District Health Strategic Priorities supported by this item:**

**2. Healthy Environment:** Create a healthier environment that allows people to safely enjoy everything Washoe County has to offer.

**PREVIOUS ACTION**

The FPHAB member appointments occurred in June 2022. During the June 2022 meeting, the DBOH agreed with staff's recommendations for the following initial appointments:

- Reappointment of Mr. Thompson for a three-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025); a member of the local food industry
- Reappointment of Mr. Pinocchio for a three-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025); a member of the local food industry
- Reappointment of Mr. Chaump for a three-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025); a member of the local food industry
- Reappointment of Mr. Romm for a three-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025); a member of the local food industry
- Initial appointment of Mr. Rathmann for a two-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024); a member of the local food industry
- Initial appointment of Ms. Wolterbeek for a two-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024); a

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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member of the local food industry

- Initial appointment of Ms. Elkins for a one-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023); a member of the local food industry

During the July 2023 meeting, the DBOH agreed with staff's recommendation to reappoint Ms. Lanaii Elkins for a three-year term to the FPHAB beginning July 1, 2023, and concluding on June 30, 2026.

During the June 2024 meeting, the DBOH agreed with staff's recommendation to reappoint Mr. Jay Rathmann and Ms. Rose Wolterbeek for three-year terms to the FPHAB beginning July 1, 2024, and concluding on June 30, 2027.

During the August 28, 2025 meeting, the DBOH agreed with staff's recommendation to reappoint Mr. Michael Chaump, Mr. JP Pinocchio, Mr. Christopher Romm, and Mr. Chris Thompson for three-year terms to the FPHAB beginning July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028.

## **BACKGROUND**

The FPHAB, as established in the food establishment regulations to consider appeals of notice of violation issued by NNPH and assess petitions for variances authorized by the regulations. The FPHAB consists of seven members and at least two (2) members must represent the food service industry. Initial term appointments to the board were for a one, two, or three-year term with each succeeding appointment required to be for a period of three (3) years.

The FPHAB has met four times to hear appeals and / or variance requests since the initial appointment of board members in June 2022. Here is the current list of FPHAB board members:

| <b>Member</b>        | <b>Qualification</b>                | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lanaii Elkins        | A member of the local food industry | June 30, 2026       |
| J.P. Pinocchio       | A member of the local food industry | June 30, 2028       |
| Christopher Thompson | A member of the local food industry | June 30, 2028       |
| Christopher Romm     | A member of the local food industry | June 30, 2028       |
| Michael Chaump       | A member of the local food industry | June 30, 2028       |
| Jay Rathmann         | A member of the local food industry | June 30, 2027       |
| Rose Wolterbeek      | A member of the local food industry | June 30, 2027       |

Solicitation for interest on serving on the FPHAB is an ongoing and open recruitment process that allows applicants wishing to serve on the FPHAB to directly apply using instructions on EHS website. Additionally, EHS staff sent out a notice of the upcoming position vacancy via the EHS Food Safety Listserv which contains a voluntary email distribution list to community partners in the food safety space.

To date, EHS staff have received a total of eight (8) applications which have been attached to this report.

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Due to the technical nature of this advisory board, staff used the following criteria when making the recommendation to the board:

- Food Safety Technical Knowledge
  - Education, training, certifications, and professional experience related to food safety, environmental health, public health, or regulatory compliance.
- Diversity and Depth of Food Establishment Operation / Construction Experience
  - Experience in food establishment operations, food manufacturing, retail food regulation, environmental health, food establishment design, plan review, special events, temporary food establishments, or related fields.
- Representation of Community Interests
  - Ability to bring a unique perspective, professional expertise, or community viewpoint that enhances the board's ability to advise on food safety and public health matters

Staff reviewed the applicant pool and recommend the following candidate to the Board for appointment:

- Ms. Joni Hammond brings extensive environmental health and food safety experience having been a Registered Sanitarian in Oregon for more than 30 years for both Yamhill County and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. She developed a strong understanding of food safety regulations, regulatory compliance, enforcement processes, hearings, variances, and public health protection. Her ability to interpret and apply food safety regulations, combined with her extensive environmental health experience and commitment to public service, would provide valuable technical expertise and a public health perspective to the board's deliberations.

Staff are confident the applicant being recommended for appointment to the FPHAB will provide a wide range of experience, knowledge, and expertise to help address food safety issues in Washoe County and will represent our community interests well.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

As these are voluntary positions, there will be no fiscal impact to Northern Nevada Public Health associated with the appointment.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is staff's recommendation that the board appoint Ms. Joni Hammond to the FPHAB for a three-year term beginning on July 1, 2026, and concluding on June 30, 2029.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with the recommendation, a possible motion would be:

1. "Move to appoint Ms. Joni Hammond for a three-year term beginning on July 1, 2026, and concluding on June 30, 2029, to the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board".

or, should the Board wish to consider an alternative motion the possible motion may be:

1. "Move to appoint (*name of applicant*) to the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board for a (three-year) term beginning July 1, 2026, and concluding on June 30, 2029," or

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2. "Move to continue the item to the next meeting to allow for additional consideration by the Board."