

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

PRESENT:

Clara Andriola, Chair
Mariluz Garcia, Vice Chair
Alexis Hill, Commissioner
Michael Clark, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
Kate Thomas, County Manager
Jennifer Gustafson, Deputy District Attorney

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

26-0086 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Marci Mansfield expressed gratitude for Grace Church Reno on behalf of the Crossroads program. She shared her story of entering CrossRoads and how the program's support, particularly the strong sisterhood and a caring, supportive staff, helped her succeed. She expressed that it was a very effective program. She stated that she has seen that it is the generosity of Grace Church Reno that makes it possible for CrossRoads to take in and help so many. She mentioned homes in the program, such as the Jane Aubrey House, Hope House, and the Hope First Cottages, for mothers reuniting with their children. She explained that she currently lived in one of the CrossRoads cottages, where her two sons could visit her every weekend. She reiterated that Grace Church Reno had been a significant member of the CrossRoads village and that Grace Church Reno's involvement was what set CrossRoads apart from other programs available to women and mothers in the community. In closing, she thanked Grace Church Reno.

Ivy Elliott expressed gratitude for the opportunity to thank Grace Church Reno for their help in creating the Hope First Cottages. She credited the Women and Children Program for saving her life and creating a strong foundation for herself and her son. She mentioned she was about to graduate from the CrossRoads program, and that she was recently hired by the program. She added that she was going back to school, and was grateful for her life now, thanks to CrossRoads and Grace Church Reno.

Gabrielle Batson stated that she was one of many women in the CrossRoads program and that she was blessed to be standing before the Board. She stated that she was

extremely proud to be speaking on behalf of CrossRoads. She thanked the Board for funding the renovations of River House Serenity House Cottages. She stated that all the places had provided women with a solid place to live and had allowed them to reunite with their children in a stable environment. She expressed that she and the rest of the CrossRoads family were grateful. She explained that she was surprised to learn about the connection between CrossRoads and Grace Church Reno, as she had been part of the Grace community when she was younger. She shared experiences she had with the church and said that the church was now helping her build a solid foundation for herself and her family. She expressed that she was honored to be part of the current program and building a strong sisterhood with the other women. She thanked the Board and Grace Church Reno for all the hard work they put towards CrossRoads.

Ryah Baker, speaking in favor of the CrossRoads Women's Program and CrossRoads Women and Children Program, stated that she was truly honored to have the opportunity to express gratitude to Grace Church Reno. She explained that for many women, support could be the difference between feeling forgotten and feeling seen. She added that Grace Church Reno chose to see the women in CrossRoads, and to believe that women and children in recovery were worth standing up for and standing beside. She added that she had personally seen what Grace Church Reno's support looked like up close. She explained that she had watched women begin to believe in themselves again and saw children feel safe and settled with their mothers during times when their lives could have easily gone the other direction. She thanked Julie, a woman who transported women and children to church and to celebrate recovery. Ryah Baker attested that each of the services had grown her faith and her confidence in recovery, and had provided a place for peace, fellowship, support, and love. She reiterated that she was thankful for Grace Church Reno's amazing team and for the safety, consistency, and hope that CrossRoads provided. She mentioned Grace Church Reno's involvement helped create an environment where healing was possible, and children could experience stability during one of the most vulnerable times of their lives. She reiterated her thanks for Grace Church Reno and their continued belief in the mission of CrossRoads. She thanked Grace Church Reno for its program, For the One, and said it was commendable that Grace Church Reno went into the community to assist with mental health.

Terry Brooks read a poem on age discrimination in employment and how older workers still had a lot to offer. He thanked Grace Church Reno for all they do and thanked the other people in attendance for admiring them.

Katie Dillon expressed her gratitude, adding that she was grateful for second chances, for healing, and for Grace Church Reno. She shared a personal story of her entrance into the CrossRoads program, at which time she had an open case with Child Protective Services (CPS) and was facing the reality of losing her two young children. She explained that at the time she felt overwhelmed, ashamed, and afraid that her girls would grow up without their mother. She stated that, because of the generosity of Grace Church Reno and the donation of the cottages at CrossRoads Women and Children Program, it was not the end of her story, but rather the beginning. She detailed how the cottages provided a safe place to heal and rebuild her life and helped her to become the mother her children

deserved. She explained that the foundation allowed her children to be reunited with her at the cottages. She added that she believed it would have never happened anywhere else but at the CrossRoads cottages. She stated that her CPS case was officially closed and her daughters were now home with her full-time. She explained that she was now a staff member at CrossRoads and witnessed the magic of the cottages continue to change lives and restore families. She attested that Grace Church Reno did not simply support a program, they helped rebuild families and save lives. She concluded by thanking Grace Church Reno.

Cary Ballard expressed doubt that *thank you* felt big enough for what Grace Church Reno had done for CrossRoads and women like herself. She shared her story of arriving at CrossRoads when she was pregnant, scared, and concerned about the future for herself and her children. She realized that at that time she needed safety, stability, and hope. She stated that the contributions from Grace Church Reno helped her find the cottages. She pointed out that, rather than simple buildings, the cottages remodeled for CrossRoads were sanctuaries. She added that the cottages were the reason she was able to bring her daughter home to a safe, clean, and beautiful space. She attested that the cottages provided a place where she could be a mother in recovery, in peace rather than chaos or fear. She stated that because of that foundation, her children had a mother who was present, healthy, and fighting for their future. She explained that, beyond simply renovating structures, Grace Church Reno restored her dignity. She detailed more that Grace Church Reno had done for the community, such as removing barriers that often stood in the way of recovery, providing additional homes for single women, and donating vans that helped transport women to meetings and jobs. She insisted that they did not just invest in one building but instead invested in generations of an entire community of women. She pointed out that her story was just one of many and reiterated the impact CrossRoads had made on her life. She explained that she now had the honor of working at CrossRoads and helping women who were in the position she was once in. That, she added, was the ripple effect of Grace Church Reno's generosity. She listed the many things Grace Church Reno had given her and the results she had personally achieved because of Grace Church Reno. She thanked Grace Church Reno on her behalf and on behalf of every woman whose life had been touched.

Robert Lissner thanked the Board for the sacrifices they made to serve the public. He stated that he knew it was often a thankless job and reiterated his thanks. He stated that he had applied for a position on the Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District (CTWCD), which he understood was mostly protecting the Truckee River. He also stated he was mostly retired. He referred to Terry Brooks's poem about the elderly, stating that whatever *elderly* meant to the Board, his legs and his brain still worked, and he spent a lot of time volunteering with the Reno Police Department (RPD). He explained he was dressed in a uniform for his 11:00 a.m. shift. He stated that the Board could count on him to be prepared for and to attend the required meetings. He stated that he lived in Reno and did not really go anywhere, and therefore, wherever a CTWCD meeting took place, he would be there. He added that he knew quite a bit about water rights because the locals had been defending their non-Truckee River water rights for approximately 25 years. He stated that he had no financial interest in any person or entity with Truckee River water rights, except for his interest in his shower working every morning, which he shared with everyone else

in the area. He added that if Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) ever held up a closed sign, he and other residents of the region would all be in trouble. He reiterated that the Board could count on him to be knowledgeable and to defend the people of Washoe County.

Thomas Daly stated that the Board would later hear about the Hexagon project implementation, adding that it was a Countywide dispatch system. He stated that, while reviewing PowerPoints for that portion of the presentation, he noticed several things that were missing. He noted there was no mention of the multiple change orders, which he claimed had plagued the project since its inception in 2023. He further observed that there was no mention of the \$1.9 million cost overrun from the \$7.5 million budget established in 2023. He noted that there was no mention of whether the contractor or the consultant would share in any cost overruns from the project, or whether those costs would be covered by county and city taxpayers. He questioned why the Board would trust the new delivery date, currently set for September 26, when the contractor had missed the five previous deadlines, all of which they had established. He also questioned why the county auditor had not been tasked with the nearly \$10 million contract in the last three years. He stated that it was not important that he personally learned the answers to these questions, but that it was important that the Board learned them and that the public eventually received them as well. He concluded that the project attacked taxpayers, which they did not appreciate.

Ashley Rayburn introduced the women standing with her as her sisters through the CrossRoads program. She shared that they were before the Board to present their accounts of Grace Church Reno's impact on the women and children of the CrossRoads program. She attested that Grace Church Reno's kindness and generosity had a lasting, life-changing impact on the women and their children. She shared that she entered the Hope First Cottages with her newborn son in 2022. She attested that they arrived at the cottages defeated, vulnerable, and scared. She added that their life had felt uncertain, and stability felt out of reach. She explained she had been desperate to learn not only a new way of living, but a new way of parenting. She shared that she also had two now-adult children who did not get the privilege of growing up with her as their mother. She stated that living in the Hope First Cottages had provided the opportunity to be the mother they never had, and to rebuild their damaged relationship. She attested that for her family, more than simply housing, the cottages were safety, warmth, and comfort. She affirmed that to her, the cottages meant a place to heal. She also pointed out that having a safe, stable home allowed her to focus on recovery, without constant fear of what tomorrow may have brought. She stated that the cottages had given her the chance to begin the hard work of rebuilding her life. She affirmed that because of Grace Church Reno, her future and her son's future looked different, stronger, and brighter. She thanked Grace Church Reno for believing in women, in families, and in the power of transformation. She stated that what Grace Church Reno had given the women was something they would carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Stephanie Shutts attested that she was a former participant in the CrossRoads program and now served as their Community Coordinator. She stated she was before the Board to recognize Grace Church Reno and share what their support meant to

herself and to the families her program served. She affirmed that, thanks to Grace Church Reno's generosity, along with CrossRoads and the Hope First Cottages, she had been able to give birth to her son sober. She stated that she had been able to bring her son home and work on herself without being separated from her child. She also stated that she did not have to choose between recovery and motherhood, which changed everything. She specified that, more than housing, the Hope First Cottages were a place where mothers healed while staying with their children. She pointed out that CrossRoads was the only program in the area that allowed families to reunify so quickly and live together in their own space, while still meeting the expectations of both treatment providers and community partners. She stated that now, as a Community Coordinator, she saw the impact of the CrossRoads program every day in mothers reunifying with their children, families stabilizing, and what happened when recovery and family preservation were allowed to happen together. She stated that the CrossRoads program was exactly what a program worth funding looked like in real life. She declared that because of Grace Church Reno, her son's first days were safe, and her recovery began with hope instead of fear. She stated that, because of the support she received, she was now able to help other families begin their stories in the same way. She thanked Grace Church Reno on behalf of CrossRoads families, attesting that Grace Church Reno's generosity had changed lives, strengthened families, and created a lasting impact on the community. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to share.

Stephanie Myers explained that she was a graduate of the CrossRoads Women and Children Program, and that she was before the Board to express her gratitude for Grace Church Reno. She stated that she was a mother of three, with almost three years in recovery. She asserted that she had spent 15 years battling addiction, trauma, and mental health struggles. She added that she had attempted nine different local rehab programs, graduating from four of them, but finally achieved stability through the CrossRoads Women and Children Program. She stated that not only did she achieve recovery through the program, but she also regained humanity, mental clarity, and peace in her heart. She stated that she was now a Homeless Outreach Specialist, guiding and assisting others on their journeys. She stated that she remained strong because of the tools and skills she learned through the program. She added that the CrossRoads program was unique in its design and created the pathway for deep internal change without the pressure to achieve immediate, complete success. She asserted that the program created a space for participants to do the work needed to achieve long-term recovery and mental health stability. She stated that a program with that magnitude of impact could only exist with the same magnitude of generosity and support from Grace Church Reno and the community. She thanked Grace Church Reno and CrossRoads for positively impacting the lives of herself and her child, and the lives of the people she encountered every day who were still in pain.

Steve Schroeder stated he was the owner, founder, and event organizer for Reno Street Food, a company that hosted community gatherings. He pointed out that the theme of the day seemed to be gratitude and that he would be continuing that theme. He added that it was great to hear good news from the other public commenters. He stated that he was speaking on behalf of an agenda item that would be heard later. He added that Vice Chair Garcia had reached out to him in the fall to do an event for the community. He

explained that creating a place for community gatherings was one of the three pillars of his company, and that he planned to host a community gathering for Sun Valley in June. He pointed out that one way for people to come together was to eat together, and that the upcoming event would include food trucks. He expressed gratitude that Vice Chair Garcia reached out to him with the plan. He also expressed excitement for the upcoming event and the partnership between government and industry, specifically Sun Valley General Improvement District (GID), to put on a gathering that would bring smiles to people.

Jill O'Leary displayed a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. She stated that she was in front of the Board to address concerns in Washoe County's public checkbook and the need to reconcile it before the upcoming budget approval. She suggested that the role of the checkbook was to show residents how taxpayer dollars are spent, though it relied on budgeted authority, particularly in payroll. She expressed concern that if 20 percent of budgeted staff positions were vacant, payroll could appear fully spent in the public checkbook, even though significant funds were never paid out, and those unspent dollars would be neither shown nor reconciled. She worried that the checkbook issue extended beyond staffing, maintenance, capital, and operating categories, as those categories also relied on budgeted numbers that did not clearly reconcile unspent balances. She stated that a tool designed for transparency could not function when it displayed theoretical spending rather than real transactions. She also stated that the State of Nevada's checkbook provided a model that reported many actual and reconciled figures. She declared that, as the Board prepared to approve the upcoming budget, Washoe County should meet that same standard. She also asked the Board to direct the Comptroller to reconcile entries since April 2025 with actual payroll and expenditure dollars, and to publish the checkbook using the State's reporting categories. She declared that budgeted authority could not be the basis for evaluating spending or forecasting future needs, and that aligning the checkbook with actual spending would deliver better fiscal accountability and safeguard public trust. She mentioned that she had provided a one-page action summary for the Board's reference. She suggested distributing the unreconciled funds to programs like the ones that had received praise during the meeting.

26-0087 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Hill indicated that some community members were concerned and wanted an update on the County's preparations for the upcoming elections. She asked County Manager (CM) Kate Thomas when the next Registrar of Voters' (ROV) presentation would take place. She noted that she would be meeting with the ROV's Office regarding polling locations and acknowledged that the ROV was working to improve its website. She added that providing the Board with an update would be a valuable opportunity to share information.

Commissioner Clark thanked the public speakers for sharing their recovery progress with the Board. He expressed his gratitude to Grace Church Reno for its role in supporting those individuals, for taking the initiative to assist them, and for consistently providing support that allowed them to take pride in contributing to society.

Commissioner Herman clarified that Agenda Item 7B2 should reference District 3 rather than District 2. Chair Andriola asked whether Commissioner Herman was seeking to clarify the district listed on the agenda. Commissioner Herman responded that she believed the information on the agenda was incorrect. Chair Andriola thanked her for bringing the error to the Board's attention.

Chair Andriola thanked the public for their comments and noted that she wanted to take a photo of the audience. She expressed appreciation for the success and strength reflected in the stories shared by members of the CrossRoads program. She acknowledged that the program was supported by individuals who chose to give back, which she stated was an important part of life.

RECOGNITIONS

26-0088 **5A1** Recognition of Grace Community Church of Reno's enduring commitment to serving underserved and vulnerable residents of Washoe County through community partnership.

Vice Chair Garcia thanked the audience for sharing their emotional stories and stated that she was honored to present the recognition. She read the recognition.

Grace Community Church of Reno's Founding Pastor, Dan Frank, thanked the Board for the recognition and added that recognition was not their motivation. He said the church sought to contribute to the solution and was grateful to be involved in the process. He shared that the efforts impacted him personally, as he had recently lost a son on the streets, which deepened his gratitude for being part of the work.

Lead Pastor Shane Marks thanked the Commissioners and Washoe County residents. He noted that he was not prepared to hear the stories shared by individuals from the CrossRoads program and acknowledged the significant work they had done. He noted a sign at the Washoe County Complex reflecting the partnership and expressed gratitude that the County and the church could come together to serve the community.

10:40 a.m. **The Board recessed for a photo.**

10:40 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

Chair Andriola appreciated the day beginning on a positive note. She announced that the invocation at the next meeting would be delivered by Grace Church Reno.

PRESENTATIONS

26-0089 **6A1** Presentation by Judge Mangiaracina to discuss current projects and her vision for the Incline Village - Crystal Bay Township Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.).

Judge Melissa Mangiaracina, Justice of the Peace in Incline Village, conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Incline Village – Crystal Bay Justice Court; Location; Small But Mighty; Court of Limited Jurisdiction; Civil Matters; Criminal Matters; Myths And Misconceptions About Incline Village And Crystal Bay; Common Myths & Misconceptions; The Reality (5 Slides); Mt. Rose Highway in July 1952; Having A Local Community Court is Essential For Our Community; One Resident’s Experience With the Incline Village – Crystal Bay Justice Court; Another Resident’s Experience With Our Local Court; What Are We Doing To Continue To Improve Court Services In Our Community; 2025 Projects (2 Slides); Looking Ahead; Questions.

Judge Mangiaracina, presented updates to the Board on the status and future of the Incline Village – Crystal Bay Township Justice Court Incline Village Justice Court (IVJC). Judge Mangiaracina stated that she had served on the bench at the IVJC since the previous January, totaling approximately a year in the position. She shared the slide titled *Incline Village – Crystal Bay Justice Court* and specified that the court's full name was the Incline Village – Crystal Bay Township Justice Court, commonly referred to as the Incline Justice Court. Judge Mangiaracina encouraged the Board members to visit the court and specified its location and hours of operation. She shared the slide titled *Small But Mighty* and stated the IVJC was a small but mighty team, including four full-time employees, including herself and the Court Administrator, plus additional part-time staff. Judge Mangiaracina specified that all team members currently lived in or had lived in Incline Village, and many had family members spanning multiple generations living there. She added that many of them were raised there, raised their children there, or both. Judge Mangiaracina stated that the court had a few non-court staff members, including a Deputy Sheriff who served as Bailiff, and she was very pleased that, thanks to the County, they added a security guard within the last year. Judge Mangiaracina shared the *Court of Limited Jurisdiction* slide and clarified that the IVJC was a court of limited jurisdiction, which she compared to the television program *The People’s Court*, though more well-behaved. She explained that the court handled civil and criminal matters arising in Incline Village or Crystal Bay, Nevada.

Judge Mangiaracina shared the slide titled *Civil Matters* and stated that the court heard small claims cases up to \$10,000 and civil cases up to \$15,000. She also pointed out that the Legislature had recently changed many traffic infractions from criminal to civil offenses, and that her court also heard those cases. She added that she handled protection orders for stalking and harassment, as well as landlord-tenant disputes, similar to the justice courts located in Reno and Sparks. She shared the slide titled *Criminal Matters* and listed the criminal cases that came through the IVJC, including misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, and felonies, originating in Incline Village and involving arrest warrants, search-and-seizure warrants, bail hearings, 72-hour hearings, and arraignments. Judge Mangiaracina stated that she heard misdemeanors through trial, as well as preliminary hearings for gross misdemeanors and felonies. She added that her court held preliminary hearings to determine whether there was enough evidence to try the case in district court. If the hearings found sufficient evidence, Judge Mangiaracina stated that she would send the case to the district court. She also added that due to the location of the IVJC, access to

outside drug and alcohol testing was limited, so the court offered those services in-house, both for defendants in the court on criminal cases and also as a courtesy for defendants in Reno, Sparks, South Lake Truckee, and beyond, who lived in Incline Village or Crystal Bay.

Judge Mangiaracina shared the slide *Myths And Misconceptions About Incline Village And Crystal Bay* and stated that over the previous thirteen months, she had received numerous comments from the public about Incline Village and noted that many involved myths or misconceptions. She stated that she felt it would be worthwhile to address some of those myths and misconceptions, then shared the slide *Common Myths & Misconceptions*. Judge Mangiaracina listed the most common inaccuracies she encountered, including that all residents of Incline Village were wealthy and owned multi-million-dollar mansions on the lake. She noted a second misconception was that life in the Lake Tahoe area was paradise and was easier than in the surrounding low-lying areas. A third misconception she noted was the belief that Incline Village and Crystal Bay were not rural because of their proximity to Reno. Judge Mangiaracina shared the first of her slides titled *The Reality* and asked the Board whether anyone had heard Incline Village referred to as *Income Village*. She stated that while there were multi-million-dollar homes on the lake, there was also a service community that served those wealthier residents, along with a large year-round tourist population. She clarified that Incline Village did not experience an off-season. Judge Mangiaracina described the statistics she had researched and shared the one she found most surprising: 65% of elementary students in Incline Village were on free or reduced-price lunch programs. She reflected that most defendants in her criminal cases qualified for a public defender. She also noted that Incline Village had a significant surface population that struggled to make ends meet, and many were facing housing insecurity. Judge Mangiaracina stated that since COVID-19 (C19), most affordable housing units had been off the market, and some had three generations living in a one-bedroom apartment. Judge Mangiaracina stated that another myth she heard was that Incline Village had no unhoused population. She stated that despite being potentially less visible because of the weather, the unhoused population was real. Judge Mangiaracina shared her second slide titled *The Reality* and stated another myth she had heard, that Incline Village had few legal issues. She asserted that the myth was false because, in just over a year on the bench, she had encountered numerous cases of domestic violence, and that Driving Under the Influences (DUIs) were especially high in a tourist town. She stated that her court saw a wide variety of issues because life in Tahoe was not easy. Judge Mangiaracina shared the third slide titled *The Reality* and pointed out that a large body of research indicated mountain life was particularly difficult, and that the associated hardships, job and housing instability, tourism-related stress, isolation, and rural nature of the town contributed to a high suicide rate, among other downstream effects.

Judge Mangiaracina moved on to her fourth slide titled *The Reality* and pointed out that Incline Village and Crystal Bay had a total of four stoplights between the two towns, and zero sidewalks. She added that they had very small school systems and limited local resources. After sharing her final *The Reality* slide, she pointed out that residents could not simply go to Reno for services and listed the lack of public transportation out of the basin as a factor. Judge Mangiaracina stated that a reliable vehicle

was required to leave the basin and that four-wheel drive was required for winter travel. She added that many individuals she saw in court did not have access to that level of transportation.

Judge Mangiaracina stated that Incline Village faced unique challenges, which made it important to have resources and providers who understood life in a mountain ski town. Judge Mangiaracina then shared the *Mt. Rose Highway in July 1952* slide, showing extreme snowfall on both sides of the highway. She explained that the image illustrated that, despite Incline Village's proximity to Reno, in some ways the residents of each city lived in completely different worlds, especially during winter. She then shared the *Having A Local Community Court is Essential For Our Community* slide and explained that having a local court to help address some of the previously stated challenges was exciting.

Judge Mangiaracina stated that her legal career had been spent securing resources for the Lake Tahoe area, and that she now felt better able to coordinate with different providers and work more closely with the community. She added that speaking after the CrossRoads presenters was inspiring, because her vision was to also provide similar services around Lake Tahoe, and that having a local court provided residents with access to and services for resolving local matters quickly and efficiently. Judge Mangiaracina shared quotes from residents gathered by her office, beginning with the slide titled *One Resident's Experience With the Incline Village – Crystal Bay Justice Court*, quickly followed by the *Another Resident's Experience With Our Local Court* slide. She stated that, overall, despite being involved in a criminal case, those residents felt they had been treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.

Judge Mangiaracina then shared the slides *What Are We Doing To Continue To Improve Court Services In Our Community* and her first slide titled *2025 Projects*. She detailed that in her first year, her office built a new website, hired a new security officer, increased interpretation access both at the Clerk's window and inside the courtroom, and, thanks to the Board, installed air conditioning at the courthouse. She shared her second *2025 Projects* slide and detailed that she partnered with the Neighborhood Mediation Center to implement mandatory small-claims mediation, which had been a powerful addition. Judge Mangiaracina explained that she had implemented a pre-prosecution diversion program for nonviolent first-time offenders that aimed to address issues encountered when bringing them into the criminal justice system, while the goal was to keep offenders out of the system and reduce the contact that brought them back in. She clarified that all the ideas focused on working with community members and stakeholders to put in place the necessary services.

Judge Mangiaracina noted she was out of time for her presentation, but Chair Andriola invited her to continue and address any important items she had yet to cover. Judge Mangiaracina thanked the Chair and explained her implementation of Mandatory Status Conferences for criminal cases, noting that it required the district attorney to meet with the defendant or defense counsel prior to trial to have all parties review upcoming cases and work together, if possible. She added that the IVJC had

modified its schedule, so the public defender was now present for all stages of criminal proceedings. She clarified that was previously not the case. Judge Mangiaracina also noted that the IVJC had collaborated with an online program to offer online classes for residents who were unable to attend in-person classes.

Judge Mangiaracina then shared the *Looking Ahead* slide and described her ideas for the future. She explained that the IVJC was too small for their own mental health, domestic violence, or veterans' courts, so they hoped to create a specialized problem-solving court to address all those needs. She added that the court would operate under the same focus as the programs she noted earlier: identifying challenges, determining which factors bring individuals into the criminal justice system, and providing resources to support them and reduce recidivism. She added that her team was already collaborating with legal services providers and planned to implement an educational program similar to the Lawyer-in-the-Library program in Washoe County. She also shared a goal of replacing the loss of the Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS) with an in-house social caseworker to help with pre-prosecution diversions and cases that might arise from the planned problem-solving court. She thanked the Board for the extra time.

Chair Andriola asked the Board if they had questions. Commissioner Hill thanked Judge Mangiaracina and stated that she and her team had done incredible work and that she appreciated the Judge's transparency with the Board. She stated that Washoe County had funded a program called Placemate, which encouraged citizens with empty homes or Short-Term Rental (STR) homes to switch to long-term rentals. Commissioner Hill clarified that there was still money in the account for the program, but there was some difficulty connecting with landlords or homeowners who wanted to participate. She offered to connect Judge Mangiaracina with the program to help find housing for workers in the Incline Village and Crystal Bay areas.

On the topic of legal service providers, Judge Mangiaracina mentioned upcoming education on landlord-tenant issues and other areas, and she offered to connect Commissioner Hill with those sessions and with stakeholders in the Incline Village area. Commissioner Hill expressed interest and agreed to connect with Judge Mangiaracina outside of the meeting. Commissioner Hill added that the Reno Housing Authority (RHA) could help with training on landlord-tenant matters if needed. Switching to the subject of transportation, Commissioner Hill added that the Board had been funding micro transit at Incline Village, but no longer had the federal funds to do so, though the Board wanted to get the program back online, and that she was working with the Visitor's Authority on that matter. Commissioner Hill stipulated that the Board may explore legislative fixes to find funding to keep in the basin for transportation, generated by room tax. She also stated that the Board believed in that transit, and would like to see it brought online, and would stay in touch with Judge Mangiaracina regarding the matter.

Judge Mangiaracina added that losing the Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit (TART) connection was a significant loss for the town. She pointed out that there had never been transportation from the Reno and Sparks area to Tahoe since they moved there in 1998, adding that transportation had been an issue for that entire time.

Commissioner Hill mentioned that the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC), on which Vice Chair Garcia also sits, often discussed how to better connect the region. Commissioner Hill added that the RTC was also exploring the best methods for implementing park-and-rides and creating a more connected community, though securing the funds was always an obstacle. Commissioner Hill concluded by thanking Judge Mangiaracina for her service as judge.

Chair Andriola asked if there were any further questions. She then shared that the Board received an eComment commending the IVJC and the people who work there. She added that there was positive energy the Board could feel from Judge Mangiaracina's innovation, attempts to leverage resources, and the goal of bringing everyone together to help. Chair Andriola advised Judge Mangiaracina to continue asking for the things the IVJC needed, which helped make the IVJC's needs more visible. She concluded by thanking Judge Mangiaracina, who, in turn, thanked the Board.

26-0090 **6A2** Downtown Reno Partnerships' Executive Director, Neoma Jardon, to discuss DRP's services, recent enhancements, statistics from their 2024-25 annual report and any future updates or improvements planned for the organization. (All Commission Districts.).

Downtown Reno Partnership (DRP) Executive Director Neoma Jardon provided documents, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. Ms. Jardon conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Washoe County Board of Commissioners Meeting; What is the Downtown Reno Partnership? DRP Team; DRP Board of Directors (2 slides); BID Boundary & Service Zones 110 Block Area; Before the BID was created; Downtown Reno Partnership Ambassadors/Security Guards; Security Guards; January 2025-December 2025 Ambassador Stats; Before & After: Truckee River; Before & After: Union Pacific Railroad; Before & After; Broadhead Park; River Path at AT&T Building; Coordinated City Walks; New Trash Cans and Planters; New Equipment: Kubotas; Marketing Update; Untitled Slide 19; Blue Carpet Treatment; Ambassador Event Support; Downtown Event Foot Traffic; Downtown Developments; Untitled Slide 24; DRP Social Media; Questions?.

Ms. Jardon referred to the slide titled *What the Downtown Reno Partnership is?* and indicated that the DRP was a 501 (c) (6) nonprofit and was formed in 2018 after years of individuals expressing concerns about needed improvements in downtown Reno. She recalled that the downtown area experienced homelessness populations, excessive trash, and many visitors. She recalled that the community collaborated to conduct a self-assessment of funding for a business improvement district (BID) to address the downtown's expanded needs. She reported that the DRP was funded by property assessments that paid for cleaning operations, ambassadors, security guards, marketing, and economic development. She explained that the DRP was a private-sector-led program authorized under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 271. She relayed that DRP Assistant Executive Director and Marketing Manager Kristen Saibini and DRP Economic Development Director Nathan Digangi were in attendance. She said the DRP consisted of

17 community members who represent a cross-section of downtown, including residents, businesses, and elected officials from 110 blocks in the BID.

Ms. Jardon relayed information from the *BID Boundary & Service Zones 110 Block Area* slide and said that the DRP was formed from two preexisting special assessment districts (SADs) to provide additional services and leadership to the downtown area. She noted that the three services the DRP provided included standard, premium, and premium-plus. She explained that the standard service included safety and on-demand spot cleaning with the ability to call for services at any hour of the day. She mentioned that premium services included additional patrols in areas with concentrations of litter and graffiti, whereas premium-plus services received the highest level of care within the Virginia Street corridor since they paid the most for the services.

Ms. Jardon pointed out that before the BID was created, there was graffiti on almost every surface of the Virginia Street corridor, along with persistent homeless populations that were not addressed. She opined that downtown had a negative reputation without a strong sense of community. She said that homeless individuals accumulated in the area with unknown services for them, while the police were inundated with nuisance-related calls. She reported that there were 1,600 BIDs Nationwide, that the DRP was the only BID in the State, and that it was relatively new compared to others.

Ms. Jardon referred to the *Downtown Reno Partnership Ambassadors/Security Guards* and *Security Guards* slides and noted that the ambassadors and security guards patrolled downtown primarily on foot. She explained that the ambassadors and security guards spoke with businesses and patrons to understand events and concerns in the area. She reported that three vehicles were used for cleaning transports and two Four Wheel Drive (4WD) Kubotas patrolled continuously. She indicated that calls to the DRP were constant and that the community demanded continuous service. She said the DRP was augmented with security guards because the community reported feeling unsafe, even though statistics showed a decrease in downtown crime rates. She explained that security patrolled all public spaces to enhance safety within the BID and assisted ambassadors when needed. She reported that a Reno Police Department (RPD) census reported a substantial decrease in need since deploying security guards in the BID. She said that the RPD was busy, and the DRP tried not to engage unless necessary.

Ms. Jardon read from the slide titled *January 2025-December 2025 Ambassador Stats* and said that downtownreno.org contained additional information and statistics. She reported that the ambassador team collected over 468,000 pounds (lbs) of loose trash along the river and removed 960 pieces of graffiti over the previous year. She said the graffiti was removed quickly after it was reported and explained that the DRP team coordinated with other agencies when needed. She mentioned that dog waste was another object the ambassadors cleaned up. She said that the team recovered shopping carts because the unhoused that took the carts could not visit the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Social Security Administration (SSA), or homeless shelters because the carts were considered stolen. She asserted that the team recovered the carts because they did not want the individuals to be charged with having stolen property, and instead, worked with the

people to transport their items to their destination. She said that 955 rides to shelters and services occurred in 2025.

Ms. Jardon referred to the *Before & After: Truckee River; Before & After: Union Pacific Railroad; Before & After: Broadhead Park; River Path at AT&T Building* slides to display what a normal day for the DRP looked like. She explained that the railroad tracks, parks, and the river used to contain significant litter, but had improved after cleanups. She said the DRP coordinated with cities and other agencies to ensure everyone was working toward the same goal. She relayed that Human Services Coordinators Catrina Peters and Sabrina Sweet had been incredible resources for information and collaboration. She said that the DRP frequently engaged with Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) and the Assessor's Office and noted the departments were phenomenal to work with.

Ms. Jardon read from the *New Trash Cans and Planters* slide and indicated that beautification efforts had taken place downtown, including securing more than double the amount of preexisting trash cans, totaling 198. She recalled that the new trash cans had wraps that contained information for the public. She reported that the DRP added planters in downtown and used the Kubotas to travel along the riverwalk and under bridges for cleaning. She referenced the *Marketing Update* slide and said the DRP had conducted marketing, small-business updates, and television (TV) segments to promote businesses. She said the Commissioners were provided with a new State of Downtown booklet containing statistics on the downtown businesses and housing. She noted that the booklets were shared with brokers and realtors so that they were aware of the downtown data.

Mr. Jardon relayed information from the slide titled *Blue Carpet Treatment* and noted that the DRP offered blue carpet treatments for expanding and new downtown businesses. She explained that there were many special events downtown and that the DRP tracked foot traffic. She said that foot traffic had increased since COVID-19 (C19). She noted that the DRP organized foot traffic data so small businesses could be informed where and when the foot traffic occurred. She referred to the *Downtown Developments* slide and reported that about a year and a half ago, the lots shown on the slide were vacant, but had since been developed into business buildings and residential properties. She said crime was tracked downtown and had decreased by 19.7 percent. She mentioned the DRP social media pages and links were on the slide titled *DRP Social Media* and urged everyone to follow the pages to stay informed. She relayed that County Manager (CM) Kate Thomas was great at providing needed information and thanked the Vice Chair Garcia for inviting her to present.

Commissioner Hill commended the DRP team and recalled that she walked downtown with her family and dog. She indicated that she had witnessed a significant improvement in cleanliness and thanked the team for their commitment to downtown redevelopment through the City of Reno partnership. She noted that she wished the DRP had more resources to support downtown's potential. She thanked Ms. Jardon for her passion and for continuing to serve the community. Ms. Jardon believed that the DRP's ambassadors were the backbone of the program.

Chair Andriola praised the DRP for being the only BID in Nevada. She commended the team for the research they conducted to develop a viable solution and best practices for the downtown area. She recalled that she followed Ms. Jardon on social media and encouraged others to because she believed Ms. Jardon and her team worked diligently in the community. She opined that the more the County partnered with jurisdictions to address diverse communities, the better agencies could serve those communities. She thanked Ms. Jardon for the presentation and Vice Chair Garcia for recommending Ms. Jardon's attendance at the meeting. Ms. Jardon reported that, while the DRP was the only fully established BID in the State, five cities were researching the formation of BIDs in their jurisdictions because they had witnessed the DRP's success and wished to replicate it.

Vice Chair Garcia thanked Ms. Jardon for the presentation and recalled that she believed it was about time for a presentation since the security guards were implemented in the fall of 2024. She said that it was an honor to serve on the DRP and appreciated Ms. Jardon's leadership. She said she appreciated Ms. Jardon's easy, responsive communication, gracious dedication to finding solutions, and active knowledge of what was happening in the community. She recalled the Cares Campus procedural change allowing individuals to stay on campus to engage in programs and asked whether the DRP had witnessed any benefits or noticed a difference in downtown activity. Ms. Jardon noted that a few things had changed, including more robust communication and cooperation across jurisdictions. She believed that it was difficult for agencies to understand complex current activities unless they witnessed them in person daily. She felt that working collectively made a big difference and that offering programs that assisted individuals on campus without negatively impacting surrounding businesses was beneficial. She said there were some activities downtown that she speculated were contributing to negative impacts; however, the changes made and the improvements observed had been positive.

Vice Chair Garcia recalled that Ms. Jardon was a previous City of Reno councilmember. She asked what the community would witness if the RPD and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) were aligned. Ms. Jardon asked what Vice Chair Garcia meant by *aligned*. Vice Chair Garcia indicated that the community experienced a multi-jurisdictional nightmare and asked what Ms. Jardon would implement to help streamline or improve communications between jurisdictions. Ms. Jardon believed that jurisdictional boundaries were being broken and that the communication had become great. She recalled that there were sometimes reservations expressed from the jurisdictions, which did not help resolve issues; however, she believed agencies were making headway in working collectively. She speculated that working together to understand common goals and being a unified voice was beneficial. She recalled that each jurisdiction had its own resources devoted to securing and cleaning properties; however, she felt that working together with delegations would help the community improve.

Chair Andriola hoped that discussions could continue, as she believed jurisdictions could work together. She congratulated Ms. Jardon on creating the program and said that she had witnessed its success since 2024. Ms. Jardon noted that the program was created in 2018; however, it had only had security guards. She urged any

Commissioners interested to spend a day as an ambassador and see how much could be and had been improved, such as the river. Chair Andriola opined that Ms. Jardon was the catalyst who organized the DRP upon joining its leadership team.

26-0091 **6A3** Presentation of Hexagon Unified Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management Suite Software Replacement Project Update, presented by Benjamin Ernst, Vice President/General Manager of North America Public Safety for Hexagon's Safety, Infrastructure & Geospatial Division. (All Commission Districts.).

Technology Coordinator Erick Willrich noted that Agenda Item 6A3 was to provide an update regarding the status of the Hexagon Unified Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management Suite (RMS) Software Replacement Project and to help the Board understand the critical next steps needed to achieve project completion. He explained that the regional partnership with Hexagon would bring massive improvements to public safety services for communities represented in each Commissioner's district. He said that some of the improvements would include faster response times, new technologies, interfaces that did not integrate with the current system, and overall process efficiencies. He asserted that the County would welcome a new era of improved public service technologies. He introduced Hexagon Senior Vice President and General Manager (GM) Ben Ernst, who conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Hexagon Unified CAD & RMS Replacement Project Update; Background; Project Status; Remaining Timeline; Critical Next Steps.

Mr. Ernst thanked the Board for inviting him to present. He recalled public comments made by the Women's Crossroads members and reported that they impacted him, as he was a father of 22-year-old and 20-year-old daughters. He said he hoped his daughters lived their lives with the strength and courage displayed by the public commenters. He referred to the slide titled *Background* and noted that the County, Hexagon, and other agencies entered into an agreement in September of 2023, with an implementation timeline of approximately 27 months. He said that Hexagon had worked unsuccessfully with various agencies to accelerate the timeline toward a 24-month go-live target, which would have been in September of 2025. He reported that the project schedule was delayed and that preparations were underway for a go-live in the fall of 2026. He explained that over the following months, remediation would take place to finalize integrations with the third-party systems in and around the County.

Mr. Ernst referred to the *Remaining Timeline* slide and said that February 2026 would include the final stages of testing, and once complete, Hexagon would begin a 90-day elongated training program for the system's ultimate users, including communications center staff and first responders. He noted the go-live would take place in the fall and that a 90-day reliability period would occur in December of 2026 after the systems were utilized by 911 callers, police, and law enforcement record systems. He read from the *Critical Next Steps* slide and said that Hexagon was in the process of completing the system readiness and executing the end-user training. He explained that there were only five change orders for the project, which had an impact of less than 2 percent of the contract

value. He pointed out that multiple conversations, both verbal and written, had occurred over the past couple of weeks to raise awareness of the unplanned expenses incurred by the County and other agencies. He said that a discussion had taken place to compensate for the unplanned expenses, and that he had worked with the agency coordinators from the respective agencies to ensure no one was left without anything. He believed that some framework numbers were exchanged and said he was confident Hexagon and its partners would reach a conclusion amenable to all parties. He mentioned that his presentation was short to allow time for questions and feedback.

Commissioner Clark expressed concerns regarding comments made by Tom Daly during public comment. He recalled that Mr. Daly said that there were \$1.9 million in cost overruns and five late go-live dates. He believed that the Board had a financial and public safety obligation to the community and that the longer the Hexagon program was prolonged, the longer the public would not have access to superior software. He said that ultimately, dollars and timeframes could be discussed; however, he wanted to know when the issues would be fixed. He opined that once the program was finished, there would inevitably be issues to address. He wondered when the program would be suitable for public safety purposes and how much additional funding it would take for the public to adopt the supposedly superior services Hexagon claimed it could provide. Mr. Ernst indicated that he did not recall the five missed deadlines to which Commissioner Clark was referring. He recalled that there was an intention to accelerate the go-live date to September 2025, but that effort was unsuccessful. He said that the 27-month timeline would have been in February of 2026, which was also unsuccessful, and that the cost overruns amounted to less than 2 percent of Hexagon's contract value. He noted that the \$1.9 million was a figure he needed to understand the details of, as he did not recall that amount in overrun costs.

Commissioner Clark believed that the public had issues and created their own perception of what was taking place. He said that he was not going to argue their point or defend Hexagon. He recalled speaking with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Fire Chief Richard Edwards about Hexagon and said that Chief Edwards felt there was significant procrastination throughout the process. He speculated that the process needed to be streamlined, and ultimately, the program was supposed to help the public by providing faster, more professional service. He asked how the process could be accelerated so that the community could witness the results. Mr. Ernst opined that since November of 2025, several people were working on-site with their respective agency coordinators and team members, rather than remotely, to accelerate resolution and address challenges. Commissioner Clark urged Mr. Ernst or someone from Hexagon to meet with Chief Edwards to address concerns.

Vice Chair Garcia recalled that the Hexagon program began in 2019, a concurrent meeting took place in 2022, and in August of 2025, a Hexagon project manager presented to the Board. She noted that during the August 19, 2025, meeting, the Board was told the go-live date would occur on September 9, 2025. She recalled that key accomplishments such as hardware and software installations, the system build and configuration, third-party integrations, and disaster recovery and backup were planned; however, a few days later, the Board was told that the new go-live date was February 23,

2026, which she said was within a few days. She mentioned that during the August meeting, the Board was given information on the budget, staff, and additional resources from the vendor that were already in place to prevent further delays for the County. She noted that the last five months of Hexagon's data were concerning because open tickets consistently ranged from 330 to 400 each month since September 2025, while closed tickets were decreasing. She said that while representatives were relocated on-site to accelerate processes, the data showed no progress over the past five months. She explained that her confidence in Hexagon was lacking. Mr. Ernst explained that he was not disputing the facts and that there was a subset of 300 or 400 tickets. He said there were several things throughout projects that could be filed as enhancements, including products the County wanted to perform differently or have displays changed. He noted that Hexagon was focusing on critical aspects of the go-live to ensure the system operated in a way that allowed public safety professionals to use it to do their jobs. He recalled that the go-live tickets were in the 30 to 33 range as of a couple of days ago.

Vice Chair Garcia reported that she had only referenced two of the trend statistics and that, when looking at the blocker statistics, there appeared to be other structural issues. She asked what it would take for the Hexagon team to provide the County with confidence that monthly metrics would begin trending positively. Mr. Ernst believed that deploying more resources and attention to software changes would enable them to be completed more rapidly.

Commissioner Hill recalled that Chief Edwards' concern was that law enforcement should be separated. She asked how that would affect the County's contract with Hexagon since it was a multi-jurisdictional contract. She said that the government sometimes invested heavily in programs that could not be reevaluated, which she believed should not take place if something needed to be changed. She noted that she understood Hexagon had many resources involved in the program and commended them for it. She said that the Board had asked to be kept informed and appreciated that they were; however, she echoed Vice Chair Garcia's view that the trend lines were not optimal. She wondered whether the County was the test subject for a very complex project and asked whether Hexagon had achieved a similar program in another community, because she speculated that the County might need to investigate other options. She asserted that, as policymakers, the Board wanted to ensure it was making the right financial decision for the region, given difficult budgetary forecasts. She said that delays were painful for the Board to continue to collaborate as a region.

Mr. Ernst indicated that regionalization had been impressed upon him strongly by various agencies and leaders. He understood the fear of investing several years of progress only to face a potential risk. He recalled that Hexagon had been in the public safety software business for almost 40 years, including helping agencies, cities, counties, and states go through large-scale replacements of mission-critical systems. He believed that the software the County was receiving was newer, but Hexagon had implemented 21 go-lives across the Nation and Canada since its inception. Commissioner Hill asked if those implementations included fire services, public safety, and emergency medical services (EMS). Mr. Ernst indicated that the implementation did not include fire, public safety, or

EMS, but recalled a go-live in Arlington County, Virginia, that included a multi-police, fire services, and EMS dispatch system. He said that while the County's system included dispatch, law enforcement records, and field reporting, he did not believe the County was a test subject. He asserted that he was confident Hexagon would complete the proposed work.

Chair Andriola expressed her appreciation for the 21 previous go-lives and for Mr. Ernst's understanding of the County's program capacity. She said a lot was expected of Hexagon regarding expeditious work. She asked whether the County's program was the first project to integrate fire services, EMS, and public safety without application programming interfaces (APIs). She noted that her confidence in Hexagon had waned and that whenever a delay was announced, waiting became more difficult. She commended Hexagon for placing more in-person staff to accelerate progress. Mr. Ernst clarified that the County's program was the first new version of software that would integrate dispatch, police records, and field reporting. Chair Andriola asked what the previous success rate was with mobile field reporting solutions. Mr. Ernst reported that Hexagon had many mobile field reporting solution customers; however, the County's program was a new product, and it would be the first agency in the Nation to use the product. Chair Andriola asserted that many people were expecting Hexagon to deliver a product that would enable the County to advance regionalization and improve efficiency in addressing life-and-death issues.

Chair Andriola asked what provisions in the contract allowed for new products. She said that the County was operating under budget constraints and had a talented team. She reported that the County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks were placing resources into Hexagon. She recalled that her fellow Commissioners expressed similar concerns about the open ticket count and hoped that Mr. Ernst would leave the presentation with a better understanding that the cost overruns and delays were not solely placed on the County. She asked what could be done if Hexagon reported that the convergence could not be performed. She said that she wanted to know what contingencies were in place, as she felt the community could not wait for any more delays. She requested that Mr. Ernst revisit the Board later with contingencies and a possible phased approach, as she asserted that the community could not wait for further delays. Mr. Ernst indicated that he understood Chair Andriola's request.

Chair Andriola noted that she hoped Mr. Ernst understood that the Board was fulfilling its responsibility to the community by ensuring decisions were made appropriately. She said the Legislature created a mandatory fire study due December 31, 2026. She said that she did not want the County to compromise the delivery of the product for the safety of the community. She recommended that Hexagon research a phased approach and said that she looked forward to additional plans.

Vice Chair Garcia asked when the Board would receive another update on Hexagon's progress in reducing open tickets and blockers before the end of the year. She recalled wanting communication about what the County was expected to receive and what Hexagon was expected to provide. County Manager (CM) Kate Thomas noted that she

would ensure regular updates to the Board and would work with staff to obtain a schedule update within the next couple of months. She thanked Mr. Ernst for providing a presentation. She noted that local governments were the stewards of taxpayer dollars and became frustrated when vendors overpromised and underdelivered. She recalled a recent mediation session with another vendor and stated that Mr. Ernst was unfortunately hearing high levels of frustration, for which she apologized. She said that she looked forward to keeping everyone accountable and moving in a positive direction. She recognized the hard work of Washoe County, the Cities of Reno and Sparks, the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). She said that the Hexagon program would have a life-changing impact on the community by lowering public safety response times. Mr. Ernst thanked the Board for their candid comments and conversation.

DONATIONS

- 26-0092** **7A1** Recommendation to accept cash donations totaling \$13,710.68: [\$1,328.00 to general donations for Regional Parks and Open Space, Bowers Mansion, Link Piazza/Hidden Valley Park, and Davis Creek Fire Restoration, \$339.68 from Red Robin for Lazy 5 Park, \$11,500.00 from Glen Atkinson to support Rancho San Rafael Park]; [\$143.00 from the donation drop box at the May Museum]; [\$400.00 to the Arboretum for bricks, general maintenance and support] and accept in-kind donations from Home Depot [valued at \$450.00], Moana Nursery [valued at \$7,522.65], and May Arboretum Society [valued at \$45,208.20] for Regional Parks and Open Space programs and facilities; and direct Finance to make the appropriate budget amendments. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.).
- 26-0093** **7B1** Recommendation to accept a [\$20,055.00] donation from the Washoe County Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association for the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be used to purchase tire deflation devices, and if approved, direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.).
- 26-0094** **7B2** Recommendation to accept a \$25,000.00 donation from the Sun Valley General Improvement District to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be used for the removal of abandoned vehicles within the Sun Valley area and, if approved, direct Finance to make appropriate budget amendments. Sheriff. (Commission District 2.).

Vice Chair Garcia mentioned that there were three donation items and thanked the Washoe County Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association for its \$20,050 donation for tire deflation devices and the Sun Valley General Improvement District (GID) for its \$25,000 donation for the removal of abandoned vehicles.

Commissioner Hill thanked Moana Nursery for helping to replace the trees lost in the Davis Fire and said the nursery had been a great partner to the County. She expressed appreciation for all of the community partners.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 7A1 through 7B2 be accepted.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 8A1 THROUGH 8G1

26-0095 **8A1** Recommendation to approve a Grant of Easement between Washoe County (Grantor) and Lloyd Properties LLC (Grantee) for the construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of private sanitary sewer utility facilities under a portion of Washoe County right-of-way located within Sitting Bull Circle and Huron Trail, associated with APN 016-592-05, located in the Virginia Foothills Subdivision, South Reno, Nevada. Community Services. (Commission District 2.).

26-0096 **8A2** Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to provide a non-binding recommendation to the Nevada State Engineer as identified in Nevada Revised Statute 533.363, for the State of Nevada’s possible approval of Application number 94669T for Permission to Change Point of Diversion and Place of Use of the Public Waters of the State of Nevada. The Application submitted by Nevada Renewable Resources, LLC, proposes to change the point of diversion and place of use of 159.14 acre-feet of water rights to the Black Rock Desert Hydrographic Basin (via underground sources) to a point of diversion and places of use within Pershing County as a temporary action to support the irrigation of an additional field on the applicant’s property. The water right was previously diverted from the Hualapai Flat Hydrographic Basin and placed for use within Washoe County. Community Services. (Commission District 5.).

26-0097 **8B1** Recommendation to approve the Yiddish Book Center’s 2026 “Between Two Worlds” Public Libraries Program scholarship award in the amount of [\$551.09; No County match required] for the travel and meals of one Washoe County Library employee to attend a three-day workshop in Amherst, Massachusetts, for a retroactive term of November 2, 2025, through November 4, 2025, awarded to Washoe County Library by the Yiddish Book Center through the Lilly Endowment, Inc.; if approved, to direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Library. (All Commission Districts.).

26-0098 **8B2** Recommendation to approve Fiscal Year 2026 State Collection Development Grant-In-Aid Award funds from the State of Nevada in the

amount of [\$17,980.00, no local match required] for a retroactive term of December 3, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the purchase of new and in-demand downloadable library materials; if approved, to direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Library. (All Commission Districts.).

- 26-0099** **8C1** Recommendation to approve a fund agreement with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to enable acceptance of funds for the Rancho San Rafael Amphitheater Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide support for the development and construction of a community amphitheater in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.).
- 26-0100** **8C2** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$20,500.00] for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$20,500.00] grant to the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SV GID) -- a government entity - for the purpose of hosting food truck events to promote economic growth and community engagement in the Sun Valley area; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct Finance to make the necessary disbursement of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 3.).
- 26-0101** **8C3** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$5,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$5,000.00] grant to Indigenous People's Council on Biocolonialism (IPCB) - a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes - to cover the expenses for artist Autumn Harry to paint a mural at the Sparks Library; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct Finance to make the necessary disbursement of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 3.).
- 26-0102** **8C4** Washoe County Federal Legislative Activity report for the fourth quarter of calendar year 2025 created in accordance with Washoe County Federal Legislative Principles and Lobbying Practices for the 119th United States Congress. This item provides a summary of federal legislative activities of county staff, contract lobbyists, and elected officials during the fourth quarter of 2025, including but not limited to contacts with the members and staff of Nevada's congressional delegation on matters such as updates on the partial shutdown of the federal government, federal lands bills, impacts from cuts to key federal programs providing services and support to vulnerable populations, impacts from delayed receipt of grant funds, and requests for support for legislative measures. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.).

- 26-0103** **8D1** Recommendation to approve the agreement between Washoe County and Mono County, California for forensic pathology services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office for a period of up to five years effective retroactively on February 1, 2026 with an estimated annual revenue of [\$25,000]. Regional Medical Examiner. (All Commission Districts.).
- 26-0104** **8E1** Recommendation to approve allocation from the Administrative Office of the Courts Nevada to the Reno Justice Court "Trial Court Improvement (TCI) Grant" in the amount of [\$10,000.00 for FY26 with 30% match required]. The Grant will assist funding for implementation of a guided interview project for self-represented litigants. The allocation will be made in a lump sum of \$10,000.00 retroactively December 01, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.).
- 26-0105** **8F1** Recommendation to accept a Fiscal Year 2024 Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health - State Opioid Response grant award [amount not to exceed \$64,450.00, no County match required] as administered from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public and Behavioral Health, state project number SG-2026-00350, for the continued support of the Opioid Treatment Program within the Washoe County Regional Detention Facility for the retroactive grant period of September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2026; authorize the Sheriff to retroactively execute the award document; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.).
- 26-0106** **8F2** Recommendation to accept additional fiscal year 2024 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Northern Nevada Drug Task Force grant award funding [increase of \$25,147.62, no County match required, for a total of \$50,147.62] as administered from the Las Vegas Metro Police Department, Federal project number G24NV0001A, for overtime and investigative expenses from HIDTA for the retroactive grant period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025; authorize the Sheriff to retroactively execute the award document; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.).
- 26-0107** **8F3** Recommendation to accept a Justice Assistance Grant award [amount not to exceed \$29,094.00, no County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety Office, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance, project number 22-JAG-46, to cover the cost of upfitting a response vehicle for the Consolidated Bomb Squad, Special Operations Division, for the retroactive grant period of January 01, 2026 through September 30, 2026; authorize the Sheriff to retroactively execute the award document; and if approved, direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.).

26-0108 **8G1** Recommendation to approve the reimbursement and funding of costs incurred by the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County for expenses related to and in support of the Enhanced 911 Emergency Response System and portable event recording devices as recommended by the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee on January 19, 2023, and November 20, 2025, in an amount not to exceed [\$231,244.11] as specified within the adopted Enhanced 911 Fund's operating budget. Technology Services. (All Commission Districts.).

Commissioner Hill asked the Director of Engineering and Capital Projects, Dwayne Smith, to clarify Consent Agenda Item 8A2 regarding the application and the intended use of the water.

Mr. Smith explained that inter-county transfers were brought to the Board as required by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). He noted that the item was a non-binding recommendation to the State Engineer to allow changes such as points of diversion across County or basin lines, or for changed uses. He stated that Consent Agenda Item 8A2 was a water right that had been secured and used for irrigation and ranching support in Pershing County. He said that the current application was for a one-year approval from the State Engineer to allow use within Washoe County. He clarified that it was a non-binding recommendation that was made to the State Engineer. He explained that the State Engineer would take the Commissioners' recommendation into account and then make a decision. He mentioned that the Board could see similar future requests periodically, and added that if the request included anything contentious, he could bring that to the Board's attention. He thought the State Engineer's actions were standard and customary, and that the Board needed to be aware of them.

Commissioner Hill asked what the applicant intended to use the water rights for in Washoe County. Mr. Smith replied that, based on the application and discussions with staff, the water would be used for ranching and livestock irrigation. He added that the use would remain the same, only at a different location. Commissioner Hill thanked Mr. Smith for his clarification.

There was no response to the call for public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Vice Chair Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 8A1 through 8G1 be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 8A1 through 8G1 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

BLOCK VOTE – 9, 10, 11, and 13

26-0109 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to: 1) approve Fiscal Year 2027 Street and Highway Projects Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the Regional Transportation

Commission (RTC); and 2) approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Street and Highway Projects Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Washoe County, the City of Sparks, and the RTC; for the RTC FY 2027 Program of Projects that were identified and approved in the RTC FY 2027 Regional Transportation Plan Update. The agreements identify regional roadway projects and priorities with construction project estimates of \$92.5 million determined by RTC and funding sources. Washoe County is the pass-through agency with associated fiscal costs under the Interlocal Cooperative Agreements. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.).

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved.

26-0110 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Professional Consulting Services between DOWL and Washoe County to provide additional design, permitting, land use planning, landscape architecture, and construction administration services in support of Phase 2 of the South Valleys Regional Park Expansion Project [in the amount of \$149,944.00 for a total contract amount of \$948,924.00]. This request for amendment will allow for the required additional design, permitting and engineering support during construction. The South Valleys Regional Park is located at 15650 Wedge Parkway, Reno, Nevada. Community Services. (Commission District 2.).

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved.

26-0111 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to 1.) Acknowledge the Publication of Notice of Intent to Augment Budgets and approval of the attached Resolution # R26-0000016 to augment the Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund budget, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 354.598005 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 354.410, in the amount of [\$17,000,000] to appropriate an opening fund balance larger than anticipated, to support the Washoe County Behavioral Health Remodel Project. The augmentation will increase transfer and expenditure authority for the Washoe County Behavioral Health Facility project located at 1248 East 9th Street, Reno, which involves the comprehensive renovation and improvements of an existing 47,000 square foot building to provide a range of behavioral health services, with a specialized focus on children and adolescents. The augmentation serves as a bridge gap measure due to the timing of the project and the anticipated funding sources and; 2.) if approved, any and all other future funding sources for this project, including, but not limited to, private

or individual donations, grants, future unplanned revenues, etc., will first be used to replenish the General Fund up to the total amount of funding transferred and; 3.) direct Finance to make the appropriate budget amendments and cross-fund and cross-functional appropriation transfers. Manager's office. (All Commission Districts.).

On the call for public comment, Trista Gomez expressed concern about the Washoe County Behavioral Health facility. She stated that the facility was necessary and would likely benefit the region, especially following the closure of West Hills Behavioral Health Hospital. She believed that recent changes to federal insurance had limited incoming federal funding and questioned how the Board would sustain operations if Medicare reimbursements were reduced or eliminated. She asked whether any shortfall would become an added burden on Washoe County taxpayers. She suggested that funding might come from the General Fund, with reimbursement from other sources, if available. She noted the County's existing deficit and competing community priorities and emphasized that the primary concern was how the facility's costs would be covered if anticipated insurance reimbursements were not received.

On motion by Vice Chair Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be acknowledged, approved, and directed.

26-0112 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Information and acknowledgement of receipt by the Board of County Commissioners of contracts and purchases that have exceeded or are expected to exceed [\$300,000] that may include services and supplies for all County departments. Pursuant to Washoe County Code 15.490, the purchasing and contracts manager is authorized, subject to the provisions of Washoe County Code and the applicable provision of state law, to approve purchases and contracts up to [\$300,000]. As a matter of best practices, the purchasing and contracts manager will keep the Board of County Commissioners informed of all contracts and purchases for all county departments that have been previously approved that have exceeded or are expected to exceed the threshold amount. A full list of specific contracts, vendors, and amounts is viewable in the staff report. The aggregate amount of known expenditures under these contracts to date is \$6,993,463.45. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.).

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be acknowledged.

26-0113 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to (1) approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price #2 Construction Agreement with Plenium Builders, Inc., the authorized Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), for the Washoe County Behavioral Health Remodel Project (Project), [not to exceed

\$20,325,158.00]; and, (2) authorize a project allowance in the amount of [\$5,350,000.00] for sole use by Washoe County to support and deliver the Project to include items such as furniture, fixtures and equipment, security equipment and systems, and other components necessary for the Project; and (3) if approved, authorize County Manager Kate Thomas to act on behalf of Washoe County to execute and deliver any and all instruments and to enter into all modifications or amendments to Project documents and agreements. Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 338.1685 to NRS 338.16995, the selection and award for contracts involving CMARs are exempt from the competitive bidding process. The Washoe County Behavioral Health Facility project located at 1248 East 9th Street, Reno, involves the comprehensive renovation and improvements of an existing 47,000 square foot building to provide a range of behavioral health services, with a specialized focus on children and adolescents. Project work is anticipated to commence on or about March 2, 2026. Community Services. (Commission District 3.).

County Manager (CM) Kate Thomas introduced Engineering and Capital Projects Division Director Dwayne Smith and indicated that Mr. Smith would likely discuss the previous actions related to Agenda Item 12.

12:00 p.m. Commissioner Herman left the meeting.

Mr. Smith explained that Agenda Item 12 was a construction agreement with three critical and primary aspects. He noted that the agreement was to authorize the second Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) with Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the delivery of the Washoe Behavioral Health Center (WBHC) project, authorize \$5.35 million in project allowances for the support of the project, and allow the Board to provide CM Thomas the ability to authorize any and all amendments and project modifications to help facilitate the delivery of the project. He recalled that the first GMP was brought before the Board and approved in August of 2025, allowing staff to begin preparing for the facility and to complete the design and competitive bidding process for the second and final GMP. He said that the final GMP was designed to deliver the required elements for a successful project and to allow staff to deliver it on time. He explained that, instead of delivering multiple GMP agreements, the staff consolidated them and worked with both the design and construction teams to advance the project schedule. He relayed that consolidating the GMPs allowed staff to maintain and manage cost escalation and create shorter schedules. He believed the WBHC was a complex, multifaceted project.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the separate request for a \$5.35 million allowance would help staff further manage cost escalations and provide CM Thomas with the ability to authorize and assign elements that would allow staff to work in parallel with CMAR and allow the Human Services Agency (HSA) the ability to make final decisions as needed, such as furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE). He noted that projects typically included FFE to ensure the most effective way to manage costs and schedules while work was performed; however, staff requested the FFE be removed and, in its place, requested a

separate \$5.35 million allowance. He asserted that the requested elements were not optional, but necessary for the project. He believed the schedule was essential and expected by the community. He explained that, with the Board's consideration, staff could proceed with an administrative notice to proceed by Friday. He recalled that bonds and insurance typically took time; however, staff had been working with Plenum Builders. He noted that CMAR was competitively selected. He believed that CMAR was also committed to advancing the County's build schedule, aiming for a completion date of July 2, 2027. He felt that the timeline was advanced to complete a renovation reconstruction while meeting the County's expectations. He thanked the County's management, partners, and the Human Services Agency (HSA).

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Commissioner Hill commended Mr. Smith and Chair Andriola. She noted that Chair Andriola had worked diligently in a fundraising campaign for the WBHC. She felt that the campaign was a huge initiative for staff to undertake, with Chair Andriola in the lead. She expressed confidence in Chair Andriola's work and leadership of the campaign. She relayed that she told the community the facility would open in 2027. She believed that the approval of Agenda Item 12 was exciting for the community. She felt that the creation of a mental health facility showed how much the County cared about the community. Chair Andriola thanked Behavioral Health Administrator Julia Ratti, CM Thomas, County staff, and everyone in the community who recognized the facility's importance.

On motion by Vice Chair Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved and authorized.

26-0114 **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to nominate at least two candidates from the list of applicants, which include: John A. Boren, Danny Clarke, Keith A. Hayes, Robert Lissner, and Jacqueline Russell, to serve on the Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District (CTWCD) to represent Washoe County for a partial four-year term, effective upon appointment by the Governor and ending on December 31, 2028. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.).

Community Outreach Coordinator Alexandra Wilson explained that the appointment was slightly different, as it was a nomination to the Governor's Office, which would make the final appointment. She noted that, per Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), the Board needed to nominate two candidates from the list of five individuals.

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the Commissioners' votes aloud, naming Robert Lissner and Keith A. Hayes as the selected candidates.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Vice Chair Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Herman absent, it was ordered that Keith A. Hayes and Robert Lissner be appointed to the Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District (CTWCD) for a term beginning upon appointment by the Governor and ending December 31, 2028

26-0115 **AGENDA ITEM 15** Public Comment.

Trista Gomez announced that she would no longer be running for County Commissioner, District 3, and would instead seek a seat in the State Legislature. She acknowledged that the decision was difficult but said she had been asked for months to run. She stated that she would not have made the decision unless she could remain actively involved in community politics and discussions. She expressed disappointment regarding the recent cancellation of the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting. She stated that she believed it was unconscionable to cancel the meeting over what she viewed as a preventable issue. She suggested there was significant interest in the Cares Campus budget and the amount of money being spent, noting her concern that nearby regions could not sustain such costs due to the burden on taxpayers. She explained that she cautiously reviewed the Cares Campus budget and acknowledged the program's importance, but expressed concern about the absence of certain requirements, such as residency time and sobriety. She stated that she was unaware of another West Coast facility of its kind with 630 beds, citing the potential financial impact on taxpayers. She questioned whether the program ultimately benefited the community or enabled dependency. She mentioned that she would discuss the topic further at a later time but reiterated her disappointment regarding the canceled meeting. She felt that many community members would have input on the program's structure and goals. She noted that the program at the Cares Campus was a sensitive subject that needed to be handled carefully.

26-0116 **AGENDA ITEM 16** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Clark announced that a Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting would be held on March 16, 2026. He commented that the Director of Engineering and Capital Projects, Dwayne Smith, attended a recent South Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) meeting and delivered an excellent presentation. He thanked Mr. Smith for attending and acknowledged his efforts in responding to constituents' questions. He expressed appreciation for his fellow Commissioners who asked tough questions during the discussion regarding the Hexagon contract. He indicated that dispatching with Hexagon required unity and said he valued the Commissioners' questions about timing, potential success, and cost.

Chair Andriola thanked the City of Sparks Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team and the Washoe County HOPE Team for attending and presenting at the Spanish Springs CAB meeting. She explained that the presentation was well organized and highlighted program outcomes, including the savings of taxpayer dollars. She said she looked forward to continuing conversations to unite all jurisdictions.

She thanked everyone for a great meeting and noted that she looked forward to Grace Church Reno, leading the invocation at the upcoming meeting.

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12:17 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

CLARA ANDRIOLA, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

JANIS GALASSINI, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Jessica Melka, Deputy County Clerk
Andrew Garnand, Deputy County Clerk
Lizzie Tietjen, Deputy County Clerk*