

Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: August 28, 2025

DATE: August 14, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Amber English, Environmental Health Specialist Supervisor
775-567-2720, aeenglish@nnph.org

SUBJECT: Recommendation for reappointment to the Food Protection Hearing Advisory Board as members. Staff recommends: The reappointment of Mr. Michael Chaump for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028, the reappointment of Mr. JP Pinocchio for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028, the reappointment of Mr. Christopher Romm for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028, and the reappointment of Mr. Chris Thompson for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028; Applicants include: Michael Connolly, Vance Hardin, Humayoon Lodhi, Shannon Jensen, William Johnson, Nicholas Meyer, Jillian Pinocchio, and Travis Stehman.

SUMMARY

In accordance with the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Food Establishments (food establishment regulations) Section 240.085, Creation of the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board, staff is recommending the District Board of Health (DBOH) reappoint Mr. Michael Chaump, Mr. JP Pinocchio, Mr. Christopher Romm, and Mr. Chris Thompson for three-year terms to the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board (FPHAB).

District Health Strategic Priorities supported by this item:

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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the local food industry

- Initial appointment of Mr. Rathmann for a two-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024); a member of the local food industry
- Initial appointment of Ms. Wolterbeek for a two-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024); a member of the local food industry
- Initial appointment of Ms. Elkins for a one-year term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023); a member of the local food industry

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

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

Member	Qualification	Term Expires
Lanaii Elkins	A member of the local food industry	June 30, 2026
J.P. Pinocchio	A member of the local food industry	June 30, 2025
Christopher Thompson	A member of the local food industry	June 30, 2025
Christopher Romm	A member of the local food industry	June 30, 2025
Michael Chaump	A member of the local food industry	June 30, 2025
Jay Rathmann	A member of the local food industry	June 30, 2027
Rose Wolterbeek	A member of the local food industry	June 30, 2027

Solicitation for interest on serving on the FPHAB is an ongoing and open recruitment process that allows applicants wishing to serve on the FPHAB to directly apply using instructions on EHS website. Since four member's terms were set to conclude on June 30, 2025, EHS staff sent out a notice of the upcoming position vacancy via the EHS Food Safety Listserv which contains a voluntary email distribution list to community partners in the food safety space and NNPH press release announcing the openings on the FPHAB.

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To date, EHS staff have received a total of eight (8) applications which have been attached to this report. Due to the technical nature of this advisory board, staff used the following criteria when making the recommendation to the board:

- Food Safety Technical Knowledge
- Diversity and Depth of Food Establishment Operation / Construction Experience
 - Small Business / Special Events and Temporary Food Operations/ Food Establishment Design/Food Manufacturing
- Community Service History / Board Experience

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

- Mr. Chaump brings a strong combination of experience in both food service and local government. With 27 years in the food industry and 20 years in municipal service, including a decade overseeing business licensing, he offers a critical understanding of both compliance and operational challenges. His long-standing tenure on the board since the 1990s adds institutional knowledge and a deep understanding of regulatory processes that continue to benefit FPHAB deliberations.
- Mr. Pinocchio has more than 30 years of experience operating local restaurants and coordinating special events in the Reno-Sparks area. Mr. Pinocchio offers an understanding of both brick-and-mortar and mobile food operations. His board experience and practical knowledge of regulatory expectations from an operator's viewpoint are valuable assets in reviewing appeals and advising on policy implications.
- Mr. Romm has demonstrated consistent and meaningful participation on the board and contributes a broad base of experience in food manufacturing and hospitality management. His background as a corporate executive chef, food and beverage director, and business owner strengthens the board's ability to consider a range of perspectives. His strong support for public health and food safety makes him a trusted and experienced board member.
- Mr. Thompson brings a unique and valuable perspective to the board through his combined experience in food service operations and food establishment design. With over 20 years of experience in the food industry and 11 years designing food establishments nationwide, he offers insight into how operational flow, safety, and regulatory compliance intersect in real-world environments.

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

FISCAL IMPACT

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

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RECOMMENDATION

It is staff's recommendation that the board reappoint the following individuals to the FPHAB:

- Reappoint Mr. Michael Chaump for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028;
- Reappoint Mr. JP Pinocchio for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028;
- Reappoint Mr. Christopher Romm for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028; and
- Reappoint Mr. Chris Thompson for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028.

POSSIBLE MOTION

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

1. "Move to reappoint Mr. Michael Chaump for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028, reappoint Mr. JP Pinocchio for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028, reappoint Mr. Christopher Romm for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028, and reappoint Mr. Chris Thompson for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028, to the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board".

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

1. "Move to appoint (*name of applicant*) to the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board for a (three-year) term retroactively beginning July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028," or
2. "Move to continue the item to the next meeting to allow for additional consideration by the Board."