

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

MONDAY

9:00 A.M.

AUGUST 30, 2021

CONCURRENT MEETING

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Chair (via Zoom)
Vaughn Hartung, Vice Chair (via Zoom)
Alexis Hill, Commissioner (via Zoom)
Kitty Jung, Commissioner (via telephone)
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner (via Zoom)

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
Eric Brown, County Manager (via Zoom)
Nathan Edwards, Assistant District Attorney (via Zoom)

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 9:03 a.m. with the Reno and Sparks City Councils in concurrent session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and via the Zoom app. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

21-0676 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Ms. Victoria Myer spoke against vaccines, claiming more people had died from the vaccine than from the virus. She felt people should not be forced to take the vaccine and children should not be required to be vaccinated to receive an education. She wanted the respective boards to stand up as citizens of Washoe County.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon stated people could not be forced or coerced into wearing face coverings, quoting Nevada Revised Statute 207.190. He indicated he had two federal exemptions, one religious and one medical, so he did not have to wear a mask. He urged each board to redress the grievances of the people but said no one offered to have a discussion with them. He demanded each elected official should act or resign.

Mr. Stewart Handte alleged masks and vaccines did not work, but hydroxychloroquine cured him when he had COVID-19 (C19). He blamed the commissioners and councilmembers for homelessness and crime in the area, saying he feared a major incident that could potentially involve school children.

Ms. Lisa Chartier protested mask mandates for children which prevented them from attending public schools and colleges. She believed masks were ineffective, vaccines were killing people, and information about these things was being censored. She opined the elected officials would be held accountable for their actions.

Ms. Julie Osburn commented there were studies that showed masks did not work and were harmful. She said vaccines were not mandated for employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the World Health Organization, the White House, or the vaccine drug makers. She provided a list of questions to the County Clerk, a copy of which was placed on the record, and asked that masks and vaccines not be mandated.

Ms. Janet Butcher expressed concern about drug cartels at the United States border. She wanted real action to keep the community safe from drugs like fentanyl. She thought drug issues were as concerning as human trafficking and alleged untested illegal aliens were being allowed into the community. She pointed out August 31 was International Drug Overdose Awareness Day and asked the entities to consider the important issues.

Ms. Jessica Castro stated there were no blankets or medical care at the Nevada Cares Campus (NCC), and the food was unsatisfactory. She wished to see donations from casinos. She pled with the entities to consider adding more mental health professionals, trauma specialists, and drug and alcohol counselors. She claimed theft was rampant at the campus and there were instances of inappropriate behavior by staff, which she hoped would end when the County took over responsibility.

Mr. Roger Edwards expressed frustration about the state of citizen advisory boards. He felt concurrent meetings should be utilized to talk about projects, not just the homeless situation, since road, water, and sewer projects impacted everyone. He said treated effluent was being pumped into Swan Lake, yet the plant had not been expanded despite thousands of new homes being built there. He requested an item be placed on the next concurrent agenda to discuss expanding the Reno Stead Water Reclamation Facility.

Ms. Amber Hart opined homeless individuals needed therapy and help with drug issues. She expressed concern about the media allowing Bill Gates to discuss vaccine passports, saying people should be allowed to make their own choices. She asked that vaccine mandates not be required in schools or businesses because there needed to be more time to perform safety studies. She disagreed with coercing employees to get vaccines.

Via the Zoom app, Ms. Cindy Martinez commended County Manager Eric Brown for meeting with her and other citizens to articulate his vision for the NCC, though she expressed reservation about the amount of money involved. She thought C19 vaccines were decimating the citizenry and information about them was being kept from citizens. She said elected officials had a duty to protect constitutional rights, and she thought alignment with Governor Steve Sisolak equated to alliance with Communist principles.

Via Zoom, Mr. Bruce Parks said he thought it was inhumane to allow homelessness in the community. He alleged elected officials allowed it to continue to receive federal funding. He felt the NCC would be a failure and the solution to homelessness would be to enforce laws, something he believed elected officials were not currently allowing.

Ms. Erin Massengale requested a resolution ending the public health emergency and banning vaccine passports, which she felt promoted discrimination. She read a quote that addressed body sovereignty and compared vaccine passports to the historical treatment of slaves.

County Clerk Jan Galassini noted she received an anonymous public comment through Zoom that would be placed on the record.

21-0677 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Board update and discussion on the Nevada Cares Campus homeless service campus capital project located at 1775 E. 4th Street Reno NV 89501.

Housing and Homeless Services Manager Dana Searcy conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She reviewed slides with the following titles: Cares Campus Vicinity Map; Phase I; Phase 1 – Emergency Shelter; Phase 1 – Safe Camp; Phase II Feedback & Input; Phase II Established Needs (2 slides); Draft Site Plan (2 slides); Summary of Costs; Anticipated Capital Funding; Newspaper Articles; and Map.

Ms. Searcy noted the safe camp was added June 17, about a month after the Nevada Cares Campus (NCC) opened. In addition to receiving feedback from the partners listed in the presentation, County staff traveled to other communities to determine what the NCC needed. She stated the day center could be a place for people released from jail or hospitals, as well as those on the verge of losing their homes, to learn about resources and services. She said partitions had been used at the Our Place campus to create cubby-style units to provide a bit of privacy when receiving intensive case management. Regarding the Governor’s Bowl site, dirt was being added to raise the site.

Ms. Searcy explained the sprung structure would be divided in half by relocating the cafeteria to the center; one half would consist of emergency bunk beds while the other half would include intensive case management modeled after the Our Place setup. The site plan was drafted to include additional green space for people to enjoy the outdoors. She expressed confidence that the investment in the campus would be wise and allow people to have a temporary stop until they were moved into permanent housing. She remarked homeless services were a national focus with much federal funding being allocated to them.

Reno City Councilmember Devon Reese reflected on the short period of time between land being allocated for this project and the full vision being realized. He attributed this to both the County’s work as well as the financial and design contributions by the two cities. He asked about the timeframe to fully construct the site plan, citing the need to establish daycare first as a concern. Ms. Searcy responded the build would be divided into two sections; construction on the sprung structure, cafeteria, and laundry and restroom facilities was expected to begin in April. The second portion was expected to begin in June or July of 2022, and it would contain the remaining buildings. She pointed out 600 individuals were already living at that shelter, and they would still need to have

access to a safe space throughout the construction process. While the process could be lengthy, she added, critical support for the residents would be maintained.

Councilmember Reese inquired about ownership of the acreage adjacent to the NCC which was slated as the location for a future housing program. Ms. Searcy replied the initial idea was the Reno Housing Authority (RHA) would focus on a transitional housing plan; it had since been determined that transitional housing was not a best practice. Instead, it was decided to facilitate a permanent housing model which would allow someone to have a safe place to call home and still have access to case management. She acknowledged there was a need for very low-barrier housing options for transitional housing. She reviewed some of the workforce development programs already in place, including having people share rooms or charging them rent to establish renter's history. The housing program could also serve as an emergency location, such as to house people with COVID-19 symptoms. It was not intended to be a long-term solution.

Councilmember Reese asked about inclusion of the unsheltered population in design and operation planning since they had unique life experiences. Ms. Searcy noted individuals had wide experiences with homelessness and using shelters, and they had an opportunity to provide feedback about the safe camp experience. Some individuals were even part of an advisory committee to present concerns and suggestions. When hired consultant Jon DeCarmine of JD Consultancy visited the area, Ms. Searcy went on, he spent one day alone visiting with homeless individuals along the river to learn about their experiences. Including homeless individuals in the process was part of the Built for Zero (BFZ) component as well. Councilmember Reese agreed inclusion was the goal.

Reno City Councilmember Jenny Brekhus mentioned she did not initially support the safe camp, citing concerns about the congregate nature of the facility and the lack of resources coming together. She asked whether there was a master plan which described the nature of the investment and the desired outcomes. Ms. Searcy responded the County was working with a team of consultants and architects not only on the campus but also the surrounding community. She said consideration was being given to how the services at the Record Street facility would interact with the NCC, as well as how all aspects would impact surrounding areas. They were trying to avoid simply building a larger version of the downtown facility.

Councilmember Brekhus asked whether there would be an opportunity to pursue different models or whether the entities would only have the ability to approve this proposed model. Ms. Searcy answered the boards would vote specifically on the draft map and layout. She indicated there was an incredible opportunity to utilize federal dollars and establish partnerships with local businesses and leadership in the community. Because the money would not last forever, they were moving faster than they normally would on the process. She added the components of the process were not new concepts, and efforts were being made not to concentrate too many resources in one area. The goal was to create a campus to serve people who needed help until they were moved into permanent housing.

Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve praised Ms. Searcy for her work and stressed the importance of having the ability to make changes quickly. She felt something like this project would have happened within three to five years anyway, but the pandemic helped each entity recognize the immediacy of the need. She expressed excitement for the services that would be provided, such as for medical health and transitional housing. She understood some of the public's concerns but wondered whether they grasped the full scope of the project. She said this project would continue to evolve and people needed to exercise patience and mercy because of how quickly aspects of the project had come together.

Reno City Councilmember Neoma Jardon lauded the elected officials who supported the acquisition of the property, which allowed this discussion to take place. She asked for more details about the plan for expanding mental health services and how capacity would be regulated during construction. Ms. Searcy replied said there was no intent to reduce capacity inside the sprung structure, which would be further helped by many people not preferring its congregate nature. Instead, they would provide more options to campus residents like bridge housing, cubbies, and the safe camp. She admitted the future was uncertain. For instance, there could be a need for more spaces for women as that need was currently much greater than originally anticipated. It was the County's intent to build larger spaces which could be modified as needed. She noted there was a clause in the interlocal agreement that capacity would not be reduced without the approval of the entities' managers. The capacity in the structure was 515 individuals and the cafeteria could handle another 100 emergency cots. Additionally, there would be 50 bridge units set up for double occupancy and spaces for another 50 at the safe camp.

Sparks City Councilmember Kristopher Dahir acknowledged this project had moved quickly, but he pointed out conversations about the homeless had taken place for years. He stressed the elected officials were problem solving, and he commended them for providing support in the face of negative feedback. True infrastructure was being built through the BFZ program by allowing for the collection of data and encouraging resources not to work in their own silos. He asked Ms. Searcy for more information about BFZ.

Ms. Searcy stated the goal of BFZ was to include all service providers, government agencies, and those who needed services in sharing data to address community needs. Through implementation of the BFZ model, case conferencing could take place where each specific individual's needs could be met. Currently, there was no way to get 600 people into one building and be able to house and provide services for each one. She described the purchase of land and rapid erection of the building as an incredible feat while recognizing the imperfection of the solution. She said the next step was to incorporate community partners and data sharing to allow people to get housed. Building the campus in the way outlined in the presentation would allow every individual to improve at their own pace and engage with the services recommended specifically for them based on the shared data and a service provider's advice. She hoped to update the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) each month on the progress that was being made, with the goal of seeing the numbers of homeless individuals decrease.

Commissioner Herman felt life and death situations were being ignored, saying landlords were losing properties because they were receiving no help with rental payments. She expressed concern about the burdens being placed on taxpayers and the fact that government-issued money would not last forever. She wondered whether taxpayers would be able to afford this in the future.

Ms. Searcy said the County's team hired numerous subject matter experts, such as Austin Solheim of the Eddy House to help build an outreach team and J.D. Klippenstein from Faith in Action Nevada to work on the housing component. She spoke about other experts they were working with and the needs those collaborations were intended to address. She said the top priority at the NCC needed to be staffing Volunteers of America (VOA), especially in light of the hiring crisis in the area. He anticipated hearing concerns about the cost and sustainability of the campus when it came time for each entity to create its budget. She recognized it was a community effort and the cost was currently very high. Over the following year, they would evaluate efficiency and tag on to other County contracts to reduce some of those costs. This was why the goal was not just to house people long-term at an emergency shelter, but to ensure people were getting housed.

County Manager Eric Brown underscored the importance of creating a financially sustainable model. He pointed out the private sector helped with stages II and III by pledging over \$8 million in capital costs. Secondly, he noted, the County would more aggressively pursue grant funding from the philanthropic community and from government agencies, much of which might not have been available before there was a campus of unified facilities. Additionally, the County was in discussions with managed care providers who had a vested interest in housing the unsheltered populations. He added that, in other areas of the country, those providers made major investments to help with behavioral health and transitional housing for those with medical issues. He assured everyone the County would consider both the expenses and the revenue so the cost would not be borne only by local taxpayers.

Addressing a statement made by a member of the public about inappropriate staff conduct toward the homeless at the facility, Sparks City Attorney Chet Adams opined all three entities could be jointly or separably liable if there were no procedure for investigating similar claims. He asked about the current process for addressing allegations of inappropriate conduct and whether the process would extend both to staff and fellow residents. Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas replied the existing structure for oversight at the NCC was nearly identical to that at the Community Assistance Center; all three jurisdictions would be liable because of their financial contributions and their varying levels of oversight over that facility. She believed there were provisions in the existing interlocal agreement with VOA outlining how people could report wrongdoing. There currently existed a relationship between the operator and the overseeing jurisdictions as well as the individuals at the facility. Things would be put in place should the proposed interlocal agreement pass, but those policies could be strengthened if needed in the future.

Vice Chair Hartung shared the concerns voiced about sustainability. He inquired about the protocols in place to prevent a revolving door for homeless individuals,

and those which would address individuals who were resistant. Ms. Searcy reiterated this was an ever-changing environment. She admitted the local community had experienced that revolving door but that was starting to shift. Ensuring all programs and resources shared the same data would allow each to know which services that person required no matter which facility or provider they visited. She emphasized that extremely low-barrier housing needed to be offered with no questions asked along with education, therapy, and case management. She added the sharing of data would also help explain why certain things did not work and assist staff in considering different methods.

Vice Chair Hartung asked about the consequences for someone was not being held accountable. Ms. Searcy offered to set up a follow-up meeting with the team who was creating the policies. The team was working with VOA to evaluate the policies of Our Place and the safe camp to see what was working best. She said creating hard rules could create barriers and the County did not want to shut the doors on anyone. Vice Chair Hartung remarked everyone lived with hard rules. He wanted to understand the consequences for failing to follow facility protocols. Ms. Searcy responded the safe camp had a few rules about hurting people; failure to follow those rules resulted in the offender not being welcome at the camp. There also was enforcement protocol that people were not allowed to sleep along the river. She felt it was important that everyone had a safe place to be and having no rules would not allow for that. She reiterated the team was discussing how severely rules could be broken before consequences would be enacted and what those consequences might be, all while balancing the possible impacts of turning people away.

Councilmember Reese felt it was myopic to consider expenses in a vacuum since it cost between \$50,000 and \$80,000 a year to support someone experiencing chronic homelessness. Housing reduced the cost by 50 to 70 percent, but there were still healthcare, environmental, and criminal justice costs. He said elected officials had a fiduciary responsibility to safeguard resources, and no one should live on the streets. He believed the question of cost needed to be considered more broadly because the cost of doing nothing was staggering. The processes being put into action by the entities were the financially responsible choices for long-term stability, such as partnering with the community, raising private sector money, and making commitments to a housing-first model. He acknowledged there were up-front costs, but they were a long-term investment which would positively impact people's lives for generations. The goal was to get people into permanent supportive housing, a model which worked elsewhere, and one in which the City of Reno intended to invest. He supported the interlocal agreement as the fiscally responsible thing to do.

Commissioner Hill agreed with Councilmember Reese, adding the community was already paying for the costs today. This proposal would reduce costs for the jail, hospitals, and the tourism industry. Ensuring people had long-term stability and economic freedom showed compassion. She echoed Vice Chair Hartung's questions about how to proceed with people who refused to get into the system. She pointed out other areas, such as a community in Florida, found success coupling enforcement with the offer of services. She thought this would prevent lawlessness in many areas of Washoe County.

Councilmember Jardon expressed curiosity about the programs which would be put in place to ensure different results than what had been done before. She had faith in the Board of County Commissioners and County leadership to make this a success going forward. She appreciated this meeting as it provided the opportunity for everyone to get on the same page. She agreed there needed to be a balance between consequences and incentives, citing the Reno Works Program as one example of a successful balance. Bringing up a prior comment that this program would come at the expense of property owners, she said the federal government allocated \$208 million to the State of Nevada specifically for property owners.

Mayor Schieve opined the consolidation of services saved taxpayers money and was critical. She disputed the belief that putting roofs over people's heads would solve their problems, adding that homeless individuals would still exist in the area and around the country. The failure to address mental health problems and addiction played into that. She felt local jurisdictions had to address these problems without much help at the federal level. She contested the narrative that the program would not be successful if homelessness continued in the area as there would always be people who rejected services. She thought a proactive stance utilizing mental health and addiction services was essential, and jails and emergency rooms should not be used to address those issues.

Mayor Schieve indicated there were many statistics showing that senior populations were on the brink of homelessness, and that would not get better simply because a campus was built. The problem was created by decades of not addressing mental health, and it would continue until that was addressed and people had access to healthcare across the country. She expressed gratitude that the entities were working together and none of them were attributing blame to the others.

Sparks City Mayor Ed Lawson echoed Mayor Schieve's comments and said the State of Nevada had a huge sum of money available, a good portion of which he wished to see go toward addressing mental health. This would help the campus be more successful. He disputed the perception that things were not moving fast enough by pointing out how much had come together in less than a year. He remarked the CHAB would continue to prevent services from becoming siloed, though he expressed frustration that many beds were currently available. He thought this plan was a great start.

Sparks City Councilmember Charlene Bybee expressed pride at the collaboration between the entities and at Ms. Searcy's efforts. She stated one of the top issues around the country was homelessness, and she felt most people did not want to match larger areas like San Francisco and Seattle in terms of per capita homelessness. She agreed mental health issues were important and there were not enough services to treat them. There was no single solution for homelessness, she opined, and people needed to be helped one at a time with wraparound services and follow-up. She mentioned the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engage Team employed by the Sparks Police Department continued to work with people, some of whom required dozens of interactions before agreeing to seek services. She concurred the speed of this process had been fast, and she supported the interlocal agreement. While Washoe County would take the lead, all three entities were dependent

on each other for the success of the program. Eliminating the silos between the agencies and community partners was essential.

Reno City Councilmember Bonnie Weber commented she was grateful for the opportunity to move forward.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

21-0678 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Approval by the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County of Amendment No. 2 as an extension of Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Shelter Operation and Other Homeless Services among the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County; this Amendment will transfer the administrative and financial responsibility for the operation of homeless shelters in Washoe County, Nevada to Washoe County over the term of the Amendment which concludes on June 30, 2022 and outlines a cost sharing structure among the entities for the estimated overall costs for both operating [\$15,630,777] and capital expenditures [\$38,231,250].

County Manager Eric Brown conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Timeline; Roles & Responsibilities; Operating Costs; Capital Costs; Contracts; and Next Steps.

Mr. Brown acknowledged the efforts of City of Reno employees who were able to get the Nevada Cares Campus operational in such a short time, and he looked forward to working with them on the transition. The interlocal agreement being considered would support the transition and cover the operation and funding of homeless resources through July 1, 2022. He noted the tax receipt expenditures percentages were projected to carry forward as they had in the past. He thanked the city managers for working with him to make this happen.

Reno City Mayor Schieve pointed out there were regularly scheduled meetings between the entity managers, mayors, and the chair, and much thought and hard work went into these initiatives. She expressed gratitude to all of them.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Nicholas St. Jon requested an estimate of the total number of people experiencing homelessness in the area, fearing housing for 600 people would not be sufficient. He questioned the amount of money being allocated for staffing and asked about the funding that would be used for phases II and III. He expressed concern about individuals becoming comfortable with the government services offered and not wanting to move on.

Ms. Janet Butcher stated she would compose a letter to Mr. Brown and Housing and Homeless Services Manager Dana Searcy about issues a family member of hers encountered with the Reno Housing Authority (RHA). She questioned how this project

would be funded once relief money due to COVID-19 (C19) was gone, wondering whether mask mandates and vaccines would be tied to the projects. She recommended researching the Delancey Street Foundation as a successful program that taught life skills.

Ms. Victoria Myer echoed the prior speaker's concerns about possible caveats attached to federal funding. She mentioned CODAC Behavior Healthcare in Providence, Rhode Island, saying they enforced the law. Homeless individuals there were then given the option to participate in the program which would help them get off drugs and alcohol and provide them with mental health services. She promoted the documentary *Seattle is Dying* and opined lockdowns contributed to the rise in homelessness.

Ms. Lisa Fleiner stated this meeting was about compassion and long-term commitment to those who could not care for themselves. She spoke against vaccine mandates and passports, comparing the latter to segregation in the south and Germany in the 1930s. She read a passage from the Bible.

Via the Zoom app, Ms. Cindy Martinez brought up C19 expenditure requests made by the City of Reno with which she did not agree, such as the housing that was bought up by Jacobs Entertainment, Inc. displacing seniors, veterans, and those struggling with mental health. The money they received for that displacement, she argued, was insufficient for housing. She placed her faith in Mr. Brown to financially manage the problem.

Mr. Bruce Parks expressed concern on Zoom about spending tens of millions of dollars on 1,200 people. He pointed out State and federal money came from taxpayers, and he thanked the elected officials who specifically mentioned the will of their constituents. He praised how the City of Sparks handled the homeless situation near the Truckee River, saying he would sue each Reno City Councilmember if he felt threatened by any homeless individual. He wished to see consequences for unlawful behavior.

Mr. Paul Larson opined people who ended up homeless were incapable of following instructions, and many suffered from drug addiction. He thought spending money was not the solution and a spiritual aspect was needed. He believed the end of the moratorium on evictions would result in a wave of people who could not afford to pay their rents. He felt low-income individuals were punished to create these programs.

Reno City Councilmember Neoma Jardon praised the following individuals and entities for their work: Mr. Brown, Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas, Sparks City Manager Neil Krutz, Reno City Manager Doug Thornley, Reno City Director of Community Development Arlo Stockham, Reno City Senior Management Analyst Cynthia Esparza, Reno City Housing Manager Monica Cochran, Volunteers of America and its Regional Director Pat Cashell, Grant Denton with Karma Box, the RHA, Northern Nevada Hopes, Chris Askin with Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, and the members of the Community Homelessness Advisory Board.

Reno City Councilmember Brekhus said she was happy to support the motion as it reflected the hard work of many people. She said she did not vote for the master agreement or four of its predecessors because she believed the County needed to be the lead on this issue since they spent the most money on it. She mentioned she had due process concerns about the requirement that the City of Reno issue a special use permit. While she had concerns about the congregate nature of the facility, it would become the County's responsibility, which she thought was a good distinction. The most significant thing this would allow the City of Reno to do, she said, was manage space and focus on housing since they were the lead agency on the home consortium. She felt this proposal dealt more with social services, freeing up the city to address the housing affordability crisis.

The Reno City Council voted to approve the interlocal agreement.

Councilmember Jardon commended Ms. Searcy and Assistant City Manager Jackie Bryant for their work, as well as all leaders who supported it all along. Mayor Schieve said nothing could be done without the incredible staffs of all three agencies. She lauded Amy Jones with the RHA, Bill Thomas and the Regional Transportation Commission, and Alex Stettinski and the Reno Downtown Business Improvement District.

Sparks City Councilmember Kristopher Dahir said this would be a foundation to serve some of the most vulnerable people in the community. He stressed the need for volunteers, saying churches and non-profit organizations were great at showing people dignity.

The Sparks City Council voted to approve the interlocal agreement.

Commissioner Jung expressed pride in the city mayors and the Board, declaring this as the proudest moment of her 14 years as an elected official. She believed the current Board of County Commissioners was the best one she ever worked with, adding similar praise to the Sparks and Reno City Councils. She lauded Councilmember Jardon for working hard against difficult odds and thanked the Reno City Council for allowing the County take the lead. She promised that the Board would not let anyone down in overseeing the transient care within this community.

Chair Lucey thanked Commissioner Hill for her due diligence and commitment during her tenure, as well as the Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County.

For the Board of County Commissioners, on motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Vice Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Herman voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

Mayor Schieve commended Commissioner Jung for her continued fight for the people, adding the commissioner was the longest-serving elected official present. She

described this meeting as a testament to the great working relationships they all had and their ability to put differences aside for the people of the community. Everyone had something to be proud of today, she stated.

Councilmember Dahir echoed Mayor Schieve's gratitude to Commissioner Jung for helping plant the seeds of this work years before. He looked forward to the future.

21-0679 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Public Comment.

Mr. Stewart Handte was called but was not present to speak. A woman named Lisa was also called but was not present.

Ms. Julie Osburn expressed disappointment because she felt none of the public commenters' questions were answered, such as how many homeless individuals there were in the region. She encouraged everyone to watch *Seattle is Dying*, saying their outcome was great because they allowed law enforcement to do their job. She alleged masks would not keep out COVID-19 (C19) particles and requested a resolution banning mask mandates, vaccine passports, and mandatory vaccines.

Ms. Victoria Myer expressed dismay that the elected officials did not discuss comments made by the public. She asked them to enact a ban on vaccine passports, which she said promoted segregation. She played an audio clip of a Bill Gates TED Talk, claiming he was thrown out of India for experimenting with vaccines.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon requested the number of homeless individuals before the pandemic. He alleged the pandemic was political and those who implemented lockdowns needed to take responsibility for putting many people on the streets. He requested resolutions banning vaccine passports, mandatory vaccines, and mask mandates. He showed a picture of a fast food drive-through, indicating workers were no longer taking jobs because they were being subsidized.

Ms. Janet Butcher reminded everyone August 31 was Drug Overdose Awareness Day, and she asked that the borders be closed to stop the influx of fentanyl.

Via the Zoom app, Ms. Cindy Martinez articulated her support for County Manager Eric Brown and his plan, though she expressed dissatisfaction with the reliance on federal money. She felt a state of emergency was no longer necessary and agreed with other commenters' stances on vaccine passports and the C19 vaccine. She spoke against the decision of two local businesses to require masks.

Mr. Bruce Parks urged the entities not to squander money. He predicted the Nevada Cares Campus would fail, citing the rise in homelessness around the country. He felt most homeless individuals suffered from poor life choices and helping them should not be a burden on the taxpayers. He thought care should be given to those who could no longer manage themselves, but help should not be given to those who did not work.

* * * * *

12:08 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

BOB LUCEY, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Derek Sonderfan, Deputy County Clerk*