



**CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
SUMMARY MINUTES**

December 3, 2024  
4:00 p.m., Council Chambers,  
2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North,  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Website - <http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com>

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Chairman Acosta** called the meeting into order at 4:05 P.M.

**WELCOME**

**Chairman Acosta** welcomed all in attendance.

**VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW**

**City Clerk Jackie Rodgers** confirmed compliance with Open Meeting Law.

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman Acosta  
Vice Chairman Swaney  
Member Alpert  
Member Cato  
Member May-Noel  
Member Henderson  
Member Koury

**STAFF PRESENT**

Director Community Services and Engagement Wilson Ramos  
Housing and Neighborhood Services Manager Rick Damian  
Neighborhood Services Coordinator Jaini Christison  
Deputy City Attorney II Madison Zornes-Vela  
City Clerk Jackie Rodgers  
Deputy City Clerk Lead Daisy Rivera  
Deputy City Clerk Kim Schooley

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - BY INVITATION**

Led By **Chairman Acosta**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**Chairman Acosta** opened the meeting to receive public comment. No comments received.

**AGENDA**

- 1. Citizens’ Advisory Committee Regular Meeting of December 3, 2024. (For Possible Action; Recommendation – Approve)

**MOTION:** *Member Alpert moved and Vice Chairperson Swaney second the motion approving the agenda as presented.*

**ACTION: APPROVED**

**AYES:** 7

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSTAIN:** 0

**BUSINESS**

- 2. Applicant Presentations for FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). (For Discussion Only)
  - A. YMCA of Southern Nevada – Program: SkyView YMCA Early Childhood Education (CDBG).

**Development Coordinator Jordan May of YMCA of Southern Nevada** presented for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The YMCA movement has an ongoing 180-year heritage in the United States, with 80 years of impact in Southern Nevada, serving over 60,000 individuals annually through its many programs.

**Member Alpert** asked how the money requested on the application will be spent and **Mr. May** stated a majority of the funds will go directly towards subsidizing seats for the YMCA preschool with a small amount going towards administrative staffing. **Member Alpert** also asked what type of qualifications do the staff working directly with children have and if they are fully staffed. **Mr. May** stated the Early Learning Village is fully staffed and the Lead Teachers in each of four classrooms have at a minimum a bachelor's in education. The remaining teachers have an opportunity to continue their education through YMCA sponsored programs.

**Member May** asked about the classroom sizes and if the YMCA Early Childhood Education program receives any other subsidies. **Mr. May** confirmed the class sizes are 20 children per classroom and ages are three (3) through five (5). He also stated subsidies are received from additional partners to cover operational costs and confirmed they collaborated with Urban League.

B. Volunteers in Medicine - Program: Health Safety Net Program(CDBG).

**Volunteer and Human Resources Director Danait Fessahaie for Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada** presented for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada was established in 2010 and provides free care to underserved populations, undocumented or uninsured, and low-income individuals. Their vision is to ensure that every man, woman and child in Southern Nevada has access to health care in a culture of compassionate care.

**Member Alpert** asked where the grant money would be used and **Ms. Fessahaie** stated the money would be used for medications such as insulin, increased staffing, equipment, lab services and screening services.

**Member May** asked if the services were offered in-house and **Ms. Fessahaie** said that they were.

**Member Alpert** inquired whether staffing levels have remained consistent over the past few years. **Ms. Fessahaie** stated that staffing levels have increased due to adding an obstetrics program. She also stated about 90% of their staff is volunteers.

**Neighborhood Services Coordinator Jaini Christison** inquired as to whether the organization is using dental students and **Ms. Fessahaie** confirmed that they were, but there is also a dentist on staff.

C. The Salvation Army - Program: Career Corner (CDBG) and Homeless Prevention (ESG).

**Director of Business Lavonne Lewis for the Salvation Army** presented for the Homeless Prevention Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) along with **Vocational and Housing Services Coordinator Shahira Thomas, Grant Writer Corey Fuqua and Clark County Coordinator Major Harold Laubach**. The Salvation Army proudly serves individuals and families of all backgrounds, regardless of race, religion, or orientation, ensuring that help is available to those who need it most.

**Member May** asked about the types of housing and assistance the Salvation Army intends to fund with the grant. **Ms. Lewis** replied that the funding would be used for new clients for either rental of an apartment or a house or mortgage, depending on the client's situation.

**Vice Chairman Swaney** asked whether the Salvation Army plans to assist the seven families throughout the next year. **Ms. Lewis** stated no unless they utilized a different program.

**Member Cato** asked how many families and the family size this grant would support. **Ms. Lewis** responded that at least seven families would benefit from the grant funds and that there is not a cap on family size.

**Member Henderson** asked how long a family is supported and **Ms. Lewis** replied a family is typically supported for two to three months with the Homeless Prevention program.

**Lavonne Lewis, Shahira Thomas, Corey Fuqua, and Harold Laubach** presented for the Career Corner Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

**Member Henderson** asked how the Salvation Army works with individuals with barriers such as a criminal history. **Ms. Lewis** stated organizations are available to help remove or expunge criminal records. She stated they work with Hope for Prisoners and have an Employment Navigator on campus to work with these individuals.

D. The Just One Project - Program: Pop Up & Give Mobile Market (CDBG) and Homeless Prevention (ESG).

**Senior Executive Director of Revenue Tristan Hightower for the Just One Project** presented for the Pop Up & Give Mobile Market Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The Just One Project founded in 2014 with the mission to increase access to food resources and supportive services to build a stronger, healthier, and more connected community. Community Connect initiative includes homeless prevention services, community housing programs, workforce development, and youth leadership programs.

**Vice Chairman Swaney** asked how individuals in need learn about the Pop Up & Give Mobile Markets. **Ms. Hightower** stated that word about the markets is spread through word of mouth, social media, and referrals from other agencies. **Vice Chairperson Swaney** asked how the grant funding would be spent. **Ms. Hightower** replied stating funds would be spent to help support the staff to provide the case management and the supportive services that are married with the food purchase.

**Member Alpert** asked about the donation the Just One Project received recently from United Healthcare and **Ms. Hightower** confirmed it was a grant dedicated to certain programs that would not overlap with the CDBG or ESG programs. **Member Alpert** also asked if there was still a pantry at Mojave high School and **Ms. Hightower** confirmed.

**Member Koury** inquired as to how an individual's need is determined. **Ms. Hightower** stated through an intake process to see if their need is something that would be better addressed with a lower intensity service first.

**Grants and Gifts Manager Victoria Davis for the Just One Project** presented for the Homeless Prevention Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

**Member May** asked whether any of the grant funds would be used for mortgage assistance and rapid rehousing. **Ms. Davis** stated mortgage assistance would be offered and their intention is to keep families housed.

**Member Alpert** asked about fund matching and **Ms. Davis** said they have a gift to support the staff time that would be providing the case management and community navigation and that funding will be used as a matching fund.

**Vice Chairperson Swaney** mentioned he was on the Committee that granted \$40,000 last year to the Just One Project and that amount supported 11 households. He questioned why that same amount is requested for this year, that only six households would be supported. **Ms. Davis** stated that last year the funding was used as a one-time assistance, whereas this year the funds will be used to support the households for one to three months, depending on the household needs.

E. Nevada Partners, Inc. - Program: Homeless Prevention (ESG).

**Acting President Lizette Collins for Nevada Partners, Inc.** presented for the Homeless Prevention Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). Nevada Partners, Inc. has distinguished itself as a workforce leader and a youth service provider for nearly three decades and is still passionately committed to being able to meet the common need of the community, creating opportunities for families by simultaneously equipping students and parents with cradle to career continuum of care and propelling the community towards economic success and long-term economic stability.

**Member May** asked if the grant funds would be used for mortgage assistance. **Ms. Collins** stated not for this project, but they do have other programs that offer that assistance.

**Member Alpert** asked whether an assigned case manager works with the party/family, as they are clients. **Ms. Collins** said it varies; however, that they do have a designated case manager that focuses with the families. Other wraparound services are available.

F. Lighthouse Charities Inc. - Program: Workforce Summary (CDBG).

**Founder and CEO Cindy Trussell of Lighthouse Charities, Inc.** presented for the Workforce Summary Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Lighthouse Charities, Inc. serves a large population of refugees that come to the Las Vegas Valley through legal resettlement programs.

**Member Alpert** confirmed the food pantry is located at the Cheyenne address and asked if the Rose Creek Farm is located in North Las Vegas. **Ms. Trussell** said it is located about a block west of the border on Decatur. **Member Alpert** asked what type of training the grant funds would be used. **Ms. Trussell** stated the majority of it would be used for workforce training programs for 12 individuals.

**Member May** asked if the City of North Las Vegas has ever funded Lighthouse Charities, Inc. in the past and **Ms. Trussell** said no.

**Member Alpert** stated that Lighthouse Charities, Inc. tried to get grant funding from the City of North Las Vegas in the past, but there may have been an issue with the application. He then asked if a Grant Coordinator was working with the organization now and **Ms. Trussell** confirmed a Grant Coordinator had been hired.

**ACTION: DISCUSSED**

## STAFF COMMENTS

**Neighborhood Services Coordinator Jaini Christison** shared that she reached out to all of the applicants to get access with regards to the Bus Tour in January. Many applicants are not open on Saturdays so a weekday will need to be scheduled. She will send a Doodle Poll to the Committee for scheduling.

**Director Community Services and Engagement Wilson Ramos** thanked all of the nonprofits that have applied to serve the community.

## COMMITTEE COMMENTS

**Member Koury** shared that he felt not all of the information provided in the grant applications answered all of his questions, specifically with regards to the matching funds for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) applications. **Neighborhood Services Coordinator Jaini Christison** said she would review all the applications and provide clarification.

**Member May** stated she also had similar questions on the grant applications. She also feels that residents will lose ownership to corporations if the City does not support those who have mortgages. **Ms. Christison** explained that most ESG programs are not focused on home ownership support, as many people do not qualify based on income. That is why rental assistance seems to be a stronger component in regards to ESG funding.

**Member Alpert** asked **City Clerk Jackie Rodgers** how the oath of office would be handled for the newly appointed and reappointed individuals to the Citizens Advisory Committee. **Ms. Rodgers** said she would contact the appointed individuals after the City Council makes their decisions at their December 4, 2024 Regular Meeting to schedule orientations and oaths. Finally, **Member Alpert** reminded the grant applicants that the requested amount is larger than the funds available and to be aware that they may not receive the full amount they have requested.

**Member May** inquired whether applicants were aware before applying that the full amount requested may not be awarded. **Ms. Christison** confirmed that not only is it in the directions, it is also posted on the application.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

**Chairman Acosta** opened the meeting to receive public comment. No comments received.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Chairman Acosta** adjourned the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 P.M.

## **CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the foregoing are true and correct minutes of the City of North Las Vegas Citizens' Advisory Committee Regular Meeting held on December 3, 2024. I further certify that a quorum was present.

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Jackie Rodgers, City Clerk