

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Eighty-Second Session
February 10, 2023**

The Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair Selena Torres at 9:04 a.m. on Friday, February 10, 2023, in Room 3143 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda [[Exhibit A](#)], the Attendance Roster [[Exhibit B](#)], and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Chair
Assemblywoman Bea Duran, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Max Carter
Assemblyman Rich DeLong
Assemblyman Reuben D'Silva
Assemblywoman Cecelia González
Assemblyman Bert Gurr
Assemblyman Brian Hibbetts
Assemblyman Gregory Koenig
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblyman Duy Nguyen
Assemblywoman Angie Taylor
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst
Asher Killian, Committee Counsel
Judi Bishop, Committee Manager



Dylan Small, Committee Secretary
Lindsey Howell, Committee Secretary
Cheryl Williams, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wesley Harper, Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities
Lori Bagwell, Mayor, City of Carson City; and President, Nevada League of Cities
and Municipalities
Joseph P. Hardy, Mayor, City of Boulder City
Taylour Tedder, City Manager, City of Boulder City
Randy Robison, Director, Government and Community Affairs, City of Las Vegas
Lisa Morris Hibbler, Chief Community Services Officer, City of Las Vegas
Olivia Diaz, Councilwoman, Ward 3, City of Las Vegas
Nic Ciccone, Legislative Relations Program Manager, City of Reno
Devon Reese, Vice Mayor, City of Reno
Doug Thornley, City Manager, City of Reno
Ed Lawson, Mayor, City of Sparks
Alyson McCormick, Assistant City Manager, City of Sparks

Chair Torres:

[Meeting was called to order, roll was taken, and protocols were reviewed.] Today we have a pretty packed agenda, but at least we do not have floor this morning. Today we will go ahead and begin our presentations with the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities with the Executive Director, Wesley Harper.

Wesley Harper, Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities:

It is a great honor to be in front of this Committee. I have high esteem for the Chair and this Committee and the Vice Chair. Thank you very much for the privilege. Joining me at the table is the President of the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities for 2023, Mayor Lori Bagwell for the City of Carson City.

Just as an overview of how the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities fits into the national scheme, there are 49 state leagues around the country [[Exhibit C](#)]. Each state has a state municipal league of cities. They are all called something slightly different. Every state has one except for the state of Hawaii. The National League of Cities is the national organization that was formed in 1924 by state leagues. It is not a situation in which there was a national organization that developed chapters. It is a situation in which the state leagues decided that they wanted a premier federal advocacy organization. Together they created the National League of Cities. The Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities was created on October 30, 1959, at the time with the 16 incorporated cities in Nevada. Today we have 25 member municipalities. This includes every incorporated municipality in the state. There are 19, plus 2 towns and 4 general improvement districts. We are governed by a board of directors, which includes one member on our board of directors from each member municipality. This is the governing authority of the League. We also have an

executive board that is composed of seven members. These positions are elected by the board of directors every year. This acts as the supervising authority of the League. As I mentioned, Mayor Lori Bagwell is our current president for 2023.

What guides the Nevada League of Cities since last year is the One Nevada Plan. Here is a little context on that. The One Nevada Plan is the action plan, the implementation plan that came from a strategic plan that was ratified by the board of directors on January 31, 2022. It has four main components. The first is advocacy on behalf of our member municipalities at the state and federal level. The second is communication, making sure that we have bilateral communication with each of our members to understand what their priorities are and how to best partner with them and advance those priorities. Third, we have education. Education means training programs, professional development and orientation and the like. The last is economic development. We are not an economic development organization. Our goal is to help to increase the communication between regional development authorities, the Governor's Office of Economic Development and our member municipalities. I was selected as executive director on March 1, 2020, so two and a half weeks before lockdown. My first session was our last session where essentially the building was closed up until five weeks before the end. This is my first real session. Christine Johnson was hired by the League on February 1, 2022, and now serves as our deputy director. More information about each member of our board of directors, the members of the executive board, the city clerks, and the city managers can all be found on our website at nvleague.com.

I am excited to be able to share a couple of things. I have had conversations with several legislators about things we talk about all the time within our member municipalities. I am sure that a few of you and maybe all of you have heard that Nevada is a Dillon's Rule state. On the other side of the scale, there is home rule as a way of defining a relationship between states and political subdivisions. I just want to talk to you a little bit about that balance and where we are. Essentially, Dillon's Rule is named after Iowa Supreme Court Justice John F. Dillon. This was based upon a philosophy in a case that was settled by the United States Supreme Court in 1868. The idea was there was a lot of corruption existing at the local government level in the 1860s that justified states being the body that is essentially in charge of governmental action and authority in each state. The corruption at the time was that there was a patronage-based awarding of utility franchises. Those that led local governments gave utility franchises to their friends and family. There was also the deliberate creation and dissolution of municipalities and local governments in order to avoid paying debts on bonds that those local governments would secure. This is certainly something that is not a normal practice. It is not a practice of local governments here today in 2023.

On the other side of the spectrum is home rule. Home rule in its highest form is constitutionally mandated. It looks to basically replicate the relationship between states and the federal government on the local level, where the local government would have the autonomy to govern and to tax and to provide services in the same way that states do with respect to the federal government. We refer to Nevada as a Dillon's Rule state, but we are actually someplace in the middle. Nevada certainly is not pure Dillon's Rule. It is certainly not pure home rule. Local governments have been given the right in

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) to take care of matters of local concern. What local governments do not have the right to do in Nevada is to have taxing authority. However, matters that are important for making sure that we have the kind of resources and governance necessary in order to meet the needs of our constituents is something that is protected by NRS 268.001. We can get into the details of that if there are questions. Local concern is defined in that statute.

The services that local government provides are really the services that help define what civilization is. If you consider the partnerships between the counties and the cities, everything from health care, to road maintenance, to social services, to education is under the responsibility and authority of local governments. There is a lot of time and effort put into trying to figure out the best balance of resources in each one of these categories in order to ensure the best life for the residents of these political subdivisions.

This leads to the implications of unfunded mandates and state preemptions when we are looking to define what our budgets and priorities are and making sure that we provide the services necessary in order to create the best and highest quality of life for our residents. It is not possible for us to also consider what unfunded mandates may or may not come from the state. I am asking that we take great care before we move forward with asking cities and counties and other political subdivisions to take on responsibilities that are not currently in our budget because what it does is forces some difficult decisions on our part. This can lead into a conversation about how political subdivisions, specifically cities and municipalities and counties, receive money. This could lead into a discussion about our property tax law and whether the way property tax is defined in Nevada is really the most efficient and effective way for us to be able to serve our constituents. For state partnership, it is certainly not my assertion that all good ideas on what happens at the local level come from our municipalities or from the counties or other political subdivisions. Certainly, this body generates great ideas in that space as well. What we are asking for is partnership discussion so that we can help define and explain the implications of any statutes or ideas that are coming from this body.

I do not want to suggest that that is not happening, because it is. The Chair has set up weekly meetings with the Nevada Association of Counties and the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities in order to make sure that she understands what the implications are of not only legislation that we are proposing, but legislation that is coming from other sponsors. The Speaker has set up a weekly meeting that includes not only the Nevada Association of Counties and the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities, but all local government concerns that allows him to have greater insights into the same. What are the implications of the proposed legislations? What are the implications of the legislation that we are seeking to advance?

Before this Legislature, the League has proposed five bills. One is Assembly Bill 5. This deals with unfunded mandates. It has been submitted to this body. What this bill would seek to do is to create an accountability and an accounting for any unfunded mandates that are passed from the Legislature. This will look back over the last ten years to see what unfunded

mandates have been and then setting up a way to account for them going forward. The second is Assembly Bill 58, the air service development bill. This has been submitted to the Ways and Means Committee. This is about creating the kind of support from the state to ensure that we have commercial air service between and among the three economic generating areas of the state: southern Nevada, Clark County; northern Nevada, Washoe County, Reno-Sparks; as well as northeastern Nevada, Elko County. Assembly Bill 60 is also before this body. This has to do with creating a more efficient notice process around neighborhood improvement districts. Assembly Bill 61 is about vote canvassing. This has been submitted to the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections. This has to do with how we can make sure that we have efficiency with respect to canvassing the vote between the cities and the counties. Then Senate Bill 11 is on expanded drone authority. This will be in front of the Senate Committee on Growth and Infrastructure. This is about clarifying and making specific the authority that political subdivisions have to use drones for inspections for buildings and licensing. Before I turn it on over to the Committee for any questions, may we have a few moments for President Bagwell to give some remarks? Thank you, Madam Chair.

Lori Bagwell, Mayor, City of Carson City; and President, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities:

I just want to start off with a hearty "good morning." Let us start that beautiful day in Carson City. I am Lori Bagwell, Mayor of Carson City and President of the League of Cities. Thank you so much for the opportunity to address all of you this morning.

We look forward to working with you to provide needed government services to all of the same constituents. We are all the same people. It is my hope that we will work hand in hand as we both endeavor to do the right thing. I received tons of phone calls and have had many grocery store discussions about things that the people of Carson City would like me to do as mayor. It is difficult to say no, but our board must prioritize what is in the best interest of the community at large. There is not enough money to do it all. Just look at my potholes and you will understand. I know this is the same for all of you. We set our budgets annually and are completed with the task before you adjourn. It is very difficult for us to react to legislation that passes with unfunded mandates. I know that all of the Nevada governments truly want to comply with the laws that you pass. It is sometimes so very difficult because, again, we have already completed our budget cycle. We are forced to either cut our budgets or to not comply. It puts us in a really tough spot. When we have done our budget, I feel like I have already made a commitment to the residents that I serve, and they are expecting us to do what we said in our plan. It is very difficult when the plan shifts on us, but we are getting used to that too. We also sometimes are forced to increase the workload on our employees. We do not have any more money to implement something. We ask all of those that currently work for us to do more. Just do a little bit more.

What I am asking here today is if you will partner with us to work together to meet all the needs of the Nevadans that we have, but also that we do this hand in hand and that we try not to disrupt the budget processes of the local governments and the workloads of our employees. I understand the Chair is having meetings weekly. I think that is wonderful.

That is how we can do things together. We can really look at the impact of a piece of legislation, and maybe sometimes it is as simple as changing the implementation date. Thank you all so very much for being here today, and if there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Chair Torres:

Thank you, Mr. Harper, and thank you, Mayor Bagwell. Obviously, we enjoy coming up to your city at least once every two years, but often more times than that. Thank you so much for hosting us. With that I will go ahead and open up the floor for questions.

Assemblyman Koenig:

This is more of a statement than a question, but having been a school board trustee and a county commissioner, I have personally seen the devastating effects of unfunded mandates, and I can definitely support you in this.

Assemblywoman González:

I am curious to learn about your program to train newly and local elected officials. Could you tell me more about that?

Wesley Harper:

When it comes to training, there are a couple of aspects. The one that is probably on your mind the most was probably talked about by the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) in their presentation just the other day. The League's commitment is to work in partnership with NACO in order to make sure that not only are we creating the best environment for learning in governance and strength in governance, but also to create personal relationships so that counties and cities and municipalities work well together. On February 3 and 4, we had the first joint training orientation and symposium at University of Nevada, Reno's Redfield campus for two days. Many of the people that are here in the audience participated in that training. The idea was that those that have been newly elected and those that have been serving for a period of years could get a real indoctrination into the mechanisms and the ideas and the concepts that they will be using in governing and to make sure that members, especially the newly elected, can govern as part of a single body. They are no longer in the campaign, where it was, These are all the things that I am going to accomplish. What you quickly learn once you have been elected is that it is, This is what the body has decided that is in the best interest of residents.

This training is going to be an annual training in December. We also have a League retreat in June where we will have leadership development. At our annual conference in August, we will also have professional development and leadership development components. All this is a subset of a larger movement that the League and NACO are working on jointly in order to bring together five major universities in Nevada to form the Nevada Local Government Institute that will include University of Nevada, Reno, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, College of Southern Nevada, Nevada State College, and the Desert Research Institute. We are getting some guidance and tutelage from more established programs in the East, from the

University of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association, as well as the University of North Carolina and the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

This is all to create a larger framework in which not only are we providing more context and information around governance, but to ask, How do we have cutting edge thinking on policies? Where do we bring research into it? How can we involve the students at a younger level and get them excited about working in government? How can their ideas about how to solve municipal issues be put forth to city councils? A city council can hear the same information from a student, and it is going to sound different to them than if they hear from either the League or one of their constituents. That is just a little bit. I can certainly talk a lot more on it, but I appreciate the question.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

My question is actually a trivial question. I am looking through the history of the organization and the first bullet statement says 49 state municipalities are in the League, but not Hawaii. The first thing that pops in my mind is, Why?

Wesley Harper:

I lived in Hawaii for about five years, and I will say that they are, frankly, a different culture than the rest of the country. They are absolutely a state and absolutely included, but the way they view themselves, at least in my estimation, is very much different from how we view ourselves here on the mainland, which is how they refer to what is happening here in the contiguous 48 states. The population center of Hawaii is on the island of Oahu. The island of Oahu has both the City and County of Honolulu taking up the entire square footage of that island. Hawaii has about three million people. Two-thirds of them live on that one island. They have not felt that the National League of Cities and those priorities are something that is a real contribution to them. It is cultural. From my understanding and in my experience there, it is not an ideological difference, not a philosophical difference, but they feel very much isolated from what is happening on the mainland. They certainly have strong advocates in Congress and their senators and members of the House of Representatives are very vocal, but that part of the American experience seems very much out of touch for the people who are living on the islands.

Chair Torres:

Are there any other questions from the Committee? All right, thank you so much. I appreciate your presentation, Mayor Bagwell. Mr. Harper, it is always good to see you. Our next presentation for today is going to be one of our former colleagues, current Boulder City Mayor Joe Hardy and City Manager Taylour Tedder. Mayor Hardy, welcome back to the Legislative Building. I know it is not hard or difficult for you to come back and return home.

Joseph P. Hardy, Mayor, City of Boulder City:

I appreciate being here and being before you and your Committee. I appreciate the experience that your Committee has already and, obviously, the experience that you are going to gain. My last two children were born in Boulder City. We have been there for

40 years. I have had the opportunity to be a family doctor there and appreciate the people that live in Boulder City.

We talk about Boulder City in terms of single words: the dam, the railroad, the railroad museum, Lake Mead, the hospital, the solar fields, the power generation. It is really the people. The people of Boulder City who are much like all the people in the state of Nevada. It really comes down to the people—who they are and what they do.

I became a leader of a faith-based organization when I was first in Boulder City. I had my first experience in Boulder City with a family. I was called down to Lake Mead, and if you have been to Lake Mead, you see campgrounds and people who are staying there. I was apprised of a family that was there, and I went down and found a family with several children and a mother and a father. They were having lunch. The lunch consisted of a jar of peanut butter, and they were eating it with a spoon out of the jar. That was typical of our homeless population. I put together a group of people who cared, and we got a tire for their car from the tire shop there in Boulder City because they could not go anywhere without a tire. We got them fed, and we got them taken care of by the people of Boulder City.

My wife and I, before I came up, were talking about the homeless and she said, "Who do we call?" That is the Ghostbuster question, "Who do we call?" The obvious question is, do you call the police? Well, they are not breaking any laws. What do the police do? The police do not arrest them and throw them in jail, so what do we do? That is where the people come in to play. I asked our city manager, who is next to me. I said, "What do we do?" He said a very poignant thing. He said, "We help them." The City of Boulder City has a way to call the nonemergency number for the police department, 293-9224, in order to get emergency aid and contact the other organizations, faith-based organizations and other organizations of people who care.

One of the beauties of Boulder City is that it is filled with people who care. That is my observation. We can talk about the Parks and Recreation department; we can talk about the credit union. We can talk about all the wonderful things that are happening in Boulder City, and I will let Taylour Tedder list and enumerate everything. It really comes down to the people. We in Boulder City love to partner with the other municipalities and Clark County as well as have input into the state of Nevada. I am thrilled with the opportunity to serve, thrilled with the opportunity to testify before you, and I would be happy to let our city manager elucidate all the other things that we do in Boulder City.

Taylour Tedder, City Manager, City of Boulder City:

The Mayor's and my goal today is to share a little bit about our community and educate you as to why it is a unique and integral part of Nevada.

Boulder City is historically significant to the development of our state. The Boulder Canyon Project Act, which was signed by President Coolidge in 1928, authorized the construction of Hoover Dam just as the Great Depression was beginning [\[Exhibit D\]](#). Construction was set to start in 1931, and 5,000 families came to work on the project. Boulder City was built to

house the workers. The Bureau of Reclamation held title to all of the land, and the federal government essentially owned Boulder City at that time. The construction was completed in 1936, almost two years ahead of schedule. In 1958 the federal government transferred ownership of Boulder City's government, which incorporated in January of 1960. At the time, the city covered approximately 33 square miles, which is one-sixth the size that our city is today.

Boulder City is unique compared to the rest of Nevada. We have various charter amendments which keep the city much like it was in its early days. Since incorporation, gambling has always been prohibited. We are one of only two cities in Nevada that prohibit gambling, which also means that we received no gaming revenue. Voters adopted a ballot initiative in 1979 for growth control. We are only allowed to build 120 homes per year, which has kept growth limited, and even negative in the past 40 years. While Boulder City acquired 167 square miles of former federal land in 1995, the voters in 1997 restricted how the city can dispose of that land. While we have the largest number of square miles in Nevada, most of it does remain undeveloped as conservation lands. The voters have to approve any time that we sell land over one acre. The city also has a limit on our debt obligations. We are essentially a "pay as you go" community. We have to go out to the voters to ask to take out any debt over \$1 million.

To my right is Mayor Joe Hardy. Last year, the voters elected longtime Boulder City resident Dr. Joe Hardy as mayor. Many of you might know him from his days as a State of Nevada Assemblyman and Senator. Although the role of mayor is nonpartisan in nature, I have heard that Dr. Hardy is well respected and willing to work with his colleagues on either side of the aisle. We are truly fortunate to have someone with his expertise and character leading.

Our city council members include Mayor Pro-Tem Sherry Jorgensen, a former schoolteacher; Councilwoman Cokie Booth, a local Realtor; Councilman Matt Fox, a local restaurateur; and Councilman Steve Walton, a former City of Henderson fire deputy chief [page 5, [Exhibit D](#)]. Our appointed officials include myself, and then we have our city clerk, Tami McKay. Brittany Lee Walker is our city attorney who spent considerable time here in Carson City over the past decade. Our recently elected President of the Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction Association, the Honorable Victor Miller, is our municipal judge [page 6].

The city has a strategic plan that was adopted in 2018 [page 7]. This is a five-year plan, and we are actually ahead of schedule and incredibly close to achieving all five goals. Some of the strategies in financial stewardship include diversification of revenues through grants, ensuring that our reserves are above the statutory 16.67 percent for our general fund and 20 percent for all other funds, maximization of funding for outside sources related to infrastructure, and other items of that nature. If you have any questions related to our general fund revenues, you will notice that property taxes only make up 5 percent of our revenues [page 8]. Intergovernmental revenues account for a third of our revenue and most of that comes from the CTAX, the consolidated tax and rents and royalties, the majority of which comes from our land leases for solar, which makes up about a third of our revenue as well.

Our general fund revenues are approximately \$42 million, but with all funds, the city operates on about \$134 million.

Here is a little bit about our organization. We have 355 employees across ten different departments [page 9]. Many of our buildings were given to us in 1960 and are still in use today. While they are historic in value and very beautiful, we do have a number of challenges with the facilities, specifically accessibility. We have been really trying to increase our Americans with Disabilities Act improvements to make sure that our residents of all abilities can utilize our facilities. City Hall was built in 1931 and our police department also was built around that time, and it used the same concrete that they used on the dam. It makes it very difficult to make adjustments and walls and things of that nature. It is very strong.

Our staffing does include eight collective bargaining units, and that includes the Teamsters Local 14. We have two Boulder City Police labor unions and the International Association of Fire Fighters union. We are home to 17 parks, 1 swimming pool, and 2 city-owned golf courses. Our police department has 37 sworn officers and more than a dozen support staff. We have our own 911 dispatch center that handles all of our calls for police and fire response. Our police departments really work hard to sustain critical staffing levels. I think that is in large part to our strong recruiting and retention efforts, but it has been a national trend that it is difficult to get people to want to be police officers. We have really tried very hard on that. We also do maintain a low crime rate. As you can see, compared to the state and national trends, we are much, much lower [page 10, [Exhibit D](#)].

Our fire department responded to over 2,600 calls last year, and we have experienced quite an increase in calls, about a 25 percent increase in overall calls for service and 21 percent increase in emergency medical services calls [page 11]. That is 7 percent higher than the five-year average. We did recently launch a new business community AED/CPR [automated external defibrillators/cardiopulmonary resuscitation] program utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. We have been able to place automated external defibrillators across our entire downtown business community so that if anyone is experiencing a medical event that requires an AED, we have them. We also are working to build a substation. We have one fire station, so this would be essentially a second fire station to serve about 35 percent of our community on the lake side of our community, to get them within the nationally accepted standard for response times. That specifically would play into our aging population. If they are having a heart attack or something of that nature, we can get to them in time.

We have four different schools in Boulder City, and they are part of the Clark County School District [page 12]. Nearly a quarter of students do identify their race as something other than white. Nearly 27 percent of our students fall within the federal guidelines that would qualify them for free and reduced lunch, which this year is actually available district-wide for any student under the community eligibility provisions.

While our city holds that small town, old-fashioned charm, it is very important to note that our residents do skew older. This data does give us a good look at our population [page 13].

We have about 15,000 residents, compared to Clark County's 2.2 million, and our median age is 52.7 years old, compared to Clark County's median age of 37.5. Additionally, 29 percent of our residents are over 65, and half of our adults are in the workforce; 10 percent of our residents have been in the armed forces. You are probably wondering why these numbers are important. What does that mean? About a third of our residents live on fixed incomes [page 14]. We have agencies like Emergency Aid of Boulder City which provides rent and utility assistance. Lend A Hand provides rides to seniors and those with limited mobility, and we have the Senior Center of Boulder City. They all receive support from the city, and we have provided ARPA funds to them to support their efforts.

We are working on affordable housing [page 15]. For many years, the city council has approved the transfer of our bond volume cap to the Nevada Rural Housing Authority. That supports affordable housing projects across the state. Last year, the city council transferred that bond volume cap to Volunteers of America, which converted an existing assisted living facility into new, affordable, senior housing apartments. We also have a developer that is in the process of developing an affordable senior living facility in Boulder City. They are proposing a total of over 180 units, and they will be pursuing federal low-income housing tax credits. While we have a growth control ordinance which limits the number of residential units to be built in the year to 120, we do have a provision that provides a bonus of 50 units for affordable housing projects.

Continuing the theme that Mayor Hardy mentioned, we do have some members of our community that experience homelessness [page 16]. Boulder City has a representative on the Continuum of Care Board that promotes a countywide commitment to homeless services, including securing federal dollars for homeless service providers. We also provide annual funding, along with our other local jurisdictions, for the annual homeless census and the management information system software that collects information and is able to disseminate services provided for homeless individuals and emergency shelter funding. Our staff does participate in the annual census count in conjunction with Clark County Social Services, and we provide resource guides that have all of the different resources available for people, also through Emergency Aid of Boulder City.

The city has an additional duty grants manager assigned with our Finance Department, and he is responsible for the centralized administration and submission of all grants within the city [page 17, [Exhibit D](#)]. He is also certified in federal grants management procedures, and we make that a really big priority so that we can maximize the benefits to our community.

Another thing that makes Boulder City unique: unlike most of the cities in our state, we provide our residents with all of their utilities except for natural gas, including electricity [page 18]. The majority of that power does come from the dam and Boulder City does retain our own water rights, which are handled by Southern Nevada Water Authority. While the city provides land leases for solar power, nearly all of it is sent to power Las Vegas and California. The city council in 2019 did form a utility advisory committee whose members advise the council on the operations of our electric utility. Again, we do own and operate the electrical distribution system. Unlike the investor-owned utility neighbors, we are not

for profit. We pass on the savings to the customers. It is under the jurisdiction of our city council rather than the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. We do not own or operate any generation resources, and we obtain all of our energy from existing power purchase agreements. On the open energy market, the majority of our energy is considered clean energy, and that is in large part from hydropower and from solar. We do employ 12 people in our electric division, so whenever the power goes out, when people call, our crews respond.

Here is just a little bit about our energy demands [page 20]. In the winter months we have a much lower demand of close to 30,000 megawatts for the entire city. In the summer months, that balloons to almost 60,000 megawatts. We operate mostly on green energy during the winter months, and then we do have to buy more of the market-based power in the summer months due to air conditioning. The City of Boulder City has really diversified its revenue sources with utility scale solar projects and lease revenues. We have currently over 11,000 acres leased to solar developers, which generates over 2,000 megawatts of energy. We had our first power purchase agreement with the Townsite Solar Project, which delivers five megawatts of firm power to the city through solar and battery storage. We are exploring additional power purchase agreements in the future due to the dwindling capacity of Hoover Dam with the ongoing drought.

This is a little bit about the response to the drought [page 22, [Exhibit D](#)]. We are one of the first cities in southern Nevada to adopt the Southern Nevada Water Authority's latest water conservation measures, and we are currently in talks with them to return our wastewater back to Lake Mead. That is our top priority. We are also in the process of converting up to two million square feet of turf in our golf courses and parks to water smart landscaping, and the city recently authorized rebates for smart irrigation controllers with rain sensors so that our residents can get those at a lower cost. We are committed to the new four acre-feet per irrigated acre water budget for golf courses because we do have the two public courses that the city owns. There is another private course in Boulder City, and they are also committed to getting under that new requirement.

We cannot talk about our city without talking about tourism [page 23]. We have several unique offerings for visitors to southern Nevada. The Nevada State Railroad Museum, the Hoover Dam, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and trails, parks, and outdoor activities. Tourists account for over eight million visitors annually to the Lake Mead Recreation Area. The Nevada State Railroad Museum will be expanding at 601 Yucca Street [page 24]. This is a \$35 million investment. The first phase of the expansion project will be constructing a new visitor center at the corner of Boulder City Parkway and Buchanan Boulevard. There is also development of a linear park which will run the length of the museum campus. The park will incorporate the museum's current live-stream interpretive railroad and add an outdoor amphitheater and railroad-themed children's playground along with other leisure activities. Boulder City will also be getting a new adventure center, but the Mayor and I consider it more of a hub. It is a U.S. Department of Commerce grant of \$2.2 million, and this is located where our chamber of commerce is at 100 Nevada Way [page 25]. It will allow tourism companies to develop operations at the centralized hub so that visitors can

schedule various activities in one location. It is kind of a one-stop shop. They come in and can find all things adventure-related. One of the coolest perks about living in Boulder City is seeing the daily visits from the Nevada state animal, the bighorn sheep. With the help of Clark County Commissioner Jim Gibson, the county gave the city a \$175,000 grant to make improvements to Hemenway Valley Park to benefit the visitors. Two-legged and four-legged alike can enjoy it. Improvements included walking trail benches, educational signage, and irrigation and watering holes for the bighorn sheep.

I really hope that this presentation helps you understand a little bit about the people and population of Boulder City, as well as the challenges facing our community. With that, I am happy to answer any questions that you may have and really appreciate your time today. Thank you.

Assemblyman Nguyen:

I have to admit that I have lived in Nevada for almost 20 years, but I do not have a lot of knowledge about Boulder City. The presentation today was like, wow, there is just so much to learn, and thank you for all of that. I know where to run to when there is an earthquake because the walls are pretty good. With that, I want to touch on something that I want to learn. There is so much that the city has to offer, and you were able to maintain a lot of the originality over the last several decades. Do you know if you keep a demographic profile on the residents of your city in terms of ethnicity and the races that are within Boulder City?

Taylor Tedder:

Yes. The census does track that in the American Community Survey, and I could definitely get that information to you.

Assemblyman Nguyen:

I have a follow-up. The reason why I ask that question is because I was wondering if the city services experienced an increase in requests for language assistance. Just so you know, this is something that I am asking every city and county that will come up in front of Government Affairs. Is there an increased need in language access services and if so, how has the city been handling them?

Taylor Tedder:

I do not think that we have had an increase in language assistance needs, but I can definitely take a look at that and get you information on what our makeup is.

Chair Torres:

Are there any other questions from members? [There were none.] I do have one question. I know that Boulder City obviously is very close to the City of Las Vegas and the City of Henderson. Do you have any information about what percentage of Boulder City residents are working in the more urban area of southern Nevada or what percent are able to find employment in Boulder City?

Taylor Tedder:

I believe that that we are more of a bedroom community. The majority of our residents who do work commute into Las Vegas and Henderson. It is probably 70 percent of our residents.

Chair Torres:

Thank you. I appreciate it. Are there any other questions? [There were none.] All right, it looks like we are all good, thank you so much for your presentation. That will bring us to our next presentation from the City of Las Vegas. We are lucky to bring back another former colleague, Councilwoman Olivia Diaz, representing Ward 3, as well as Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler, the Chief Community Services Officer.

Randy Robison, Director, Government and Community Affairs, City of Las Vegas:

I grew up in a city much like Boulder City. It is interesting to be able to be in this Committee today and have the presentation right after them. I have learned about the long history of Dr. Hardy in this building. It is a tough, tough act to follow. But it is interesting, I think, because they are one of our smaller communities in southern Nevada and now here comes the largest city in southern Nevada. It will be interesting to see not only the contrast, but more importantly, I think, what we all have in common. I am fortunate today to be joined by two very distinguished individuals, Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler and Councilwoman, and former Assemblywoman, Olivia Diaz. I will give them a chance to just say hello. We will walk through a brief presentation, and then Councilwoman Diaz will sum it up for us.

Lisa Morris Hibbler, Chief Community Services Officer, City of Las Vegas:

Good morning, Chair Torres and members of the distinguished Committee. It is a pleasure to be here. I look forward to talking a little more about what we are doing in the City of Las Vegas.

Olivia Diaz, Councilwoman, Ward 3, City of Las Vegas:

Good morning, Chair Torres, Vice Chair Duran, and all of the Government Affairs Committee members. Just as I was discussing with a few of you before coming up here, it is a bit nostalgic to be back in these hallways where we are constantly trying to make strides forward for our state. I commend all of you for your public service. I know how much work it is and the great responsibility it is to serve in these chambers. Thank you for your service.

Lisa Morris Hibbler:

The City of Las Vegas is the most populous city in Nevada. The city is governed by a mayor, Mayor Carolyn Goodman, who will, when she finishes her term, have served more than 13 years. We have our Mayor Pro-Tem Brian Knudsen and Councilwoman Victoria Seaman, who was also a fellow legislator. We have our very own Councilwoman Diaz, and one of our newest council members, Councilwoman Francis Allen-Palenske, was also a fellow legislator. We also have Councilman Cedric Crear and Councilwoman Nancy Brune, who is also one of our newest elected officials.

We have a council-manager form of government, which means that the city council is responsible for setting out the policy and then the city manager is appointed by the council members and runs the day-to-day operations, including the 15 departments within the City of Las Vegas. As I mentioned, Jorge Cervantes is our city manager. We have three chief officers, who are equivalent to deputy city managers: Tom Perrigo, me, and Tim Hacker, and a chief financial officer. Many of us, like me, have been there for several decades. I have been with the City of Las Vegas for 26 years.

Here are a few fast facts about the City of Las Vegas [page 5, [Exhibit E](#)]. Our population continues to grow. We have roughly 659,000 residents. We, too, have seen demographic shifts. We now have around 33 percent, almost 34 percent who identify as Hispanic. We have 142 square miles, but we are also landlocked, and we will talk a little bit about what we are doing from that perspective. We oversee about 160-plus municipal buildings. This is just a map that shows you our boundaries [page 6, [Exhibit E](#)].

We believe that downtown Las Vegas is the heartbeat of the City of Las Vegas, so we have done quite a bit of reinvestment to ensure that we can continue to have success there. One of those things is in the Fremont Street Experience [page 7]. The Fremont Street Experience is five city blocks, but it drives more than 26 million visitors to the area. We have been working with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) and our own city marshals around enhanced security. That is a huge priority for Councilwoman Diaz and for the city as a whole because we want tourists to be able to come and enjoy downtown and feel safe and be safe. Symphony Park is another one of our flagships in which we have 61 acres of land that we have redeveloped. It is home to the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, the Discovery Museum, and the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. We have 600 residential units already constructed and upcoming. We have a hotel, grocery store, and additional retail that will be in the area.

Like the other cities that you have already heard, our city also has a strategic plan. We go through a comprehensive and exhaustive process every three to five years, and our city council adopted this plan in 2020. The council priorities are public safety, health care, and diversifying the economy [page 8]. Some of the goals included strengthening the relationships between the community and law enforcement to respond to diverse needs and expanding health care access to the community partnerships. This actually preceded the pandemic, so there is some foresight there. More goals include enhancing assistance to connect at-risk and vulnerable populations to mental health services and expanding broadband connectivity and mobility infrastructure equity across the city, which is hugely important, much like what we see in rural areas where they do not have connectivity in the urban areas. We have huge neighborhoods that do not have access based on cost factors.

Our revenue, too, is highly dependent upon the consolidated tax [page 9]. About 55.2 percent of our budget comes from the consolidated tax; therefore, it fluctuates and is vulnerable to economic conditions. All funding sources combined, we have about a \$2 billion budget. Most of our general fund expenditures go towards public safety, and that includes covering 32 percent of Metro's budget, as well as our own Department of Public

Safety, Municipal Court, and the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Department. We have a number of grant sources [page 11]. A lot of our dollars come from entitlement grants, which basically means that it is based on a formula by the federal government, so it is noncompetitive. We are just awarded a certain amount of dollars like Community Development Block Grants and home emergency solutions grants. We also get about \$11.3 million from those sources. We also have our non-entitlement grants. We are constantly looking for other ways that we can bring revenue and resources into the City of Las Vegas.

As I stated, the city is landlocked [page 12, [Exhibit E](#)]. We are going to talk in just a moment about some of the infill and redevelopment that we are doing to bring additional housing into the city. We are also an older community. We are seeing some aging infrastructure and constantly trying to maintain that for our residents. We have an aging downtown, so the infrastructure and then also redeveloping of the area becomes important again. Housing, retail development, and small business support are all very vital to the downtown area.

As you have already heard from not only Boulder City but Clark County, there has been an increase in persons experiencing homelessness. We have seen the shelter population, which means those that are accessing shelters, grow 10 percent and the unsheltered population, meaning those that are on the streets, grow by 20 percent.

So, what are we doing? As most of you know, the price of housing continues to be a challenge in Las Vegas. The single-family home median sales price was \$462,000, and condos now are at \$280,000. Our biggest concern is the missing middle—the entry-level housing. You know, this is the housing that many of us took advantage of when you got your first job and saved up some dollars. Those opportunities seem to be vanishing. The median rental rates on a one bedroom are \$1,065 and a two bedroom is \$1,300, almost \$1,400 [page 13]. Remember, for most people, we want them to only spend up to 30 percent of their income on housing. You can see where this is becoming a huge issue for our residents. While rent prices and sales prices are down year over year, we have less than 4 percent of available units at \$1,000 or less. There are about 20 affordable housing units per 100 renters. It is estimated that in southern Nevada we need about 70,000 affordable housing units to meet the demand. It is something that we all take seriously. It is something that we are working on together regionally and also individually to figure out what we can do to ensure that our residents have affordable housing and that it is available to them. Our goal at the city is to bring on 1,000 new units a year, which seems like a drop in the bucket, but it is what is feasible in terms of the funding sources available. We have new construction that is coming online, we have C and Jefferson, which is about 84 units that are coming on. We are excited about the Desert Pines redevelopment, which is in Councilwoman Diaz's area and which she will talk a little bit more about. Honestly, the opportunity to repurpose a golf course and bring on upwards of 13,000-plus units of housing, both multifamily, single family and senior housing along with retail and a community center is going to be a gem in that particular part of our community. Then there is Decatur and Rome Affordable Housing Development with Ovation Design and Development. We are building 276 units of senior

housing with some cottages. We are always looking at how we can do things differently. We are incorporating some cottages into that project.

Also, increasingly important in field development is every sliver of land that we have in Las Vegas, we intend to develop on it. As I said, once you are landlocked, you have to start moving inward. We are looking at those areas where there is available land, and we have a lot of parcels that we have already purchased that we intend to turn into housing. Lastly, part of our approach to housing is also the rehab and preservation. We can build housing, but we also have to preserve what we have. We have a lot of rehab. You will see on your top left corner [page 13, [Exhibit E](#)] a property that was a six-room multiplex that we rehabbed and is now fully occupied. That also becomes a very important part of the work.

Next, we have homelessness and mental health services [page 14]. The demand is unlike anything I have seen. I have talked to Randy Robison, and we talked to colleagues, and being in the city 26 years, there was a time when we thought we had a homeless problem. I do not think any of us could have foreseen how significant the homeless problem would become. We have toured across the country. We have looked at Seattle, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Florida, Austin, all of the different areas to see what is being done. Across the country, this continues to be a daunting issue for us. We have invested resources in addition to what we do with the continuum of care, which is the regional approach. We also have a parallel track to provide services because, as many of you know, in Las Vegas we have one of the largest concentrations of people experiencing homelessness. That impacts our neighborhoods. That impacts our businesses. There is a definite call to act because of what we are seeing.

We created a Recuperative Care Center. It is a medical respite, and it is for the medically fragile homeless. You might ask yourself, Why would we do that as a municipality? Well, we started to see a number of people that are at our Courtyard Homeless Resource Center that were medically fragile people that had limited mobility. Amputees, 80-year-olds, people that were sick and recently released from the hospital. This 38-bed facility allows people to recover. We have a 60 percent success rate in transitioning those individuals from the Recuperative Care Center into permanent housing. That is a really, really important piece. If you think about anyone, you or your family member that has been sick and needed to recover from the hospital, they will send you home maybe with home health care or maybe with some instructions. If you do not have a home, where do you recover? We are excited about the \$10 million grant that we received from the state, through Director Richard Whitley's Department of Health and Human Services, for an expansion. It is actually a rebuilding expansion. We are hoping to double, maybe even triple the capacity in the area so that we will be able to not only serve the medically fragile but also serve individuals that have a behavioral health issue. Those are two of the most significant issues that we deal with at the Courtyard.

That is where we are also seeing an uptick in the population. We are seeing some significant population changes and changes in who is accessing our services. The Courtyard Homeless Resource Center is a low-barrier shelter. It is a comprehensive, full-service resource.

We have a pharmacist on site. We have a health center on site. We have a brand-new health center that is being built adjacent to it. We have a pet kennel. We have a mailbox, and 2,100 people use the Courtyard as their address of residence. Why is that important? Without a mailbox people cannot receive their checks. If you are a veteran, if you have a disability, without a mailbox you will not be able to receive those benefits; 2,100 people are able to receive their benefits because of that. We have, on average, 392 guests that stay there every day. It has been as high as 430, but on average it is about 392. We saw 6,081 unduplicated guests. That is 6,081 people experiencing homelessness. We also created The Arrow, which is a fixed transportation route. One of the barriers to getting out of homelessness and becoming self-sufficient is transportation. This fixed route transit takes people to different resources like social services, the welfare office, and the Department of Motor Vehicles. Again, anything to eliminate barriers. The quicker we do that, the quicker we get somebody back to self-sufficiency.

We heard a little bit about outreach, but we have our Multi-Agency Outreach Resource Engagement, which is a long name for our MORE team. Our MORE team is composed of social workers and nonprofit partners, along with Metro and our own marshal teams. They were dispatched over 2,600 times in 2022. That is over 2,600 times that they went out to encampments or to provide services to somebody that was experiencing homelessness. We also have a street medicine team that goes out to try to do checks on people that are on the street. That is also becoming increasingly important. If you have not done so, I want to be the first to invite you to take a tour of the facility. We would love to get you scheduled. Please come out. We invite you all to come out to really learn more about the services provided and even talk to some people that are experiencing homelessness and how these resources have helped them. We have people that have been previously homeless that are now working at the Courtyard, and they are eager to share their story about what it takes to get out when you actually hit rock bottom. It is more difficult than probably any of us can imagine, but these individuals have done so, and they are now helping other people to do so.

I do not think we can overstate the importance of partnering and collaboration [page 15]. Obviously, you heard a theme this morning about that. At the end of the day, we are all in this together. It is really imperative that we leverage our resources. They are finite. Each of us has finite resources. Together, we can do more, and we can do it better to make sure that we are serving our residents.

First, we look at economic diversification. We have been trying to bring in jobs. Livable wage jobs are critically important to the conversation that we are having today around affordability in terms of housing and people being self-sufficient. We have a couple of tech centers that we started. That has been taking off and making us almost one of the newer tech capitals. Also, there is workforce retraining and development, by which I mean working closely with Workforce Connections and some of our other workforce partners around jobs of the future, which we hear about every day. We hear how many jobs are going to be eliminated, current jobs that we have now. Where are the jobs going to be in the future?

Next is regional homeless services [page 15, [Exhibit E](#)]. We do work collaboratively with our jurisdictional partners in the county. One of the things that we have been working with the state on is increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate.

We want multiple resource centers throughout the region. We would love to see something like the Courtyard or something similar to that being available in other areas throughout our valley.

Next is mental health and substance abuse facilities. I know that the state is working on the 988 Suicide and Crisis Center. We are fully supportive of that process and on board. I know how important it is to get people connected to resources when they are having a mental health and behavioral health crisis.

Also, there is the quality of education. We have talked about the Clark County School District this morning, but you know, we have over 100,000 children in K-12 that are residents of the City of Las Vegas, and many of our schools are struggling. They are struggling a lot of different ways: academically, socially, emotionally. The city contributes a lot of funding to before- and after-school programs and in-school supports to try to support our children so that they can reach their greatest potential. With that, I am going to turn it over to Randy Robison.

Randy Robison:

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, we do have a bill that has been assigned to your Committee that we are very excited about [page 16]. What this bill does is take an existing tool available to local governments, expands its uses, and then allows us to focus on two of our most critical needs: transportation and housing of all income types. This particular method has been used to great success in other states, so we reached out and consulted with them, borrowed their ideas, and modified them to make them more useful here in Nevada. We are excited about talking with this Committee about it later on in this session. With that, let me quickly introduce our legislative team. You have met Kelly Crompton and Zach Bucher before, and again this week as first week of the session gets up and going. We are also grateful to have with us on our behalf this year Pinyon Public Affairs and The Ferrato Company. Madam Chair, that concludes our formal presentation. We saved the best for last: a few remarks from Councilwoman Diaz.

Olivia Diaz:

I just want to say that for a while, when I was recently elected as a council member to the City of Las Vegas, I was drinking from a fire hydrant because there are so many levels that we reach, that we touch, that we are trying to move the needle for our community, so I am just going to give you a day in the life of council members.

We have constituent services. When people are seeing their streetlights not coming on, a traffic light out of sync or not working, a four-way stop needed in an intersection, all of those concerns should be channeled to the municipality that can make the difference. That is usually the City of Las Vegas.

We are constantly working, trying to be forward-thinking as a city, as you have heard. As Dr. Morris Hibbler has articulated, we are very progressive as a city. We really try to move the needle; we really try to be a good partner. We really are trying to keep our people at the center of our work on a daily basis. We are trying to build community to make life better for all residents, regardless of whether they live on the east side of Las Vegas that I proudly represent.

A side note: Dell H. Robison Middle School in Ward 3 is named after Randy's grandfather. For those of you that know where Robison Middle School is, there is a lot of history also connected to us there and that is why we take such pride. I went to Rancho High School where Assemblyman D'Silva proudly teaches, and it is so imperative that we continue to collaborate, that we continue to partner, that we do not hamstring ourselves, that we create policy that is flexible enough for us to act, but that does not also create an unfunded mandate because we do have a lot of moving parts and pieces that we have already put on our docket of things that we need to accomplish, things that we need to do to make life better for our constituents.

One of the priorities, that was not mentioned by Dr. Morris Hibbler, that our constituents resoundingly tell us, in survey after survey, we try to stay in our lanes and one of our lanes is not education, but the priorities of our community are public safety, education is second, and health care is third. Continually these are themes that we are hearing back from our community. What have we done as a city? We said, "OK, access to quality pre-K is an issue. Let us make sure we set up Strong Start academies, whether they are mobile or they are brick and mortar." We have, as a city, tried to augment what the districts and charter schools are doing.

Another thing that we are trying really hard to do is create safe and walkable communities for all. We just adopted Vision Zero, where we are trying to achieve no lives lost on our roadways, whether you are walking, whether you are taking a bus, whether you are in a car, or whether you are a cyclist. I think everyone should be afforded the right infrastructure to be protected. We are aggressively pursuing improving in that area.

I just want to say that homelessness continually is an issue that I hear about on a daily basis from my constituency. Unfortunately, we need to do better as a state in terms of access to mental health care. We cannot continue to use our jail system as a way to treat individuals who need facilities to help treat their mental health issues. I hear from our municipal court judges, that, on a daily basis, they are seeing a lot of mental health issues, a lot of drug-addicted folks, and those are a big percentage of the population of our unhoused. They are coming through those systems. How can we collaboratively, in partnership, really assure that we have a solid continuum of care? You cannot take someone in that situation and just house them. There has to be a way to get them to that independence. They are not going to get there from the get-go, but we need to create that. How are we going to get them whole? How are we going to get them well? That increasingly is a challenge that we do not have the resources as a city to really address. That is where we are wanting to be a partner and we are wanting to be a collaborator on how and where we could be placing these services, but we

need the financial support. We need the partnership of other entities to make that really happen. I just want to invite all of you again, if you have not toured the Courtyard, it is a \$25 million investment that we, the City of Las Vegas, have taken because we feel strongly that we need to be connecting people to resources and to services and to give them an option, to give them a hand up to get well and be back where they see themselves and they want to be. It is a decision.

I highly encourage you keep the line of communication between your local elected officials and yourselves open. We sit on so many different boards, the health district, the housing authority, the water authority, the workforce boards, and we could be moving the needle if we are talking to each other and really aligning what we are hearing on the ground and in the grassroots. Then you guys, as I see it, are the quarterbacks. You guys are passing the ball so that we can catch that ball and run it across the field. I had to use that because the Super Bowl is around the corner. Thank you so much again for your time, your attention, your passion, your dedication to our residents, to our state, because we all need to be working together to make life better for everyone.

Chair Torres:

Thank you, and thank you for the presentation. I do want to take just a moment of personal privilege to thank former Assemblywoman Diaz. She used to walk these halls and was one of the first Latinas to be in this building. It is great for you to be here, and I have had the opportunity to learn so much from you as a personal mentor and somebody I have looked up to for a long time. Welcome back.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

My question actually is, when I heard the doctor mention that you are repurposing a golf course, I wanted to know if that is the same city golf course that would be located on Cheyenne and north of it, in that area.

Olivia Diaz:

Actually, the golf course that we are looking to develop into housing and commercial and hopefully a workforce training center with College of Southern Nevada is the one in my ward in east Las Vegas. It is the Desert Pines Golf Club right now. We know that water resources are so scarce, not just statewide, but increasingly so in southern Nevada. We know that we need to be a little bit more intelligent about how we use those water resources, and we think that housing people takes priority over the golf course existing in perpetuity. We are going to be flying out to Los Angeles to look at different developments and different housing prototypes. We are really excited to be moving that project along, and we hope to have something come to us by the end of this year so that we can approve it and get it going.

Assemblyman Hibbetts:

I had a question about the development at Decatur and Rome, the senior housing. I believe you said there were 278 units. Did I get that correct?

Lisa Morris Hibbler:

Yes, I think it is 274.

Assemblyman Hibbetts:

My question about that is, is there a traffic plan in place for that area at Decatur and Rome?

Lisa Morris Hibbler:

Yes, there is Assemblyman, we did quite an extensive traffic study. I need to be honest, there was a lot of contention around that property. We actually reserved that site about 20 years ago from the Bureau of Land Management, and there was nothing out there. We could not develop on it because we did not want to put people out there when there was no transportation and knowing that they would be relying on that. So we have done that. We also did a study on service calls for emergency medical services, fire, and whatnot. It was originally proposed as a multifamily project and then we converted it to seniors. Yes, we have done all of those studies.

Assemblyman Hibbetts:

Was that traffic study coordinated with the county, the City of North Las Vegas and the Department of Transportation due to the location being within three feet of all of those jurisdictions?

Lisa Morris Hibbler:

I am not sure about the coordination. I can get you the traffic study. Our Public Works department is pretty experienced in working with all of the involved parties, but I have not seen it myself.

Assemblyman Hibbetts:

I would appreciate it if you could forward that. Thank you very much.

Chair Torres:

Thank you, and if you could just make sure you get that to the Committee, the committee staff will send it out to all the members as well.

Assemblyman D'Silva:

I also want to give a special shout-out to Councilwoman Diaz for being such a great role model to so many of us in northeast Las Vegas. She is a Rancho High School graduate, a teacher and educator in the community and such a present force as an elected official in our part of the state, our little nook and corner there in east Las Vegas. I had one quick question. This is something I do receive a lot, especially out in the east, and that is the expansion of those Qualified Opportunity Zones. I want to work with the municipal government on this in a very intimate way. I know that the Qualified Zone goes up to about Eastern Avenue, so most of it is in my colleague Assemblywoman Bea Duran's area. But this is something I do hear a lot about. The expansion now going east over Eastern Avenue towards Nellis, there is a lot of opportunity there for economic growth and this is something that I wanted to put on your radar. Hopefully this is something that we can work on, moving forward.

Olivia Diaz:

I proudly want to represent the Rancho Rams, Assemblyman D'Silva. I do not take my work lightly. I want to make sure they know that Rams are of a high caliber. To your point, I think we welcome the opportunity to relook at that. We know it is an entire process, right? Local governments get together with state and federal representatives, and usually it is vetted at the federal level to make sure that we can then revamp those zones and they can be adopted. I know that as you stated, Charleston is a corridor and Eastern is a corridor. The downtown is heavily one. I could not agree with you more. Why not look at some of the areas that could benefit from some very strategic financing structures that sometimes do not make projects pencil, because this would help with qualifying for certain funding mechanisms. I think you are spot on. We welcome the continued conversation in the space.

Assemblywoman González:

Councilwoman, like my colleagues, thank you so much for paving the way for other young Latinas and for me to be here. My question is, I was curious if the city pays prevailing wages on all of it is new buildings, including lease buybacks.

Lisa Morris Hibbler:

We do pay prevailing wages on most of the projects. I do not know of any that we have not, but we can get that information for you. We are very cognizant of that. Yes, we do pay prevailing wages.

Assemblywoman González:

I was curious if you know if you pay prevailing wage on the new police stations.

Lisa Morris Hibbler:

Are you talking about the downtown substation or just police stations in general?

Assemblywoman González:

Yes, the newest one built.

Lisa Morris Hibbler:

I will check on that. I do not have that information in front of me. It is being put inside of the Fremont Street Experience. It is like a building that is already there, so it is more like modifications to an existing building. I can get that information for you.

Assemblywoman González:

Thank you so much. If you could provide the information for all of them, that would be super helpful for the Committee as well, please.

Chair Torres:

Thank you. I will share it out to all the members of the Committee because I do believe the intent of the prevailing wages is for it to apply to all public works projects regardless of how they are built and regardless of the construction. That would definitely be helpful.

Assemblyman Carter:

I will say that I grew up in your district also. My father was in the first graduating class of Rancho High School. I went to Vegas back when you guys had Sir Herkimer the whole time, but you do not have it now. Growing up there, homelessness was a huge problem because of the strategic plan of everybody surrounding us in downtown to centralize services in downtown, so they did not have to deal with it. Are there any efforts or progress being made in trying to decentralize the dumping ground that was made of us way before you were born, probably before I was born?

Olivia Diaz:

Assemblyman Carter, this is something that is always top of mind for me as a councilwoman who represents an area that has naturally occurring affordable housing. We have a lot of people who are hardworking people, and they deserve a quality of life regardless of where they live. I totally am getting what you are saying. We were bold enough back when the shelter space was adopted. We were bold enough as a city to say, "We do need to set up a shelter space for the unhoused community," and we then learned that it comes with ripple effects. That is why our courtyard concept is so important to us as a city because we cannot continue to arrest people, place them in a jail, and then release them. The same cycle is repeated over and over, and we want to make sure that we can disrupt that cycle, that we can make people heal and get better. We are just trying to be very informed of projects that are coming into our areas because sometimes there are projects that do come and disrupt our community even more. I want everyone to be very transparent about what they are trying to accomplish. There should be open lines of communication, so we are not over-concentrating poverty in one side of town. We are just trying to see to my point earlier, and ask, "How can we collaboratively cobble a plan together that does this, that affords people services but does not place them all in the same space?"

Assemblyman Nguyen:

Again, congratulations on such a diverse city. It is so impressive to see that you put the demographic profile in your presentation, and that 57 percent of the city residents are diverse. I think that it is really commendable that the city leadership put Dr. Morris Hibbler in a senior role in the administration in terms of making sure that those communities are served. Congratulations to Dr. Morris Hibbler on such an amazing role that you have. I just want to make sure that because of that 57 percent diverse population, there is a strategic priority for service delivery that will meet the increased demands in this population, particularly on language access. Just a heads-up for the rest of the cities making a presentation: that is going to be my question for all the cities. How does the city determine what information is available in other languages?

Lisa Morris Hibbler:

Diversity, equity, and inclusion is a huge priority for the City of Las Vegas, so much so that the council passed a resolution back in 2020. Honestly, the resolution was to reaffirm the work we have already been doing. When it comes to language access, we have an employee that works on diversity and equity out in the community, and we have information in multiple languages. Because Spanish is the predominant language spoken, followed

secondly by Tagalog, a lot of our materials are now being produced in those languages. We really are trying to make sure that, as we move forward, we are understanding the diversity, we are being intentional about the work that we do in the community, and we are making sure that all communities feel like they are included in decision-making and in community forums, that the work is representative of a broader, more diverse community. We take that work very, very seriously. If there is any information that this Committee wants, we will be happy to provide that.

Assemblyman Nguyen:

That was my question, if you have a strategy of how you determine what information is translated. There is a lot of information getting out, right? What strategy do you have in terms of leadership in determining how the languages are being determined in terms of priorities? We would love to know that strategy.

Lisa Morris Hibbler:

Absolutely, we will provide that.

Olivia Diaz:

When I was newly elected to the City of Las Vegas, I sounded like a broken record time and time again. They can basically say, Yes, she is a broken record in our meetings in our briefings, because I am an educator, English-language learner, and teacher. In the east side part of my ward, it is over 60 percent Latino. I know that we have a lot of first-generation immigrants. We need to do better to educate them because we get so many complaints about people not abiding by ordinances and by our law and by our rules. I ask, "What have we done to educate?" A lot of us come from a different country, a different small town that did not have all of these rules, and all of a sudden, there is parking enforcement. There is trash and refuse that should not be in your house, and there are all these violations that come with code enforcement. It is not that people are doing it because they want to be bad neighbors. Some of them are just not educated and informed. Our government has to be thinking about how we reach people where they are. After getting in their ear and burning it up so many times, they finally granted me a Spanish Public Information Officer which we lacked at the time I came on board. At least we are moving the needle. Karen Castro has so much work because constantly we have to produce as much information as we can in more than one language. I am going to continue to advocate and advance that. At any opportunity, whether it is economic and urban development, whether it is a community-centered focus, or whether it is Parks and Recreation, I am constantly saying we need to do more in this space, and I know it is not even just Spanish anymore. We have other languages for which we should also try to be accessible. Other communities should have access to this information as well.

Chair Torres:

Thank you for your work on that too. I know throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we were very late to get information in Spanish. There was a point early on in the pandemic when I think it was basically Councilwoman Diaz and your team and the Southern Nevada Health District, too, with District Health Officer Dr. Fermin Leguen, who were able to get out information in Spanish. Thank you so much for your work on that, and your commitment to

making sure that we are providing language access to all Nevadans. I know there is still more work to be done, so I appreciate it.

Assemblywoman Duran:

I want to thank you for your presentation. All of you did such an amazing job. I represent downtown, which is Assembly District 11. I have big shoes to fill. Not that I will ever get those filled, but we are working together. That is something that we have done in the past, and I hope we continue to do that. I just wanted to comment that, rolling down east Fremont Street, seeing the new redevelopment that you have in some of those abandoned building buildings is amazing. I just had a question about that art. Are you owners of those buildings? Or are there people donating? Or are there projects for those people to redevelop those for, maybe some housing?

Olivia Diaz:

A lot of the Fremont East properties are landholdings that the Hsieh family have because Tony Hsieh purchased a lot of them in that part of my ward. We know that they have kind of been stuck in probate court. Things have needed to be addressed before they could move forward and make decisions about what they we are going to do with all the land holdings. It is my understanding from running into Mr. Richard Hsieh, Tony's father, that they are getting to a point where they are examining what they are wanting to sell and what they are wanting to partner with or collaboratively work on with different business entities. Fingers crossed, I am hoping that we can activate some of those spaces and places that have not had any life come through them in a really long time.

Assemblywoman Duran:

I just want to thank you for your efforts. I know it was very concerning on east Fremont Street with all the violence that was down there. I was noticing that we have access to the police; we have the lights on the poles and stuff like that. It just makes it a little safer. I just want to applaud your efforts to beautify that whole area moving north. Thank you very much for all you do.

Olivia Diaz:

You are doing an amazing job representing Assembly District 11. I could not be prouder that you are there.

Chair Torres:

Wow, this is such a good-feel committee. What a great day of Government Affairs. I do not believe there are any more questions. Thank you so much for your presentation. We appreciate your coming out to Government Affairs. A reminder to Committee members, we do have two presentations left. We have a very packed Friday obviously. I am hopeful that this will allow you to enjoy your Monday mornings after the football game. We do not have anything scheduled, as a reminder, for Monday morning, but we have a full schedule today.

The next presentation we have today is going to be the City of Reno with Nic Ciccone, the Legislative Relations Program Manager, as well as Vice Mayor Devon Reese, and it looks like other guests. Just make sure you introduce yourself for the record. Thank you.

Nic Ciccone, Legislative Relations Program Manager, City of Reno:

It is my pleasure to be here and representing the City of Reno today. My name is Nic Ciccone, Legislative Relations Program Manager. I have the opportunity to introduce you to our City Manager, Doug Thornley and our Vice Mayor, Devon Reese. They will be giving you a little bit of an overview of the great things that our city has the opportunity to do. Without further ado, I will give Vice Mayor Reese the opportunity.

Devon Reese, Vice Mayor, City of Reno:

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to be in front of all of you today. There are so many friends. It is a nice thing to see on a Friday morning and so thank you for the opportunity. Obviously, we are like many cities in the state of Nevada. We have things that we are incredibly proud of and things that we are trying to work on. For my purposes today, my presentation will be brief. I just want to give a brief overview and introductory background and then we will turn our attention to some of the more important and structural things going on in the City of Reno.

We are the biggest little city in the world. If you have been to Reno and spent time there, which I know all of you have, you know that we are working together with our regional partners, some of whom are here in the room today. It is always a privilege to be among them as well. We fundamentally believe that we are working towards solving the same types of issues across the state with all of your help. This is really the opportunity for us to say thank you. I do want to turn our attention now and introduce my other colleagues who could not be here today. We will start in reverse order [page 2, [Exhibit F](#)]. First, I will introduce you to Councilmember Kathleen Taylor. Next are Councilmember Meghan Ebert, Councilmember Miguel Martinez, Councilmember Naomi Duerr, Councilmember Jenny Brekhus, and last but not least is Mayor Hillary Schieve. I will take a moment to pause about Mayor Schieve because I think it is important for you to know that in June, Mayor Schieve becomes the President of the United States Conference of Mayors, which is quite an accomplishment for any Nevada city to represent us on that stage. She will literally be the liaison between all mayors in this country to the White House and to our congressional delegation. Mayor Schieve could not be here today but is certainly thrilled to be a part of the discussion. Those are my colleagues, and I am sure you will see them in the building periodically and perhaps many of you already know many of them.

We are, of course, like a number of other cities in the region, a council-manager form of government. That means we have the fine gentleman sitting to my left, Doug Thornley, as our city manager. Prior to that our city manager was Sabra Newby, who is now one of your colleagues, which is certainly an exciting thing for us to see. She is a dear friend and certainly an expert on many things going on in the city. I will gush about City Manager Thornley for a moment because he will not do it for himself. Mr. Thornley is now coming up on a three-year anniversary with us, and he has just been a tremendous force in the

City of Reno. He has brought a lot of renewed energy and enthusiasm to the work that he does. He is by professional background a lawyer, as am I. Sometimes when two lawyers talk about a thing, they tend to focus on the legal implications of it. But this is a change-maker. This is a man who is driving the productive conversations around our city. Of course, he would tell you, and he probably will tell you, that it is all done by a team. He has three city managers to assist him in that role, and though they are not all here with us today, they are working and leading the direction in charge of the city. As an elected body, we have a mayor. I am the at-large council member and have the privilege to have been chosen by the body to be the vice mayor. Then we have five ward-based council members.

The City of Reno has been my home for my entire life, and I have certainly seen its changes and its growth today. We are proud to be hurtling headlong towards 230,000 people [page 3]. I think the last census indicated we are around 225,000. Certainly, one of the things that is reflected here is that we are a diverse and growing community, and that diversity is the strength of our community. That really is reflected in the policy choices that we are making. Between 2010 and 2020, we had a 17 percent growth. We are closer to 265,000 persons. Some of this growth is creating growing pains for all of us, and so we continue to deal with that at the city.

The next slide [page 4, [Exhibit F](#)] I want to focus on is really the broad-based way that we go about evaluating the ways in which the city operates. Similar to other cities that you have seen make presentations, we have a plan for how to get where we are going. It does certainly take an intentional approach, a community-based approach. We are looking for ways to improve at all times and see ourselves as a partner with each of you in that projected growth.

The six goals of our strategic plan are highlighted here. They relate to fiscal sustainability; public safety; economic opportunity, homelessness, and affordable housing; economic and community development; infrastructure, climate change, and environmental sustainability; and last but not least, and perhaps most important when we do surveys, is arts, parks, and historic resources. We are of course focusing on how we accomplish and lead. To do that, it requires that we turn our attention now to our city manager, my friend and colleague, Doug Thornley.

Doug Thornley, City Manager, City of Reno:

As Vice Mayor Reese said, I very much appreciate the opportunity to spend just a little bit of time with the Committee this morning and help you know a little bit more about the biggest little city. As Councilman Reese said, I am going to say I engage in air traffic. Air traffic control is basically my profession. The team does all the hard work, and they are incredible. There are about 1,400 people who work full time for the City of Reno. That grows a little north of 1,700 with our seasonal employees who work primarily in Parks and Recreation. All of those folks work to make our community not just livable but lovable.

Our all-in budget, our enterprise funds and our general fund totals about \$915 million [page 5]. Our general fund is about a third of that and we will talk about that here in just a second. Primarily, I do want to highlight across 18 departments, 4 areas that we focus on in

Reno. That is of course public safety, like every other entity that you are going to hear from in this Committee. That is police and fire and dispatch. I like to lump our public works folks in with that. The people who maintain our streets and our sewers and keep us safe and sort of keep civilization moving forward.

We have a department called HAND, Housing and Neighborhood Development. They focus an awful lot on rental assistance and making sure that we are doing what we can in the housing affordability space. We are collaborating regionally with our partners in Sparks and Washoe County to provide wraparound services for homeless shelter services for the homeless. Although Washoe County runs point on that in our region, I think everybody has taken a laboring oar and is moving that conversation forward. We are doing a better job than we ever have in that space.

As council member Vice Mayor Reese just mentioned, we are supporting businesses through our licensing practices; we are supporting development through our zoning code and our planning department. We are encouraging economic growth that makes sense for the biggest little city and for our region as we diversify in that space.

The slide on the screen behind me [page 6, [Exhibit F](#)] is a very basic breakdown of the revenues anticipated in fiscal year 2023 for the City of Reno. As you can see, consolidated tax (CTAX) makes up about 38 percent of that general fund. It is of course the most volatile of the revenues that come into there. Because it is so quick to react, we are seeing a softening in that space as we move into the budget cycle for the next year. While it is not down, it is not growing quite so acutely as it has in the last few budget cycles. Property taxes make up 26 percent of the general fund. They are more stable. That is more of a two-year lookout. When we coach people up in the City of Reno, we tell them that we understand the impact of the CTAX in about 60 days. The property taxes have about a two-year lag. When we project things as we build a budget, those are the spaces where we really do focus on smaller areas. Business licenses and permit charges for services and intergovernmental revenue. Those all remain relatively consistent, but they have grown more rapidly than either property tax or CTAX in this upcoming cycle and in cycles past.

Our expenses are an awful lot like everyone else's [page 7]. We spend the bulk of our general fund revenue on public safety. It is a service-driven organization, and 72 percent of the expenses that you see here go to salaries and benefits. That is not atypical. It is ordinary across government agencies and businesses that deliver services rather than make widgets or doodads or what have you.

When we talk about what the team focused on and when we look at how we deliver those services, we turn first to the regional plan [page 8]. It is a plan that is adopted by Sparks and by Washoe and by Reno. What it does is it makes sure that our ability to deliver services scales as the community grows. What we are trying to accomplish in the Truckee Meadows is we are trying to reduce sprawl and focus on infill. We are looking to support intensity and density at the region's core rather than out on the periphery. It avoids environmental degradation, and it accommodates the need for growth in the region so that our property tax

can continue to provide for the services that folks rely on. The regional plan in the Truckee Meadows has a tiered system. It is three tiers. Tier one is land that is most readily developable. It has either already been developed and it is right for redevelopment or sort of more intense development. The third tier is where infrastructure is not quite in that space yet, but it is more readily buildable. It is more ready to be constructed. It is something that makes fiscal sense in the relatively near future, the geologic future, I suppose.

Through the lens of the regional plan, the City of Reno has adopted a master plan, Reimagine Reno. We are getting ready to update that plan. It runs through 2025, but it guides not only our growth, but it takes the six priorities of the city's strategic plan and distills the strategic plan into effective action items. There are probably 42 pages of implementation strategies included in the master plan but, by and large, what it seeks to accomplish is fiscally responsible growth for the biggest little city.

One of the primary areas that we are focused on, like so many others, is housing affordability. I do not want to necessarily read the slide [page 9, [Exhibit F](#)] to you. You can see that yourselves. The city council in Reno has made significant investments in helping to provide more affordable housing solutions in the City of Reno. Frankly, in the Truckee Meadows as a whole, I do not need to tell this Committee that housing affordability is a complex problem. It is not simply supply and demand, so it needs to be addressed from as many angles as we can figure. We have an immediate need to keep people in their homes. We have longer term issues of building more supplies. Some of the ways we have gone about it in Reno is we have infused nearly \$15 million into rental assistance and housing support programs that are overseen by HAND, as I mentioned before. It is a priority of all of our pandemic relief funds. The city council has made that A-1, whether through CARES [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act] funding or whether through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. We have made sure to keep families together, keep them in their homes and do what we can to support that space. We approved \$13.5 million in one ARP project that did not come to fruition. As of this moment, \$7.5 million is invested in affordable housing units that are new to the community. We are expecting additional projects will be considered in the coming months. We are thrilled that the state's Home Means Nevada Program has injected nearly \$170 million in affordable housing into the City of Reno.

Another thing that we do is through our building permits and our sewer connection fees. The city council has made a policy decision to support the construction of new affordable units by reducing and waving certain development fees. Of course, the lower the area median income that is appended to the project, the deeper that subsidy goes. That is allowed because of authority that was expressly granted by the Legislature in 2019. Again, thank you for giving us the tools that we need to be more progressive in this space. We are a leader in the region; 87 percent of the affordable units in the Truckee Meadows are in the City of Reno. The HOME Consortium, which is overseen by the City of Reno, the City of Sparks and Washoe County, is evaluating its annual applications for a \$5 million allocation to support the additional development of affordable units in our community. We have also been given direction by the city council to take a look at the zoning code and come back with a

series of suggestions to improve our policies as it relates to housing affordability. We are working with Shane Phillips, who is the author of *The Affordable City*, which is a compendium of policy suggestions that work hand in hand. It describes the various levers and buttons that can be pulled or pushed, whether it is the time to market or the manner in which the zoning code unintentionally makes things more expensive. We are working to cure that so we can continue on this path of making the biggest little city more affordable for everyone who chooses to make it home.

I touched on the sewer fees. Like other jurisdictions, of course we are focused on our infrastructure needs. They are critical to growth and affordability and the quality of life for all of our residents. No major economic development efforts would be possible without making sure that our infrastructure supports those endeavors. One of the things that we are very proud of is an advanced purified water reclamation facility out in the North Valleys. What we are doing out there in a joint effort with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority is we are developing a facility to clean water to an A-plus standard and inject it into the ground. It will then be pulled out of the ground and reused in a beneficial way. Whether that is drinking water or water to support industry, it has yet to be seen who those customers might be, but we are excited about that project. It has received a number of grants and it is the Truckee Meadows Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers Project of the Year for 2021. We are very proud of that, and we are very proud of our engineers.

We are also looking to increase connectivity around the City of Reno. We have tried a number of micromobility pilot projects in the last couple of years. Some of them have worked; some of them have not quite worked quite the way we hoped. We are looking to make sure that our community can be healthy and move around without necessarily relying on a car. Whether that is mass transit in the form of buses, whether that is bicycles, whether that is scooters, whether that is just making sure that we have a protected space for people to walk or rollerblade or what have you, we want to make sure that people can get where they need to go in our community without a car. That, too, we believe, is an important part of working on the housing affordability issue.

I mentioned that we want to continue to encourage a healthy community. One of the ways we do that is by providing access to outdoor spaces that are inviting and safe, whether that is parks, whether that is trails, whether that is open space in the City of Reno. We are extremely proud of what our Parks and Recreation folks do. The image that you see on the slide behind me [page 11, [Exhibit F](#)] is a rendering of the new Moana Springs Aquatic Center that should be opening in 2024 and is on budget. It is sort of a redo of a community center that is important to a number of people including Vice Mayor Reese, who I believe learned to swim at the original Moana Springs Aquatic Center. It will have multiple pools for competition, a leisure splash pad for kids, and it will be, I believe, the only 50-meter pool in the Truckee Meadows. We are excited to see what that brings to the region from the university and from our swim teams. We would be remiss if we did not thank the William N. Pennington Foundation for their support of that project. We are very excited for some of the generational capital investments that the city council has made in our community and are now coming to fruition in this next year and the year after.

There are challenges though. We are constantly looking for ways to finance and fund the maintenance of our parks and trail infrastructures. I do not believe we are unique in that space. Like everybody, there are always more dogs and bones when it comes to general fund activities. Parks is one that is near and dear to us and always top of mind as we go through the budget workup tool, not only because they are so important to our residents, but because we do view parks and recreation as an economic development tool. We view parks and recreation frankly as a significant opportunity in education and growing our youth in the community and keeping them connected to each other and the biggest little city. Parks and recreation is always top of mind.

One of the things though that I am most proud of in terms of what we have accomplished as an organization in the last year, is we have redoubled our efforts in the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) space. Rather than simply making a plan and saying, Hey, we have a DEI plan, we have funded a number of positions and we are using them in a way that goes beyond simply DEI inside the organization. Our chief equity and community relations officer oversees a handful of folks whose responsibilities include developing Spanish language communications outside the ordinary communications of the city to make sure that we are meeting the needs of that quarter of our population, making sure that they have the information they need from us, making sure that we have the information we need from them so that we can design programming and services to meet their needs. Our Facebook engagement in Spanish language is up 77 percent year over year, which is indicative of how much better we are doing and, frankly, how much further we have to go. We have another person who is dedicated to building relationships in the community and making sure that all of those voices are heard as we do policy workup and make capital investments and work through the process of distributing art money in the community. Really, what Cynthia Esparza is best at and what I am thrilled with, is before we make any decisions with respect to investments of money or time, we now have someone at the table whose job is to raise her hand and say, Hey, you know, I think we have an issue here with the equitable distribution of this money or the manner in which this policy could impact our community. We are being much more thoughtful in that space, and I am very proud of the work that our team has done in that regard. Our DEI plan for the city is due for an update this year. I expect that Cynthia Esparza will probably be down here with Nic Ciccone and gathering ideas and we will work those into the plan. Mr. Ciccone is going to be the legislative contact on a day-to-day basis and the Vice Mayor and I would be thrilled to answer any questions you might have.

Chair Torres:

Thank you, and thank you for your presentation. I would like to note that I have had the opportunity to speak a little bit with the chief officer for the diversity and inclusion program. She is actually a sorority sister of mine, Cynthia Esparza, and she does such a phenomenal job. I have known her since she started with that role with the city many years ago. I think I was just a student at the best university in the state of Nevada, and I know that the program that she has built is pretty phenomenal and I think a good idea of what other programs throughout the state need to be copying and replicating in other cities that sometimes actually have larger representation than even the City of Reno.

Assemblywoman Taylor:

Thank you Chair, and good morning from my hometown. It is good to see all of you. Welcome, Mr. Ciccone. I have not had a chance to meet you in person yet. First of all, I have a comment. I really want to commend you, and I do not say this because it is my home city. I say this because I have recognized the shift and the change. I really want to comment and commend the council, the manager on the thing you are most proud of—the efforts in DEI. Our community is growing in diversity. I know that it has been the leadership of the council that really directed those efforts for the administration to go along with it. That commitment and the changes you have made since you have been there, Manager Thornley, are really, really impressive. It is important to get that on the record. I have noticed that. I watch it. We live there together. It is something really important to me. I really, really want to commend the effort in the work and encourage you to continue as other populations grow right in our community. I have a question for you: you spoke about some of the needs that you have from the city standpoint. Can you give us a little bit more? You are in front of the Legislature. I will steal from my colleague, Assemblyman D'Silva. What could the state do for you? Because he asks that question sometimes.

Doug Thornley:

All the money. State support in housing affordability. One of the spaces that I think we would appreciate some support that I spoke about is the sewer connection fees. If we do not build that into the rate that leaves a hole, right? Well, if the needs of those facilities do not go away, if we have waived the fee, we just have to find that money somewhere else. Of course, we can build it into the fee. But if there is support from the state, whether from the infrastructure funds that are available or some other space, I think filling that hole would be helpful because nothing is cheap in sewer land. We are talking millions and millions of dollars. I think at this moment, the council has waived \$4 million worth of connection fees to support housing affordability. That is one space.

I think helping us try new things in micromobility would help. I think if there was a prescribed thing that worked for every community, everyone would do it. We are trying, and as I said sometimes it works and sometimes it does not. Having capital available to try new things in that space, knowing that after a year's worth of trying it, it might not stick. That would be helpful to us as well. We have needs that other communities may or may not have. We are always looking for funding for bridges with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and through the federal delegation. The Legislature's support in those endeavors whether through the congressional delegation or our RTC membership would be appreciated as well.

Devon Reese:

With the indulgence of the Chair, I will answer a bit about your first comment about diversity, equity, and inclusion. I want this Committee to understand that our commitment in that area is not just that we have people who work in Spanish language translation. I want this Committee to understand that the diversity, equity, and inclusion piece will be the filter through which we operate the entirety of the city's departments. Moreover, we have had a DEI speaker series for the last year and a half that involved learning about Native American

history and cultural contributions, the Black community, and the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. We have technology that is now to be deployed to be able to better communicate with people who are both hearing- and sight-impaired. All of our business cards are both in braille and identify our pronouns. I am proud of course to be the first openly gay elected official to the city council. When we speak about diversity, equity, and inclusion, it is all of the diversity of the city and all of the community and the rich warmth that it provides. I hope that we are an example. Mrs. Cynthia Esparza is leading that charge, and she does so with the full weight and authority both of the council, but also the city manager's office. That is a position that did not exist prior to Mr. Thornley's arrival, and the focus on being able to look at all of the ways in which our community is made better by diversity. I think that is the lens through which we now operate, and that was not always the case.

We look at our unsheltered population as another group of diverse individuals who have different and compelling needs. I hope that when we leave here today you will get the distinct impression that we are looking to service all of the communities that are in front of us and no particular one. Obviously, our demographic trends tell us where the most communication perhaps lies, but it also informs us that the future will be made better if we reach deeper into that well. And not that it is just a dusty report that sits on the shelf that occupies no space in our mind. It is our front-of-mind issue. When we build a park, we ask, Why are we building there and maybe not somewhere else? When we make sure, as I think as one of the prior council members from the City of Las Vegas said, that we are not making it so that neighborhoods are only where poor people are located or only where this type of housing is permitted. All the decisions we will make, and I hope with all of your support, will be made with that lens in mind. I do thank you for phrasing it in a way that was positive, and I want you to know it is our commitment to this body to continue that work.

Assemblyman DeLong:

I appreciate the presentation. I have a question about the advanced water treatment system. Where is that actually located? Where are the injections going to occur?

Doug Thornley:

Assemblyman DeLong, we can provide a map of the facility for the Committee and would be happy to do that. In general terms, that facility is being constructed out on American Flat.

Assemblyman DeLong:

Are the injection wells right by that? Or are they in a different hydrographic basin?

Doug Thornley:

No, they are in the same hydrographic basin.

Assemblyman D'Silva:

The question I have pertains to an issue that I know is very near and dear to my colleague Assemblywoman Thomas and her real core of interest there, and that is the walkability nature of Reno. I am very impressed with what you have been able to do. I think that the more

walkable our cities are, especially urban areas, the better it is for everybody, for our community, for our society, for our economy. My question is, What do you think other cities here in Nevada can learn from your own process of creating the walkable nature of the heart of Reno, the downtown area?

Devon Reese:

I will take the first crack at it. Two things are true. Number one is that we have people in the city who—and I will really speak highly of our director of public works and engineering Kerrie Koski—are thinking responsibly about the future. Not only because walkable cities are better for the environment and our Climate Sustainability and Action Plan requires of us to make those thoughtful commitments, but our decision on where we develop means that we have prioritized development in the urban core to go vertical as opposed to out. When we start dragging folks farther and farther from the city's core where its historical nature has been, it becomes much harder for them to either walk to work, live, play, or bike. Those are kind of the things that are top of mind in the last year, as the slide indicated [page 10, [Exhibit F](#)] and Mr. Thornley also stated. We have our micromobility project. We were privileged to bring the Dutch Cycling Embassy to Reno for a four-day workshop with the Regional Transportation Commission, Washoe County, both of the cities participating. It is a regional approach, right? It cannot be anything that Reno does alone. You know, when you go to other countries or if you have been to European countries, you see people so happy to be cycling everywhere and there is a culture of it. Well, the why is there, why are we not that way? We have been a very car-centric society and so we are trying to find a balance between what we know our people desire, and what they see themselves being able to participate in.

The micromobility project that we ran in downtown Reno over the course of about nine months really was informative for us because there were elements that did not work, but there were other elements that did work. We are trying to pick and choose those. Walkability, micromobility, the sort of densification and urbanization of a city that is growing, all those things I think are part of it. As Manager Thornley said, our budget is stretched to its limits. We just try to find a way. We try to find those opportunities and, of course, we are interested in new ideas. Manager Thornley and I spent some time this fall in Columbus, Ohio, where we were there to learn about how they had made a priority of their own city to find more walkability, more micromobility options. We are trying to learn from others. We obviously do not believe that we are inventing some new mode of transportation or livability, but to look to our other cities and counties and say, What are they doing and what can we replicate here, within the bounds of our budget? That is really the best way to address it. I do not know if Mr. Thornley would have anything to add.

Doug Thornley:

I think I would build on that simply by saying what seems to be important in these projects beyond the physical layout of them is understanding how and why people are moving around the city. For example, you live in place A and you need to be in place B, understanding what place B might be and why you need to go there, whether that is work, whether that is a grocery store, whether that is a restaurant, whether that is a park, and understanding the route people take to those respective spaces, and then the external pressures that cause them to

choose that particular route. Do you prioritize how quickly you get there? Do you prioritize taking a route that perhaps has shops that you can stop in along the way? Do you prioritize taking a route along the river where we have a number of public art installations because you enjoy them, or you enjoy the environment? All of those things are possible whether you are on a bike, whether you are on foot, or even whether you are in a car. Understanding why people make the choices that they do when we are designing our micromobility projects is the key. To answer your question about what other places could take away from that, I think I would tell you that we are still learning ourselves how these things come together and what makes a project successful versus perhaps not. But that seems to be the key: understanding why people choose to go where they do and what the external pressures are that caused them to take the route that they do.

Assemblyman Nguyen:

I am very encouraged to hear Mr. Vice Mayor talk about his priorities and focus on the DEI space. I think that is amazing to hear from an elected official and a community member who is passionate about the issue. I noticed that you did put the DEI slide [page 12, [Exhibit F](#)] last because you knew I was going to ask about that. Thank you for giving me a heads-up. In terms of the growth in your population in the last few years, as many of you are aware the pandemic actually had increased the number of people moving into the state for us here in Nevada, right? Lots of folks moved here during that time frame, and a large portion of them are the AAPI community. The AAPI community with the recent census is the fastest growing, in fact, we are the third behind California and Hawaii.

With that in mind, you actually show the example of your progress in reaching out to the Hispanic community. My question is, the AAPI community is often seen as a monolith, right? We are not just that one box. We have so many different languages in the culture, and that population is actually growing right here in Reno, in your city. I just want to ask whether the Vice Mayor or the City Manager has thoughts on your priorities in terms of the AAPI communities that are in your city, in terms of language access?

Devon Reese:

Your question is perhaps the one that resonates most with me. Our AAPI community is growing tremendously in northern Nevada, and that includes everyone from a large Sikh community to Bangladeshis. There is a growing Vietnamese community. It is a very exciting thing because, as someone who was born and raised here, oftentimes we had to leave to experience the diversity that we sought and now we do not have to do that. At the local level, at least on a political level, there is also a growing recognition, and there is now a home and a space for an AAPI caucus within the Washoe County Democratic Party. Through that we have also had the opportunity to grow cultural events. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the Red Lantern event over the last weekend because I had a prior commitment here in Carson City. The AAPI community is small but of growing importance. I will say that when I talked to our city management team about how we are reaching out to a community that could be Hmong immigrants, it could be people from the Asian Pacific Island community, we are always looking for ways to do that. We have to make choices about our communications, and we have access to both employees who are members of those

communities and also to outside contractors who help us to craft messaging that involves those communities. As we continue down this road, I think Mrs. Esparza will be critically important to developing those kinds of resources because it is not enough that we have some Spanish-language Facebook posts because we know that there are more than just Spanish-speaking individuals in our community. As we begin to identify them, those will become parts of our diversity equity inclusion plan.

Also, as we welcome them in, I will tell you anecdotally during the DEI speaker series, one of the most well-attended speaking engagements was a university professor who came in to share the Asian-American experience in academia and in the city. We have a very rich tradition; Chinese immigrants built a number of different railroads through our area. There was a Chinatown in Reno that was burned to the ground in the 1800s and then later rebuilt. There have been moments where we have had to have recognition of our past wrongs in order to figure out our path for getting to the future. And so we continue to grow. Manager Thornley said we are starting down the right path. It is not an ending point. It will be a dynamic and fluid changing program, and I think we intend to make sure that our organization's hiring practices reflect the diversity of the community as well, so that we know that we are really reaching all of the people who live here and call this home. I think you are also right that as people migrate and change living patterns, we are going to continue to confront those issues and it will be exciting. I will also say this, the DEI slide [page 12] was not last purposefully, but it was last because we wanted to have the opportunity to think thoughtfully about it. It is something that we lead with. Even though it was in the slide deck last, it is perhaps the most important undertaking that we will engage in and embark on over the next 20 years.

Assemblyman Nguyen:

Thank you, Mr. Vice Mayor. I look forward to hearing more success stories from your city, and I look forward to partnering with you from the state level.

Chair Torres:

Thank you. We appreciate your taking the time to come have a presentation for our Committee. We only have five more presentations today. Now, I do want to thank the City of Sparks for being so patient. We really appreciate you all taking the time and joining us during this very, very busy morning in the hardest-working Committee on Government Affairs. Today with the City of Sparks, we have a presentation from Mayor Ed Lawson as well as Assistant City Manager, Alison McCormick.

Ed Lawson, Mayor, City of Sparks:

Thank you for having us. What I am known for in our region is having very brief meetings. I am going to keep this as brief as possible. We will start off with showing you our city council [page 2, [Exhibit G](#)]. As you can see, you have the Mayor, you have the Mayor Pro-Tem Donald Abbott, who was born and raised right across the street from City Hall, which you have got to love. We have Dian VanderWell and Charlene Bybee on our council who represent the other wards, and then we have Paul Anderson and Khristopher Dahir.

We are a manager form of government. The mayor appoints the city manager. Our mayor in Sparks does not have a vote, so consequently does not have term limits. I am in my thirteenth year on the council, my third year as mayor. The mayor has a lot of ceremonial stuff to do in the City of Sparks. That is mostly appointing for planning commissions and the different volunteer commissions. We have roughly 40 different regional boards we serve on with Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County. You can tell we are pretty busy. I am sure we have the same thing in the south.

We have a unique situation with Storey County in that we have a county with 4,200 residents and 25,000 jobs today. It is supposed to be 50,000 jobs here in the next five to eight years. There will still be 4,200 residents in Storey County because number one, the new park there that they built came with no housing. It is in the law for them. Number two, there is a water shortage, and I am sure that some of you from the south have noticed. I should mention before I go too much further, I was a Clark Charger in 1978. Since everyone is telling their high school, I do not want to be left out.

We have regional partnerships with the RTC, the Regional Planning Governing Board and then of course, all kinds of different boards we share because we are in such close proximity to each other.

Sparks is in a unique position at this point, much like Las Vegas. We are landlocked. We are out of land. Our next phase is to move up and, as we know, when you move up, things get more expensive. The things we talked about with affordable housing kind of go out the window because we are literally becoming San Francisco in the City of Sparks. With no place to grow to, now we grow up. That housing gets more expensive. It is a blessing in some ways, and we are getting a lot more infill. Our downtown area has really come along with the advent of apartment complexes down there. We will have roughly 5,000 people living in a six square-block area in downtown Sparks. That is one of our cool things that I think is generating some interest for us. We will know that we have made it in downtown Sparks when we get a grocery store. That is a big deal.

We are working closely with the federal delegation, Senator Jacky Rosen and Congressman Mark Amodei, to get a lands bill. We have land to the east of Sparks that goes right into Storey County, which makes perfect sense for us to grow to where the employment center is. That will free us up to have some land to develop. But the bigger thing is we want to see our city centers. That is what we are calling them. We have a river running through Sparks, and it has tilt-up concrete buildings on it. It is not very user-friendly. You can be down there on the bike path, and you may see one or two people an hour go by this beautiful river that we have. Every city in America would love to have a river running through it, and ours has tilt-up concrete. We are working that idea to move that industrial area out to the east, closer to the employment center and if we do so we can put housing along the river. Dr. Taylor, that is news for you.

Then we are also looking at Oddie Boulevard as another city center. The idea is you will come to a city center, say downtown Sparks, and we have a concert venue down there. You

come to the concert, you go to dinner, go to the Nugget, gamble, leave us some money. Then you walk around the entire city. Now, if you want to go to The Generator and where some of the other development is, and we are looking at a Hispanic type of area along Oddie Boulevard, you take public transportation to that. We will have biking paths and walking paths, so it makes that easier. Then we are looking at how do we make the connection from downtown Sparks to the river. We have to get across Interstate 80 to make that happen. There are some things we have to work on to make that happen for the future. We are pretty excited about the vision for the future of Sparks.

When I grew up in Las Vegas, it was pretty easy. Las Vegas was Las Vegas and Henderson was way over there in the north. Las Vegas was way over there. Nowadays you cannot really tell when you move from one to the other. We are the exact same thing in Reno and Sparks. You would not know that you are in Reno or Sparks unless you read a sign. We are very intertwined with the City of Reno.

We have some of the greatest special events. I do not know if you have ever been to the Nugget Rib Cook-Off, but around 500,000 people come to downtown Sparks over a six-day period, and it is pretty incredible to just be around that area—the smell of ribs cooking and all that. It is a lot of fun. We have Hot August Nights, which is probably one of the larger car shows in America. We register around 5,000 cars every year for that, and it brings lots of tourism here. I am going to give you a scoop. This may not be the right time to do it, but I am going to tell you this will probably be the last year for the Reno Air Races in the Reno area, just because of the constraints of building and our needing to use that land out there. That is very positive. They generate about \$100 million in economic impact. We have a Hometowne Christmas Parade. We were voted the best Christmas parade in America three or four years ago, which was pretty cool. I am skipping around. My city manager is going, What are you talking about?

This is probably one of the bigger prides of Sparks. We had an old mall where the Outlets at Legends is now. The new casino that just went in there is called Legends Bay Casino. It is a sales tax and revenue bonds project. We had a softball field there. We got some land out here to the north in North Sparks and it is called Golden Eagle Regional Park. This park is all artificial fields. It is kids' baseball, soccer, and football. Then there are six softball fields. Those six softball fields generate 50,000 room-nights a year and over \$30 million in regional impact. People want to come from all over America, as far away as New York state, to come and play on our softball fields. We are one of two in the entire nation. We do not get a lot of credit for that. It is kind of a real secret, but all the residents in our area love playing out there.

I am skipping a lot of this. I am going to the fast facts [page 6, [Exhibit G](#)]. At our last census we had 108,000 residents. We are over 110,000 now. We have 600 full-time employees, 700 miles of roads, and 650 acres of parks. Wastewater is probably the issue that we have the biggest issue with at this point. Sparks' portion of the wastewater is almost at its limit. Part of this lands bill would help us to build another sewer plant to take the pressure off of north Sparks and Spanish Springs.

I am very, very proud of our Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement team. It is three officers, and their job is to do nothing but contact homeless people. Why officers? Because you have to identify yourself to an officer. But we do not arrest our way out of a homeless problem. We offer services. We have roughly 100 services—anything from socks and identification, shots for your dog, or cellphone. We have a myriad of services that we offer people to help them make that transition from being on the streets to being into housing. Sometimes that is just getting them to the Child Advocacy Center. Sometimes, it is taking them to the homeless shelter. For the most part we are doing a very good job. It says on here that we have had 108 homeless residents. That is a little behind my last count. I get a weekly update. We are over 300 residents in two years that we have helped get off the streets and into some form of transitional housing or helped to move down that road.

Police and fire are always an issue. We just started entering the fray in ambulances. We are going to see how that works out to do transport. I know Vegas has a very good model on their ambulance. We have not had that great of a model up here, so we are going to try something new. We also do before- and after-school programs for the kids, and Leisure Without Limits for the handicapped and those with special needs. We are very proud of our two all-ability play parks. We had one, and it was so busy that people could not use it. It is for everything from autism to wheelchair access to everything on the spectrum. It works out very well. We just opened our new one, and I got a complaint from the apartments across the way. They said, "The kids are laughing too loud there and disturbing me." I said, "I will take those complaints all day long."

That was a very quick presentation on Sparks. I think you are going to ask about demographics. They are mostly identical to Reno. I should probably add, in the last two years since I have been mayor, we have stood up a diversity and inclusion board from the citizens. We have also stood up a citizen's advisory board to the police department. That is a diverse population also. We take these things very seriously. Things that we have not had to deal with in the past that we are dealing with today. With that, I will open it up for questions. Sorry, I am used to being in charge, Madam Chair.

Chair Torres:

Are you going to conclude?

Alyson McCormick, Assistant City Manager, City of Sparks:

Preferably not, Chair Torres.

Chair Torres:

No problem.

Alyson McCormick:

Now that Mayor Lawson has covered the fun and exciting parts of what is going on in Sparks, I will dive into some of the nitty-gritty as far as our strategic plan goals [page 7, [Exhibit G](#)]. They inform both our budget as well as our legislative platform. Those goals are

paraphrased as smart growth, communications and transportation, community character, facilities and services, resiliency and sustainability, and workforce housing.

In our budget our general fund revenues are approximately \$94.5 million in fiscal year 2023 [page 8]. Consolidated sales tax is about 45 percent of that. We are very constrained when sales tax decreases. About 31 percent of our general fund comes from property taxes, about 18 percent from license and permit fees, and 6 percent from various other sources. In addition to our general fund, we have 28 other funds that are restricted as far as what uses they can go towards. There is about a combined \$150 million in all of those funds, so a budget of slightly under \$250 million dollars total.

As far as general fund expenditures [page 9], this graphic does exclude transfers to other funds from the general fund. With that in mind, we spent about 71 percent of our general fund on public safety functions. That is police, fire, emergency medical services, our municipal court, the criminal division of our city attorney's office, and some traffic-related functions. About 18 percent of our general fund goes towards administrative functions: our finance department, our human resources department, and other internal services. Across all functions, we spend about \$72.5 million dollars on salaries and benefits out of the general fund. A very significant portion of our general fund is spent on salaries and benefits. That means that we have less than 30 percent of our general fund left to buy other things. Inflationary pressures like we are all seeing at the grocery store now also affect the city in its ability to provide services and supplies.

Some challenges that we are facing at the City of Sparks are staffing shortages. Of those 599 full-time employees that Mayor Lawson mentioned a few minutes ago, we currently have 91 vacancies, a vacancy rate of over 15 percent. We are a lean city when we are fully staffed. That vacancy rate hurts as far as what services we are able to provide. Community-wide, we have a shortage of mental and behavioral health providers and other resources in that regard. Another challenge that the city is facing is workers' compensation costs and increasing liability. There is also only one stop-loss insurer in the workers' compensation space in the state of Nevada that is willing to insure police and fire agencies because the costs of those claims can be so high over the life of the claim. We also have insufficient funds to improve our aging infrastructure, both for city jobs and for other jobs within the city and the community. We need workforce development programs and, last but certainly not least, we have a shortage of affordable housing for that missing middle group, for seniors, and for workforce.

The city also has one bill draft request. This year we have used that on what has become Assembly Bill 2 that is in front of the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure. That would allow city vehicles to use blue lights on their road maintenance vehicles, just like vehicles are allowed to under current law.

Finally, I will introduce our City of Sparks Government Affairs team. Mayor Lawson, Councilwoman Bybee from Ward 4, City Manager Neil Krutz, myself, and our contract

lobbyists from Kaempfer Crowell, Mike Hillerby and Shelly Capurro. With that, we are happy to answer any questions.

Assemblywoman Taylor:

If you could be any more enthusiastic about the City of Sparks, Mr. Mayor, then I do not know what. You just light up. You are a pretty low-key kind of guy, but you light up when you are talking about your city. You really, really do, so thank you for that. Just a question. You list your challenges. Thank you, because in the midst of that, there are still some challenges. Do you have a strategic plan? As you look at the city itself, are there any kinds of things you are looking at? We know there is some help, something that you are putting before us. Do you have a plan of attack?

Alyson McCormick:

The city does have a strategic plan; however, it is in need of an update. We are in the process of updating that plan. It was first adopted in 2018 and runs through fiscal year 2023, which we are going to see the end of very quickly. We are in the process of updating that plan. As far as work on some of those challenges, the main point of progress that we have seen recently, the city was able to obtain a \$1 million grant through the state for affordable housing. The loose plan for that funding is to buy vacant land within the City of Sparks and enter into some sort of public-private partnership in order to develop some affordable housing stock on that land. That progress is in the very early stages. I think that is the most exciting thing as far as progress on some of those challenges that I can identify.

Assemblywoman Taylor:

I appreciate that, and I also want to commend your work in putting together the diversity committee, something Sparks has never had. That is very forward thinking. I certainly cannot commend the City of Reno for their efforts in that without commending you. I think that is a really, really big step. Really good move. Impressive. Thank you so much.

Chair Torres:

Are there any additional questions from the members? I think you just had a very thorough and quick and clear and concise presentation. Thank you so much for your time, Mayor, and Ms. McCormick. We really appreciate it.

At this time, I will go ahead and open up the floor for public comment. [Public comment was heard. [Exhibit H](#) was submitted and will be part of the record.]

Seeing no further business, the Committee is adjourned [at 11:58 a.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Dylan Small
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "Introduction of the League," presented by Wesley Harper, Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities, and Lori Bagwell, Mayor, City of Carson City; and President, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities.

[Exhibit D](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "City of Boulder City: The City That Built Hoover Dam," presented by Joseph P. Hardy, Mayor, City of Boulder City, and Tylour Tedder, City Manager, City of Boulder City.

[Exhibit E](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "City of Las Vegas Assembly Committee on Government Affairs," dated February 10, 2023, presented by Olivia Diaz, Councilwoman, Ward 3, City of Las Vegas; Lisa Morris Hibbler, Chief Community Services Officer, City of Las Vegas; and Randy Robison, Director, Government and Community Affairs, City of Las Vegas.

[Exhibit F](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "City of Reno Overview Presentation," dated February 10, 2023, presented by Nic Ciccone, Legislative Relations Program Manager, City of Reno; Doug Thornley, City Manager, City of Reno; and Devon Reese, Vice Mayor, City of Reno.

[Exhibit G](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "City of Sparks," dated February 10, 2023, presented by Ed Lawson, Mayor, City of Sparks, and Alyson McCormick, Assistant City Manager, City of Sparks.

[Exhibit H](#) is an email dated February 10, 2023, to the members of the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs, signed by Annemarie Grant, Private Citizen, Quincy, Massachusetts.