MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Eighty-Third Session
February 12, 2025

The Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair Venicia Considine at 8:01 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 1 of the Nevada Legislature Hearing Rooms, 7120 Amigo Street, 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/83rd2025.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblymember Venicia Considine, Chair
Assemblymember Duy Nguyen, Vice Chair
Assemblymember Max E. Carter II
Assemblymember Reuben D'Silva
Assemblymember Rich DeLong
Assemblymember Rebecca Edgeworth
Assemblymember Tanya P. Flanagan
Assemblymember Danielle Gallant
Assemblymember Heather Goulding
Assemblymember Bert K. Gurr
Assemblymember Linda F. Hunt
Assemblymember Jovan A. Jackson
Assemblymember Venise Karris

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblymember Heidi Kasama (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alex Drozdoff, Committee Policy Analyst
Sarah Delap, Committee Counsel
Judith Bishop, Committee Manager

William Puchert, Committee Secretary
Mary Whalen, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wesley Harper, Director of Government Affairs, Office of the City Manager, City of North Las Vegas
Pamela Goynes-Brown, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas
Micaela Moore, City Manager, Office of the City Manager, City of North Las Vegas
Kacey KC, State Forester Firewarden, Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Todd Ingalsbee, President, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada
Paul J. Moradkhan, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Vegas Chamber
Jennifer Berthiaume, Government Affairs Manager, Nevada Association of Counties

Chair Considine:
[Roll was taken. Rules and meeting protocols were explained.] We will hear two presentations followed by two bill hearings for our presentations. We will begin with the City of North Las Vegas followed by the Division of Forestry of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. After these presentations, we will hear Assembly Bill 57, which revises provisions relating to the Nevada Interstate Mutual Aid System and then Assembly Bill 14, which revises provisions relating to certain public officers. City of North Las Vegas, we will start with your presentation. Our presentation from the City of North Las Vegas will be presented by Mayor Pamela Goynes-Brown; Micaela Moore, City Manager; and Wesley Harper, Director of Government Affairs.

Wesley Harper, Director of Government Affairs, Office of the City Manager, City of North Las Vegas:
It is my distinct honor to welcome the Honorable Pamela Goynes-Brown, Mayor of the City of North Las Vegas and first black mayor in Nevada's history, as well as Micaela Moore, the first Filipina American to be the city attorney for the City of North Las Vegas, as well as the first Filipina American to be the city manager of the City of North Las Vegas. My name is Wesley Harper. I am the Director of Government Affairs for the City of North Las Vegas. With that, I welcome Mayor Goynes-Brown.

Pamela Goynes-Brown, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas:
As stated, I am Pamela Goynes-Brown and so proud to be the mayor of the City of North Las Vegas [page 1, Exhibit C]. I am honored to be here today as we celebrate not only our economic achievements, but also to share how we are turning economic growth into a quality of life that every resident in North Las Vegas can enjoy.

Before we get started, I want to take a moment to honor a true hero [page 2]. Last week, our city suffered a heartbreaking loss. North Las Vegas Police Officer Jason Roscow gave his life protecting the people he swore to serve, making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Jason Roscow was a protector, a guardian of our community, and a man who wore the badge

knowing full well the risk that came with it. His sacrifice and unwavering commitment to public safety exemplify the spirit of service that should inspire us all. The City of North Las Vegas will remember Officer Roscow with gratitude and his legacy will continue to guide our efforts in building a safer and stronger community. I would like to take just a short pause for remembrance. [There was a moment of silence.]

I would like to begin our story from economic growth to community well-being and that is the engine that drives our community's quality of life. Every major investment from our upgraded infrastructure to the new business developments directly supports enhanced public services and community amenities [page 3]. These initiatives are not just about building structures. We are creating career opportunities. We are enhancing education. We are bolstering public safety and expanding recreational opportunities for our families. Our vision is clear: A future where improved public spaces, enriched educational opportunities, and accessible community services all contribute to long-term quality for every resident in North Las Vegas.

Our most impactful investment will always be in our people [page 4]. The Dolores Huerta Resource Center is scheduled to open soon. It is a community hub where residents can access workforce training, legal workshops, health services, and technology training. Similarly, our commitment to sustainable innovation is embodied in the Urban Center for Advanced Agricultural Technologies. As the first state-approved urban agriculture zone, this initiative received a $1.5 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) investment, and this is going to drive food sustainability and increase workforce development. These programs empower our residents to create long-term sustainability for themselves and their families.

A pressing issue is just addressing affordable housing and its challenges [page 5]. We are all familiar with that and it is a pressing issue in our community as well. With many residents in North Las Vegas earning under $35,000 a year, the need for affordable housing options is more critical than ever. In 2023, North Las Vegas had over 2,000 subsidized affordable housing units. With our population of over 280,000, that is about one unit for every 131 residents. It clearly highlights that there is a shortage. One of the significant challenges is affordability. Studies show that two-bedroom apartments in North Las Vegas requires a $30-an-hour wage. This is well beyond reach for many in our community. To address that gap, we are partnering with private developers and state agencies to create affordable housing options, especially for our seniors and our low-income housing.

Over the past two years, our investment has totaled $4.1 million, generating a return on investment of $153 million, which has helped us deliver over 839 new affordable units. Nearly half of those are already completed. We are also taking steps to support those looking to purchase homes through targeted homebuyer programs. Currently, $1.55 million has been allocated to support programs run by organizations like Chicanos Por La Causa Nevada Partners and Community Services of Southern Nevada.

We have planned an additional $1.3 million for future projects, including $500,000 for microenterprise housing and $800,000 for expanded homebuyer assistance programs. To further support these initiatives, we have updated our development codes to comply with Senate Bill 150 of the 81st Session and Senate Bill 213 of the 82nd Session. We are also working with Clark County and the state to secure funding for third-party organizations to collect housing data as required by Assembly Bill 213 of the 82nd Session. This ensures that we have accurate data and that our decisions are informed by that accurate data and are always up to date. Through all of these efforts, we are committed to making affordable housing a reality in North Las Vegas and to ensure that every resident has access to safe, affordable housing.

I would like to bolster about our next team [page 6]. Our Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (H.O.M.E.) Team is at the forefront of our efforts to provide comprehensive support to those experiencing homelessness. They are committed to not just offering temporary relief, but also truly transforming lives. Their mission is also clear: The goal is to transition families out of homelessness into sustainable housing and helping them to rebuild their lives. Last year, we achieved an over 88 percent success rate for individuals and even more remarkable, 93 percent for our families. That success is very significant for our community. They are no longer on the street, and they are securing a path toward long-term sustainability. We also want them to be self-sufficient. Their achievements underscore our commitment to addressing homelessness head on and we are ensuring that every member of our community has opportunities to thrive.

We are also investing in our public spaces and breathing new life into our neighborhoods [page 7]. We are making significant upgrades to Craig Ranch Regional Park, investing $23 million through our capital improvement program. I would just like to highlight some of those upgrades: We are creating six multiuse fields along with an adjacent parking lot and that will provide versatile spaces for sports and our community events; $1.7 million investment in LED park lighting that will be a safety feature, but it also extends the park use in evening hours; the installation of an Apex Mobile Stage and its 42-foot by 20-foot, ultra-high definition screen and a state-of-the-art sound system. That will elevate the park's capacity to host live events and community gatherings.

We are planning a new roof at the Craig Ranch Regional Park amphitheater. We have secured $58 million in Bureau of Land Management grants to fund multiple projects, including the expansion of Craig Ranch Regional Park by adding an additional 20 acres and adding a dedicated pickleball complex—we know how popular pickleball is—and a fitness circus and solar lighting. In partnership with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Clark County School District, we are developing a 14-acre Children's Science and Nature Park just to merge education and recreation with our youth. We are extending the Northern Beltway Trail by 1.5 miles just to focus on healthy living in the City of North Las Vegas.

Project Sparkle is one that brings a sparkle to my eye [page 8]. It is our way of improving our parks in the City of North Las Vegas. We are doing this in several phases. Phase one, where we are renovating eight parks in the downtown area where construction is slated to start

within the next few months. Once these parks shine, we plan to expand the program to 12 additional parks south of Craig Road in our more mature neighborhoods in the City of North Las Vegas. We are revitalizing these green spaces. Lastly, our tree inventory initiative, supported by a $1 million U.S. Forest Service grant, is making a significant impact on our urban environment. By using state of the art technology to assess and enhance our tree canopy, we have not only improved our city's natural beauty and air quality, but we also earned the Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation last year. All of these initiatives play a crucial role, creating safer, more attractive and engaging spaces across the City of North Las Vegas.

I am a retired educator and education is a lifelong goal for me [page 9]. I am just proud and excited about the initiatives that we have in North Las Vegas to empower and support our schools. For the 2024-25 school year, we awarded $280,000 in microgrants to local educators. These funds are directly aimed at improving the goals of improving student achievement, reducing absenteeism, boosting teacher retention, and enhancing family engagement. We have an education advocacy committee that works hard in ensuring that these goals are met throughout the schools in North Las Vegas. Since 2022, using ARPA funds, we have distributed a total of 600,000 microgrants to support education from the ground up.

Last year, we provided a $258,000 grant to the Silver State Education Foundation to launch the Homegrown Teacher Program at Canyon Springs High School. The program is designed to create a pipeline of local teachers by mentoring them, guiding them, and offering resources to students who commit to staying in our community and teaching in North Las Vegas. Currently, 50 students are enrolled in the program, making a promising step toward developing future educators within our community. I understand that next year, the program is slated to grow to more than 70 students who had expressed interest in participating in it. In April, we host our third annual Mariachi Competition at Craig Ranch Regional Park and it continues to grow. Last year, we had 25 middle and high school mariachi programs compete.

Beyond these target programs, over $27 million has been provided through ARPA funding to support 81 projects that benefit youth, our veterans, and local nonprofits across the city. At Cristo Rey St. Viator College Preparatory High School, we awarded $135,000 in grants in round two of our funding. This grant was used to purchase two large passenger vans. These vans will help students who are in the corporate work program to assist their parents in transporting them from school to their work assignments. This helps to bridge the gap and create workforce development to prepare our students for the future and their career successes.

Our libraries are evolving into powerful engines for workforce development in North Las Vegas [page 10]. We are transforming our traditional library spaces into resource centers. We are supporting our community's economic growth and our career readiness. At our Aliante Branch Library, we have launched the EmployeeNV Business Hub and it has been a game changer. It is tailored for job seekers and entrepreneurs, offering critical

resources, career counseling, workshops, and huge network opportunities. We call it our one-stop designation. Residents can come and gain the skills that they need to connect and be competitive in today's job market.

Equally exciting at our Alexander Library is the EmployNV Youth Hub. This is designed to engage our younger residents, providing them programs focused on job readiness and career exploration. We want to nurture that young talent and hopefully they will stay right here in North Las Vegas in their future and become our workforce. We have installed new study pods across our libraries, quiet spaces, modern spaces, where our residents can focus on their professional training and their skill development. While completing these facilities our free tutoring services are offered so that all of our community members have access to continuous learning opportunities. That supports workforce readiness. By investing in these initiatives, we are empowering people to build a stronger, more competitive North Las Vegas.

Our progress over the past year is a testament to our commitment to smart growth, economic opportunity, and community well-being [page 11]. The residents we serve in North Las Vegas are those same families whose dreams and futures our state legislators work to support here in Carson City.

I invite you to join us in shaping the future of North Las Vegas, a future where economic success and community vitality go hand in hand. I want to thank you for your time, your support, and for being a part of our shared journey toward a brighter future in North Las Vegas. With that, I am happy to introduce our city manager, Micaela Moore.

Micaela Moore, City Manager, City of North Las Vegas:
I am proud to share how our focused investments and dedicated work over the past year are transforming North Las Vegas into a premier destination for economic opportunity and community progress [page 12]. Let us start where everything begins. North Las Vegas is governed by an elected mayor and four city council members who set our city's strategic policies and vision [page 13]. This vision, in turn, is empowered by our city team who work every day to implement these policies and bring our plans to fruition.

Now, I would like to introduce you to our leadership team that drives North Las Vegas forward [page 14]. Supporting me is our team of three assistant city managers, Rebecca Gipson Harty, William Harty, and Sally Moore. We also have Jared Luke, our senior director of government affairs and economic development, who is instrumental in fostering partnerships and driving the economic growth that benefits all residents of North Las Vegas. Together our team embodies our commitment to effective governance, financial stability, and robust economic development, ensuring that North Las Vegas continues to thrive and serve its community with excellence.

The City of North Las Vegas is the largest minority-majority city in Nevada and one of the most diverse cities in the United States [page 15]. This diverse population is a powerful asset that drives our creativity, innovation, and our economic progress. As you can see, our demographic profile not only defines who we are, but also fuels our commitment to inclusion

and innovation. Our community's dynamic and multicultural diversity is key to how we are building a thriving, resilient, and forward-thinking North Las Vegas and continue driving on the progress of the city's economic development.

We are happy to show you how these targeted investments we have made, smart infrastructure enhancements are creating an environment that attracts businesses, fuels job creation, and delivers long-term value [page 16]. Our general fund budget is divided into eight key functional areas supporting critical city operations and services. General government, which includes our administrative functions like the city manager, city council, and other vital departments, accounts for $60.3 million or 18.8 percent of our budget.

The judicial function managing all municipal court operations received $10.4 million or 3.2 percent of our budget towards our legal processes that continue to serve our community fairly and efficiently.

Public safety is our largest expenditure with $155 million allocated, representing 48.3 percent of our general fund. This is highlighting our commitment to maintaining and enhancing the safety and security of North Las Vegas through our police, fire, and emergency services.

Our public works budget stands at $9.6 million or 3 percent of our budget, reflecting our dedication to maintaining and improving the infrastructure that supports our daily operations. Culture and Recreation represents 5.7 percent or $18.2 million that is invested to enrich our community through parks, recreational programs, and cultural initiatives. Community support amounts to 3 percent or $9.8 million and focuses on programs that enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for our residents.

Lastly, our budget also includes allocations for debt service, contingency, and transfers to other funds for a balanced and comprehensive approach to fiscal management. We strive to optimally use our resources to support city operations, drive growth, and improve the quality of life for our residents and businesses in North Las Vegas. Another item that is in the 2024 calendar year, North Las Vegas had 117 active federal grants totaling over $233 million. Among this, ARPA funding, as the mayor discussed, was a standout with $46 million dedicated to critical projects. Thirty-five percent of our ARPA funds, or approximately $16.2 million was subawarded directly to the community through 47 subawards ensuring that these funds reach those who need them the most.

I would like to turn our attention to the consolidated tax distribution (CTX), which remains the largest revenue source for our general fund [page 17]. This highly elastic revenue is collected by the state and allocated to our city based on statutory formulas. For fiscal year 2025, the CTX budget is estimated at $90.8 million—a very slight decrease of 0.1 percent from our fiscal year 2024 projection. Despite this dip, CTX continues to provide 34.1 percent of our total general fund revenues, underscoring its critical role in our budget.

However, we have seen some concerning trends this year: CTX revenue is negative year over year for every month, and our latest allocation is down 46.8 percent compared to last year largely due to some state accounting issues. This volatility presents challenges as we strive to balance our budget. Looking back between 2018 and 2024, CTX revenue increased by $33.3 million. During that same period, our expenditures for public safety alone increased by $38.3 million. This comparison highlights the growing demands on our budget even as our revenue streams evolve. While CTX remains our largest and most vital revenue source, the current challenges remind us of the importance of continual fiscal vigilance and innovative solutions. We must address these fluctuations to maintain our financial stability and continue delivering essential services to our community.

Let us talk about our language access plan [page 18]. It is a key initiative designed to ensure that every resident in North Las Vegas can fully engage with our community services. The plan guarantees that all residents, regardless of the language they speak, can easily connect with city services. By providing real-time artificial intelligence translation during public meetings, we enable our residents to actively participate in civic discussions, ensuring their voices are heard. In times of crisis, timely communication is critical. Our plan ensures that emergency alerts are delivered in multiple languages, including Spanish, Tagalog, and more so that every resident receives crucial updates.

We believe that language should never be a barrier to opportunity. With robust language assistance, businesses and job seekers can access the resources they need supporting overall economic development and workforce participation. Our initiatives extend to family services as well—connecting parents with education resources and community programs ensuring that our children and families have the support that they need. We are committed to ongoing improvement through resident feedback and efforts of our language access committee. We will continually enhance our services to meet the evolving needs of our community. Our plan does fully align with federal and state requirements, specifically Assembly Bill 266 of the 82nd Session, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as well as the Americans With Disabilities Act. Ultimately, our language access plan removes language barriers, fosters engagement, supports economic and workforce growth, and empowers our families ensuring that North Las Vegas remains a leader in inclusive governance.

Now, let us take a look at the projects that are already fueling our economic engine [page 19]. Let us start with Hylo Park. In January, we broke ground on phase one with Agora Realty and Management. This project is setting the stage offering a dynamic commercial lifestyle that will serve nearly 400 new single-family homes. Looking ahead, phase two will introduce a multipurpose sports venue, a grocery store, and additional retail and dining options, further driving economic activity in the area. The downtown gateway is a $200 million capital investment spread over 19 acres. This redevelopment project has already begun creating 900 new career opportunities for our residents. This project is going to enhance the city's medical infrastructure with a recent edition of Pueblo Medical's state-of-the-art facility, while Agora manages additional tenant discussions that promise to expand our local health care offerings. We are hoping that this is going to give our residents the ability to stay close to home instead of having to drive to Las Vegas or Henderson to find

health care. Our 135-acre medical campus strategically located in our job creation zone near the VA [Veterans Administration] hospital will serve as a transformative center for health care and economic activity solidifying North Las Vegas as a leader in regional medical innovation.

I know you have all probably heard about Apex Industrial Park. It is a cornerstone of our growth strategy with over 7,000 acres dedicated to innovation and opportunity and 25 million square feet of building space under development [page 20]. Apex is rapidly becoming the region's industrial epicenter. The Kroger Distribution Center, an 885,000 square foot facility has already benefited from significant state-backed tax abatements, showcasing the potential for high-impact industrial investments. Apex's proximity to major transportation routes is ideal for U.S. and international companies in industrial manufacturing and logistics sectors.

Our economic success is really built on reliable modern infrastructure [page 21]. The Garnett Valley/Apex Water and Wastewater System represents a $900 million investment by Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and private partners in our city. The water authority will be able to maximize water resources by treating and recycling 99 percent of the water used indoors in the service area. From there, the wastewater will be treated and returned to Lake Mead to extend the availability of resources through return flow credits. This critical infrastructure will support Apex's continued growth, further attracting the U.S. and international companies and positioning North Las Vegas as a leading hub for manufacturing and logistics.

The 1.25 million-gallon Apex elevated water tank will be raised next week and is scheduled to be operational by June 2025. It guarantees a dependable water supply, ensures fire flow protection, and fosters continued growth at Apex until the SNWA water line is complete in 2028. This water tank will then further service fire flow protection once the wastewater system is completed.

Plus, our public works team is also hard at work executing $38 million in upgrades along Las Vegas Boulevard, specifically near City Hall. If any of you have driven there, I have affectionately called that our Cobblestone Road. Coupled with a full LED conversion of city lighting, these improvements are going to boost energy efficiency and reduce maintenance costs, directly benefiting our community.

I want to take a moment to spotlight our business license division—one of the key drivers in fostering local entrepreneurship and economic growth in North Las Vegas [page 22]. We pride ourselves on our fast and efficient service. Our team is dedicated to helping budding entrepreneurs get started quickly. We are proud to share that many business licenses are issued in as little as 24 hours and our standard turnaround is within one week. This speed is crucial in today's fast-paced business environment. In 2024, we issued 1,219 business licenses. By streamlining the licensing process, we removed unnecessary barriers for new businesses, encouraging innovation and more creation of jobs. The $17 billion in revenue declared by commercial businesses in this time period demonstrates that our strategies for sustainable growth and diverse funding are yielding real tangible results.

Efficiency is also critical in today's competitive economic landscape [page 23]. Our new online self-certification for contractors is a game changer. By replacing outdated in-person classes with a streamlined digital process, we are accelerating the city's permitting and certification procedures. This means projects can begin faster, reducing administrative delays and keeping our business community moving at the speed of business.

We know that a secure and stable environment is essential for a sustained economic growth [page 24]. Our new North Las Vegas Police Department North Central Area Command is a state-of-the-art facility featuring a mobile command center, canine units, a SWAT [Special Weapons And Tactics] team, and over 80 officers ensuring rapid and effective response capabilities. We have also relocated our police training academy to North Las Vegas. Previously, our officers would have to commute to Southeast Career Technical Academy, which is close to Henderson, for training. This further reinforces our commitment to safety and readiness while keeping our officers close to home.

On the fire safety front, Fire Station 58 is a 14,000-square-foot facility now fully operational and is home to a ladder truck and an ambulance with additional apparatus bays and dorm units to allow future expansion. We are also in the process of rebuilding and modernizing our downtown Fire Station 51 and totally replacing the structure from 1974.

Our continued success relies on strong partnerships and legislative support [page 25]. We need your continued collaboration to secure the necessary funding and implement policies that will accelerate these investments. Together, we can help ensure that North Las Vegas remains at the forefront of economic innovation and growth. I invite you to join and support us as we push our strategic plan forward. Let us work together to create a dynamic, business-friendly environment that propels North Las Vegas and the state of Nevada into a future of sustainable prosperity. Thank you for your time and commitment to our shared vision of economic excellence and growth. We are happy to begin taking some questions.

Chair Considine:
We have several questions. We are going to start this morning with Assemblymember Flanagan.

Assemblymember Flanagan:
You mentioned the Hylo Park Project and you also mentioned the homebuyer incentive program. There have been some additional questions in the community as to how Hylo Park will work. It is kind of a combination of questions. Once you build the housing in that space with that homebuyer incentive program, will it benefit people to move into that area? How do you see Hylo Park benefiting the surrounding or adjacent historic West Las Vegas neighborhood and the accessibility?

Micaela Moore:
The developer of Hylo Park did sell the south parcel on the southern portion of Hylo Park where the Texas Station sat. There are going to be 400 housing units built there and it is contemplated to be mostly affordable housing. In terms of the connectivity, that area is

supposed to be connecting to the first phase that we did the groundbreaking on last month. That is designed so that there is that live, work, play connectivity and potentially that the people living there could also work there and do their business there. In terms of the impact to the community as a whole, we are hoping that it is going to be an economic driver in terms of resources amenities. One of the things that we always hear from our residents is they have to drive out of North Las Vegas to go somewhere to eat or go do any kind of commercial activities.

Hylo Park is going to bring all these amenities right there at their doorstep and, hopefully, revitalize that area surrounding it. We are really excited about that. Across the street, that is going to be the next phase where the Fiesta Station used to sit. That is also going to be a big retail hub with a multisports athletic venue. We are hoping that it is not going to just drive people within North Las Vegas; it is going to pull other people in the whole valley. I think that is going to make it a nice amenity for the community.

Assemblymember Goulding:
Congratulations on being a Tree City. I am excited to hear that you are focused on increasing access to health care in your community. Do you have other plans to address the urban heat island issue that we are all facing in the state? On two components of this, I am interested in one on infrastructure. Building a tree canopy helps that. Do you have other strategies and secondarily, what are the services you provide for your citizens when there are heat events that your citizens are facing?

Micaela Moore:
The tree events are very popular. We just launched that. We hired a municipal forester last year. His name is Eddie Rodriguez. He has become a legend in North Las Vegas just because trees are very popular. We have a heat island especially in North Las Vegas. We secured a grant, as the mayor noted, to get more trees into the city. We have also partnered with different agencies and groups so that they can give away free trees. We have actually had several of these tree giveaway events and the line starts early in the morning and those trees go very quickly. We are looking at other initiatives and other grant funding to further enhance all the tree offerings. We are also looking at that as we are expanding our roadways because sometimes in the medians we can also provide some more coverage there as well as on the sidewalk. It is all part of our design. In the city, we are looking at more tree coverage and more tree canopies so that we can provide more shelter and combat that heat island effect.

Assemblymember Goulding:
What kinds of services do you provide when we are in the middle of a heat event?

Micaela Moore:
When we are in the middle of a heat event, we do have services. For example, our fire and emergency management services are usually on hand if there is a severe heat warning, and we can get out to the community.

We also have been working with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) to provide more of those shade shelters. We do put out those kinds of activities out there so that we can respond in the event that there is some elevated heat events.

Assemblymember Nguyen:
You spent the last few slides on economic development. I am really inspired by that as a small business owner myself. I wanted to make sure that we have cities across the state that provide a lot more access to entrepreneurs who want to start out doing great things for the community. I am wondering if you—and this question may not be new to you because you probably heard me asking other cities—do you keep track of data such as veteran-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, and the types of services that you would put on to assist those demographics?

Pamela Goynes-Brown:
We absolutely do track our small business connector. The goal of it was to be a catalyst for our veteran-owned businesses or entrepreneurs, women-owned businesses, and minority-owned businesses. We absolutely do track that data, and we also assist them with everything they need from A to Z to be successful and to sustain their businesses and what services we can even help them with, choosing those and the right employees to partner with those businesses to ensure their success.

Assemblymember Nguyen:
If you have a percentage of the number of veteran-owned businesses and women-owned businesses, if you can get that to the Committee, that would be great. If you do not have that data right now, it is fine.

Micaela Moore:
I do have that information for you. As we noted last year, we had 1,219 businesses licensed in 2024; 9,146 of them, or 78 percent, were registered as women-, minority-, or veteran-owned.

Assemblymember D'Silva:
I am a child of North Las Vegas. I grew up on Civic Center and Lake Mead, one of the most economically depressed areas in the entire state when I was growing up. When I was a young person, there was this daily barrage of news stories about how the city was in fiscal crisis. It was on the verge of being an existential economic crisis. To come out of that to a place where we are one of the most dynamic and economically vibrant cities, not just in Nevada, but in the entire American West, is a huge sort of achievement. It is one of those things that we do not talk about and celebrate as much in the state. I know, Mayor, that, you are a big part of that economic revitalization.

My question is two-part. One is the area where I grew up—and I know that we have the downtown gateway project taking place there—I was wondering if you could speak a little bit more about some of the investments that the city is making and the investments that the city is bringing to that particular part of the city? Then, the libraries. I am a big fan of the

North Las Vegas Library District. I know that even in recent years with Director Forrest Lewis, and then Dr. Melvin King, there has been a real revitalization with the library system. I know that they have been historically sort of disadvantaged in terms of the funding mechanisms. I know there is a funding stream issue there that has to be addressed. My question is what can the state do to help create a more vibrant funding mechanism for the North Las Vegas libraries?

Micaela Moore:
I will address downtown. We are excited because those parcels right near City Hall, it is basically 19 acres, and it is right at the gateway of Lake Mead. If you go and exit Lake Mead right now, you will see all of the work that is going in. The first thing that is going in there is an innovative Starbucks, which is going to be a training hub for other Starbucks employees around the area. We already have a catalyst that is going to be sitting right there at the intersection of North Fifth and Lake Mead. Around that, there is going to hopefully be a pedestrian retail community with more restaurants and amenities. This is to help lift the community so they can have nice amenities right there within walking distance and driving distance to where they live.

As I noted earlier, we are going to be making improvements on Las Vegas Boulevard North and have it be the gateway to the city. One of the first things I have done as city manager is hire a redevelopment specialist. One of those projects he is taking on is really improving our facade improvement program so that all those businesses along that area can have a facelift. In addition, we have started to do community cleanups. In fact, we are having one this morning in Ward 1 and we have been able to partner with Republic Services. What we worked out with them is that they are going to go give us anywhere from 10 to 11 community clean-up events throughout the year. We will go throughout different parts of the city with a focus on older neighborhoods that probably needed a little bit more. This is going to be a great effort that, hopefully, once we start these initiatives, people are going to take a lot more pride in their neighborhoods and communities. Then we can really work on that momentum to clean and revitalize these areas.

In terms of what you are asking with the libraries, that is definitely near and dear to us. The mayor highlighted a lot of the innovative things that we have been doing in that space. As you noted there, our libraries are probably at capacity. If you have been to Aliante, the programming there is incredible. They are always fully booked. Story time is apparently very popular, and it is always fully subscribed. One of the things we are looking at is as our city continues to grow, especially towards the northeastern part of the city, that is going to be a vacant area in terms of a void for library services. Director Lewis is looking to hopefully one day build a library there so that all those rooftops that will be eventually going into that area will have a physical library space. As you noted, we are the only unique library district in the state in terms of we do not get a CTX allocation unlike other library districts. We have to take it from our property tax, which is another reason why, if you look at the property tax of our city compared to other cities, it is slightly higher. In terms of solutions, it would be helpful to see if we could have something that is a little bit more dynamic like CTX, as property tax is capped and it is limited.

A little bit of history in terms of existing facilities. The city had to essentially subsidize the payment of the capital for those buildings because the library did not have enough capital to build those buildings. It does continue to pose a long-term issue, but the library district is saving money so that we can try and build a library in the future for this other area where we know there is going to be a great need.

Assemblymember Carter:
I have two questions. I will ask them both and then let you answer. The first one has to do with affordable housing. We are hearing tons of stuff about affordable housing, and I am wondering if the City of North Las Vegas is putting any protections to not facilitate this new stock ending up as rental properties being gobbled up by property management corporations, or investment corporations adding to the already problem of affordable homeownership. My district deals with the same thing as North Las Vegas does—somewhere north of 40 percent, nonowner-occupied, single-family residences that are multiunits owned by corporations or investment groups.

The first one is if we are doing anything to protect that, stop our state money or anybody's money, from flowing into subsidizing investment companies? The second one is one that we talked about last time and you have been very good on being communicative in the interim, but when I hear Apex and about the wastewater, is that going to flow into that wastewater treatment plant out there where the Nellis Air Force Base golf course used to be? That has created a plague of gnats in my district because it is dumping improperly into the Sloan Channel and it is getting worse and worse every year. I worry when I hear this; are we going to have increased flow and make it worse if more flows into that from Apex?

Micaela Moore:
That is a really good question on affordable housing. It is a really tricky scenario because sometimes, and we have had experience where you are right, we have engaged with parties and that is just part of the process, and they do not deliver or they decide they want to change the project as it goes along. It is a challenge for sure—in terms of managing the ownership. As a former attorney, property rights are tough and trying to put constraints on that kind of issue is challenging. If there are ways that we can talk about that and not abridge constitutional rights, I am happy for the city to entertain that, but it is a challenge to try and put those kinds of restrictions on some of these affordable housing units. What we are doing is trying to vet when we do have this funding available to provide for these developers. We are trying to do a better job of vetting them so that we can perhaps avoid these kinds of situations.

With respect to your other question, I am very familiar with the Sloan Channel issue. In fact, we are in construction of remediating that issue so that those issues with the gnats—we have been in conversations with Commissioner Tick Segerblom because that is also his area. We have been trying to remedy the issue. Hopefully it is going to be addressed within the next year. When that is completed, I am not quite sure if the line is going to be going through that

area. I do not know the answer if that is the case. It is so that we can get the return flow credits and recycle that water. Hopefully, we will be taking care of the gnat issue and it should no longer be a problem.

Pamela Goynes-Brown:
I will just add onto that. We know that there is a bill coming in this session that will hopefully limit companies from buying more than 100 properties a year. We will be watching that bill closely. I think we are at an advantage in the City of North Las Vegas. We intentionally have great partners, developers, residential, multifamily, or single-family developers. Those are conversations that we have, what is best for our communities and our city. Hopefully, that can curtail some of those concerns and some of those issues moving forward because it is about building those communities. We want to make sure that we have affordable products. We want to be proud of home ownership by individuals, not by corporations.

Assemblymember Karris:
I think it is fabulous what you are trying to do with the Texas Station/Fiesta Station area. It would be wonderful if you have success revitalizing that area, the way that the City of Las Vegas did with the Main Street area. I wish you luck. I do have a question, though. You are talking about the Apex Industrial Park and I know how far away it is. Most people do not realize how far away it is. I know that your city of North Las Vegas covers a very large area. It seems to me that there is going to be a number of good jobs all the way out there very far from the part of your city that would benefit the most from those jobs. Do you have any plans in your development of that and getting your hopeful job seekers out there?

Micaela Moore:
We have been in conversation with the RTC on solutions. As you know, they have some funding constraints as well, but we have been working actively with them and with our Councilman Barron, who sits on the board. He has been engaging with them as well, on transit solutions we can maybe find so that we can get access. You are right, those are going to be good-paying jobs. In fact, they are currently good-paying jobs with some of them starting at around $19 an hour with benefits.

Assemblymember Flanagan:
We have had a lot of conversations this morning about housing and you guys have made some great mentions. A point of clarification for understanding: if you could explain to me what microenterprise housing is. Then my second question hinges on education. You talked about the Homegrown Teacher Program, the $258,000 that has been allocated for that and you have 50 students in it. I wanted to understand what it cultivates, roughly $5,000 a student, but I am not sure what the funding is being used for.

Pamela Goynes-Brown:
For the microenterprise housing, we are looking at housing where people are able to live, like a live/work-type scenario. We are also giving them training to expand their skill set, and building success, and also offering an affordable place to live, so to speak.

For the Homegrown Teacher Program, the end goal is to have students who are in the program, go through a series of training, just to further their educational skill set. We are investing in their future so that when they go into their secondary and postsecondary education, they have credits going into that program so they can start right there. They can build on that and become a licensed teacher, and hopefully they will come back and work in schools in North Las Vegas.

Assemblymember Gallant:
I have a couple questions. I would like to go back to page 6 [Exhibit C] about the success rates for that program. What are the benchmarks that measure success for this particular program?

Wesley Harper:
Which program specifically?

Assemblymember Gallant:
The H.O.M.E. Team with the homelessness, like getting people stable and into homes. I am curious, what is the benchmark? I have worked with a lot of programs with the Department of Family Services, and it seems to have a high failure rate because there is not enough wrap-around services. What are you guys doing differently, and how can we replicate that in other areas of our community?

Micaela Moore:
What we try to do is personal support. We go and meet with these individuals through our H.O.M.E. Team and try to figure out what they need because every situation is unique. We have been successful in at least trying to find them somewhere to go for the evening or the day. Then, in terms of long-term transitional housing, we do have some metrics. I was trying to see if I can pull them for you right now, but I do not have them right at this instant. We can certainly get it to you because we have had a lot of great success in terms of trying to find wrap-around services or other kinds of solutions for our homeless population.

Assemblymember Gallant:
I would love to get that information. In terms of the North Las Vegas Justice Court, is there any discussion or plans to be able to allow online filing? By the way, your clerks now are so much nicer over the last two years.

Micaela Moore:
Holistically, I think the city has gotten into a much better place ever since we have been able to do the turnaround. I think the turnaround created a lot of stress for our employees as well as us. Now that we have been able to get the city into a healthy position, I think everybody's mindset and the culture that we have at the city has tremendously improved. I think that has definitely helped in terms of the customer service, that you are seeing is that people are much happier.

I want to just clarify. Are you talking about the North Las Vegas Justice Court or the municipal court? [Assemblymember Gallant indicated she was referring to the municipal court.] Yes, we have fantastic people over there. I will highlight that one of the great things about our municipal court is we have, in conjunction with our H.O.M.E. Team, as well as the Community Correctional Center, is we have tried to take a rehabilitative and compassionate approach to people who are encountering issues or getting into the legal system. The municipal court just hired a court programs administrator to further enhance our veterans court program as well as our juvenile program. These are some of the different things so we can definitely take a look and see if there are pathways to avoid having a conviction or a record for certain people who maybe fell on a hard situation and are willing to turn things around. It is great to see the collaboration with the court, because a lot of them who come into that kind of system are homeless.

Pamela Goynes-Brown:
I just wanted to piggyback on some of the successes from our H.O.M.E program. We have a couple of employees who have experienced homelessness themselves. I think when you put that together in front of another person who is experiencing those same issues, you are more able to relate and build that relationship with that person. They are going to trust you more because you have been on that side of the table and they see that and they see your successes. I think that contributes a lot to our success numbers.

Assemblymember Jackson:
I have the honor to represent Assembly District 6, which has two municipalities, Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. With Hylo Park, there have been concerns about the Walmart that is right there on Carey. There have been concerns that it may be destroyed. I know the area is already a food desert and it is difficult to go grocery shopping. I just want to know if that is confirmed. Will it be destroyed with the development of Hylo Park, or will that Walmart still be there?

Micaela Moore:
My understanding is there is no plan for Walmart to go away. In fact, they have something on the Planning Commission that is coming up or is currently pending, which is going to be adding some gas station pumps on the south side of Walmart. My understanding is that they are not going away anytime soon if they are enhancing their property.

Chair Considine:
There might be some follow-up from some of the Committee members. If so, would you please send those responses to the full Committee? Next, we have a presentation from the Division of Forestry. With us to present today is Kasey KC, State Forester Firewarden.

Kacey KC, State Forester Firewarden, Nevada Division of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:
It is a pleasure to be before you today to talk about some of the programs that the Nevada Division of Forestry gets to implement. Our mission is to protect and enhance Nevada's

ecosystems and communities through natural resource stewardship and wildfire management [page 2, Exhibit D]. I will talk a little bit about what that means in a minute.

We do this through a multitude of key programs [page 3]. Here is just a general idea of the programs that are a part of our natural resource management: We protect all trees, plants, species in the state of Nevada from the tops of the mountains to the bottom of the desert and everything in between.

The programs you heard earlier in North Las Vegas with the mayor speaking about urban forestry, that comes through the Division of Forestry as well. We are concerned about heat islands and we are part of the Tree City. Those come through us. We are very excited to be a part of those programs as well. Obviously, wildfire suppression is a part of land management because it is the biggest threat that we have to our ecosystems and communities. The Division not only has suppression assets, helicopters, crews, engines, but also a big part in prevention and mitigation, making sure that we are watching trends in fire starts and trying to make sure that we help educate mainly humans on how to not start fires; mitigation, doing a lot of the fuel breaks and other defensible space around homes and all of those types of things with our partners.

One of the things you will notice is that all of the issues that face our ecosystems and communities, they are not independent of the Division of Forestry. It takes all of us to implement these programs—state, federal, local government municipalities, all of us have to work together.

I own, by statute, less than 1 percent of the land of the state—mainly state parks. We also have the ability in statute to work with all of our partners, both federal and local. We also protect endangered plant species, cacti, Christmas tree permits, and a list of fully endangered species in the state. We have a responsibility to make sure that, we try to make sure, they do not go extinct. Then we have the conservation plant materials program. We have two nurseries, state tree nurseries and one seed bank, one in Washoe Valley, one in Vegas. The seed bank is up here in Washoe Valley and the purpose is to sell conservation plant materials for conservation purposes. We also do donations to some of the free tree giveaways that you heard earlier this morning.

I want to highlight a couple of the programs where we really do have strong partnerships and intersect with all of our partners [page 4]: the Nevada Shared Stewardship Program. It started back in 2019 and was signed by the Governor on behalf of the state of Nevada. It was a five-year agreement. So why are we signing an agreement? It is looking at stewardship as it relates to wildfire issues. How are we going—to the trend is more fire, bigger fire, more destructive fire that we have been seeing over the last 20 years? How are we collectively going to mitigate that? We have worked alongside our federal partners very well for many years, but we have not planned together how we are going to mitigate that risk. That is what this agreement did.

This agreement started as a collaborative approach between the federal, state, and local government entities to say, one, where are we going to prioritize our limited funding and limited resources to manage wildfire risk? We defined 13 landscapes across the state. Anyone who has heard me give this speech before knows that 20 years ago, we tried to do this as an interagency collaborative. We could not even agree on the problem, let alone how we are going to solve it because we are very jurisdictional in our approaches. We have our own agency things and everybody was fighting over who is going to get what. Flash forward to five years ago and the map: We put 29 data layers into this GIS [geographic information system] model and it basically popped up all of the areas any of us would have drawn with a crayon as the highest risk areas for whatever reason.

We agreed on something without even arguing, a big milestone in my career that I am very proud of. What did we do? The first agreement is we put very small goals in there. We had the goal of trying to increase our acreage in these 13 landscapes by 50 percent over the five years. We blew that number out of the water. We averaged about 130 percent increase in acreage treated in those areas year over year. Why was there a difference? Well, it was a question we kept asking ourselves and I think it was one leader's intent. I only have control over my staff. If I tell you that you must work with other people and you must be nice and you will cooperate, then I get them to move differently. We also were planning differently. What we required at the ground level is five-year plans of action, so we were giving high-level leaders, intent at the ground level. They were including multiple different partners—homeowners, landowners, businesses—and they were telling us how or where it is most critical to reduce this wildfire risk and how are you going to implement it, regardless of whose land it is.

If the highest priority treatment is the Forest Service directly adjacent to this community, then the state and the local government will be out there addressing that issue until it is complete, which it is never complete. With vegetation management, we always have to come back. Unfortunately, this is a forever thing. Then we move to the next and over the term of the first five years, we had 954 treatments in these 13 landscapes totaling just under 400,000 acres in those—that is not all the acres we treated collectively—but that is in those priority landscape areas with almost 90 cooperators in these programs. We were very proud of that.

We also brought in about $117 million in federal investments to help us pay for those types of treatments, which was pretty cool. One of the areas that did receive funding was, they called it the Sierra and Elko Fronts. Elko is a high fire risk and high fire occurrence area in the state and receives very little love in the way of mitigation, so this was very exciting for us.

This is a photo of Smokey, of course, because he is cute, but also of the new signing [page 5]. We accomplished our first five years and then we were like, What are we going to do for the next five years? We had a re-signing in November of this year down in Clark County. The Governor signed on behalf of the state.

One of the things I should say about the Nevada Shared Stewardship agreement is it was different than every other agreement across the United States. There are 42 states that have signed on to Shared Stewardship agreements. Those agreements in every other state are between the state forestry agency and the U.S. Forest Service only. That is because we have had 100 years of partnerships managing the forests of the U.S. In Nevada, we recognized early in the planning phase that that partnership was not going to work. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a large landowner. We had other entities that needed to come in. We have the Department of Wildlife that is looking at habitat, but habitat is ecosystem, health, and resilience. We all have these missions that kind of drive toward the same thing, so we included all state agencies and all federal agencies. I will tell you that caused us a lot more work and a lot more debate on words in an agreement in the first five years, but it was very successful, and now other states are mimicking our agreement. For the next five years, we again kept the 50 percent increase in acres. We hope to continue to blow that out of the park. This year alone we treated 190,000 acres, which was 70,000 acres more than last year, so we are really proud of that.

One of the things we are trying to do this year is to come up with outcome-based metrics. A lot of what you see is acres treated, but what does that mean? Did we create resilient landscapes? Did we create new migratory areas for mule deer or birds? What did we do in the ecosystem that is different than just treating acres? We are going to try to come up with new outcome-based metrics. One of the things we learned in the last five years is called "the great resignation." All of us have brand-new staff. We have never had this number of new staff across all of our agencies. One of the things that we recognized is we had a strong push in that first five years because everybody who was with us built this ship as we started sailing in the seas, then they were gone. Now new people come in and they are focused on their own projects only. They consider the partnership too hard, think it takes time, and do not want to focus on that. We are now implementing an orientation program that is interagency across all of our divisions. We are going to go out across the state of Nevada and orient our new partners, our new staff as to why this is important and why this moves the dial in land management. That is something new that we are going to start this year.

One of our other programs is the Wildland Fire Protection Program (WFPP) [page 6]. This is a cooperative program between local government, fire protection districts, counties, and the State of Nevada recognizing that we are seeing more fire in these ecosystems. Counties—the state does too—have a very hard time budgeting for the increased costs. As we start to affect more homes and landscapes, the costs go directionally up from there. This is a buy-in program based on risk and cost to the state for local government and fire protection districts.

In return, we pay for all their fire bills over 24 hours, the mutual aid period when we all agree to just help each other out. One thing to note is that our average success rate over the last 20 years in initial attack, that first 24 hours when we get a fire out, was 95 percent. Last year we were at 100 percent. That was luck. It was just a year where we had very little fire. This year, we are at 96.6 percent. Part of the reason we are seeing higher success in getting those out is because Nevada is one of the only states in this cooperative agreement that has local government assets—city, county, and municipal fire districts in our interagency dispatch

centers. That took us a long time to get them in and there was a lot of debate over whether they belonged in there. If we are truly dispatching the closest available resources to try to get a fire out quickly, then we have to look at local government. That was one of the things that we did in this program. Those municipalities then tier into our master agreement with the federal agencies, our state-to-state agreement, and we can send them out of state. We have the highest participation in the WFPP that we have ever had. It is an opt-in program. You can opt in and opt out whenever you want. We only have two small districts in Las Vegas out right now, one of which was the City of North Las Vegas, but I think they are coming back in this year. They do not have a lot of wildland fires, so there was not a lot of need for them to be in. They want to be able to be sent to California to help in that fire response.

One of our other programs that we are really proud of is an interagency program [page 7]. The Fire Adapted Nevada coordinator sits within the Division of Forestry, but it is an interagency approach with local government, state government, and federal government. There is a three-tiered approach to actually having an effect on fire: (1) creating resilient landscapes; (2) ensuring you have safe and effective wildfire response; (3) making sure that your communities are adapted to live with fire and we are never going to exclude fire from these ecosystems. We need to make sure that our homes are built in a way that can withstand fire.

In California and Hawaii there have been many examples of home-to-home ignitions, and the only thing that might have helped those homes is making sure that they were built more resilient. When you look at the outcomes of those, what lasted were concrete-built homes and those that were built with stucco and tile roofs. There are a lot of different ways to retrofit homes and that is what Fire Adapted Nevada is trying to accomplish. We are trying to help educate homeowners and builders before you build it. The cheapest time to implement these things is when you are building it, not retrofitting it.

That is part of what we do and we have a great example of a gold star community up here in Clear Creek, where we did a lot of the treatment in the forest ahead of the community coming in. The Forest Service, the tribe, and the State of Nevada did a whole bunch of logging. It is much easier for me to pull logs out before your house is there and I cut down your favorite tree. You did not know it was there when I have already done it. Then, they built their community around knowing that fire is going to come down that drainage at some point. They put in the sprinklers and they built to the WUI [Wild Urban Interface] code which the state fire marshal adopts in cooperation with us. That is what this program is doing. It is connecting homeowners and communities with the resources and the people that they need to be in contact with to try to retrofit and build differently to own the risk that they have the defensible space parts to make sure that they are implementing and keeping those up.

We help with both, from making community wildfire protection plans to try to help incentivize and bring in federal funds. We do get a lot of our funding through the U.S. Forest Service programs, the BLM programs to help communities with this, although FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] is hard. Then we go into implementing. There were two fire-wise designations in the state of Nevada that had the national recognition of

being fire-wise, which means you have put in an up-front investment in your community. Every year, you meet an annual quota of making sure that you are doing your defensible space or you are doing your home hardening and they get certified. Today, we have 65 communities in Nevada and growing. A number does not matter if they are not participating. At one point, we had 140 of these communities across the state, but they were not really active.

It is important for us as the agency with the coordinator, working with all of our agencies to ensure that all of these communities are actively engaged, that they are in the right areas that we are targeting, the areas that are of most critical need from a wildfire perspective and that we keep them engaged and then their engagement actually brings in the partnerships. If the community is doing all the work they need to be doing and then the Forest Service, if that is the direct adjacent landowner or the BLM or the State of Nevada, we are doing what we need to around the outside. We are putting the best protections in place to help that community withstand a wildfire and we are giving a safe place for firefighters to defend homes. As you saw in California, they were under all the worst conditions, which is what happens with those 2 or 5 percent that get away from us where we are not going to put firefighters in front of that fire line because their lives just are not worth losing over the protection of homes. Under those conditions, we are going to get everyone out quickly and then stand and defend at a place where it is safe. It is important that these communities be ready to withstand that flaming front. I could go on and on, but I will not. I will spare you the indecency. I am happy to answer any questions.

Assemblymember Goulding:
There are so many questions to ask about fire. I am going to limit myself to just two. You mentioned treatment several times. Can you expand on what treatment is? Then a follow-up question on a little bit about what you do after a fire. Looking out at the Davis Fire footprint, are there some reseeding plans?

What can we do? It is devastating every time you drive by there. I guess the good thing about that is it is a reminder every single day of the reality of fire danger. Those two: What exactly is treatment and then what resources are available for follow-up after fire?

Kacey KC:
Treatments are anything from a shaded fuel break or defensible space. We are looking at prescribed fire with anything that is actually managing vegetation. Some of our treatments include mistletoe treatments. We are looking at forest health activities, but from a fire perspective, we are usually looking at shaded fuel breaks where we are leaving some vegetation and taking some vegetation. The purpose of a fuel break really is to slow a wall of flames that is coming into a community, usually, or into an ecosystem that we are trying to protect. It lowers it from sometimes in trees, or a crown fire to a ground fire and then we can safely put firefighters in front of it to actually defend against it coming in.

There are multiple different treatments. Pictured here is our pile burning up in the basin, which we are doing today [page 8]. Our windows for prescribed fire are pretty narrow. We do all kinds of different treatments across these landscapes. Part of that is in the planning phase, you are looking at what are we going to be most successful in. We have a fun, noxious friend—cheatgrass and brome grasses—in the south that tend to come back in areas we have cleared. Part of our treatment plan has been to look at what vegetation is going to come back in. We do herbicide applications. We do aerial seeding. We do all kinds of treatments.

From an after-fire perspective, we do a lot of different things. In the Davis Fire specifically, we are looking at a salvage logging operation. We are working with the mill and the landowners. I do not think the federal government plans to do a logging operation on their end, but we are looking at trying to get some of that dead and dying out so it does not fall down in the areas where it could have an effect—where you have got snags or trees that are unsafe. We are looking at helicopter reseeding. Our helicopters—we have three—do have a seeding bucket. We have to get it plugged back in and then we are going to be up there seeding.

We are waiting for weather windows where we have got moisture coming in after. It is a fine balance in the driest state in the nation to try to get a seed to grow and plants to grow. Part of what we do after every fire is federal, state, and everyone comes together. Forest Service BAER [Burned Area Emergency Response] teams come in and look at all of the data. We look at how hot a fire burned and what chances of natural regrowth do we have? One of the successes of the Davis Fire is we—collectively the federal, state, and local government entities—had done a lot of work in there. One of the things you will see is large pockets of standing live trees. That is because we treated in those areas. We are going to see a lot of natural regeneration if we get some water, snow, and rain in high enough quantities. We look at where we think we are going to have the highest chances of success, and we implement in those areas following a fire.

Assemblymember DeLong:
Having been evacuated for a week with the Davis Fire, I thought the response by all the teams was amazing that we kept it from running all the way into Reno. We do have to thank the way the weather worked on that Wednesday. We were very fortunate. I have a question about local participation in Washoe County down to Douglas County and maybe more particularly in the basin on both sides of the line. How many of the local fire agencies are participating in that joint activity?

Kacey KC:
All of them are participating in the WFPP along the front here. Almost every county and every fire protection district was participating along the front here and specific to the Davis Fire. That was a very proud moment in my 22-year career. I have never seen assets move as quickly as were able to do. One of the reasons is the Governor enabled us to move the National Guard. Usually that takes us almost a week to get the orders, only to make sure that they are ready to get them equipped and out. They were there within a day and it was the first

utility of a crew that we have been building for three years to have a firefighting crew with the National Guard. We had been training them. We had equipped them. They had not been able to get out on a fire because we just did not have a lot of fire that lasted long enough.

We got them out and we learned quickly that some of them did not want to do that ever again. Some of them may find a career in this. It was great for both of us to learn how that would work. There was a great air show. We were able to fly aircraft. That was different. There are times when the wind is too strong and our aircraft cannot fly. We were able and lucky to get that. The four scoopers certainly helped with water and to reinforce what the ground crews were doing that helped protect Reno. We had a scenario looking like Palisades when they talked a seven-mile run into Reno, which at that point would have been home-to-home ignitions. We were very nervous about that, but we had a lot of firefighters at the time.

Nationally, we were at preparedness level 5, which means everybody is tapped for resources. We had fires all over the U.S. We were starting to exhaust all national resources, but we were number one in the nation for that fire. That helps when you are ordering things, and the incident commander getting everything they are ordering. Then we were able to enact our CAL FIRE [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection] agreement to double the scooper ability. Everything we had and always do on every fire, we were able to throw at it. We do not always have all the assets we need and that is part of the problem.

Chair Considine:
It looks like that will conclude the presentation. But Firewarden, if you want to stay there, I will now open the hearing on Assembly Bill 57, which revises provisions relating to the Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid System. To present this measure, we have Kasey KC, State Forester Firewarden.

Assembly Bill 57: Revises provisions relating to the Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid System. (BDR 36-263)

Kacey KC, State Forester Firewarden, Division of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:
I would have had a copresenter here with me, Brett Compston, the chief of the Division of Emergency Management, however, he was tied up today. He is aware of this and we worked together to create this bill and we are both in support of moving this forward. This is really a clean-up bill in Assembly Bill 57, mutual aid. Mutual aid is that first 24-hour period when we all agree that the cost does not matter. Our goal is to get the fire out within that first 24 hours and all hands need to be on deck and the closest hands available to put that fire out. Nevada has a state law, *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) Chapter 414A that requires us to work together in that way. We do not need a million different agreements in order to do so.

Like I said earlier, we put these local government assets into our dispatch center, which then coordinates this mutual aid. The initial fire bell dings into 911 usually immediately when it is identified as a wildland fire. Then it moves into one of our five interagency dispatch centers

across the state, two of which the state owns, Elko and Minden, and three of which the federal government owns. We run those centers cooperatively between all of our agencies. Whoever the leader is, it does not matter if it is a Forest Service employee, a BLM [Bureau of Land Management] employee, or our employee, we dispatch what is necessary to go to the fire. Back in 2000 and prior to 2008, mutual aid for local government lived with the Division of Forestry and then the recession hit and we gave that back to the counties. At some point, the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) picked it back up and NRS Chapter 414A was created in 2015.

I think it was in 2020 when the responsibility was pushed back to the Division of Forestry. The government and the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Division actually brought the two of our agencies together because we were both paying for the same thing. We had dispatchers on 24 hours a day. They had dispatchers on 24 hours a day. It is for wildfire response. Their dispatch center did not talk to our dispatch center. Things were getting crossed in the response and it did not make sense to have two agencies managing this; DEM still will maintain mutual aid response across the state for all other emergencies. This clarifies that Nevada Division of Forestry handles it for wildfire suppression and then we would comanage the state's mutual aid committee together so that we ensure that we have all the proper training and resources available and rostered in all of our systems to make sure that whatever it is—an earthquake or a fire—we are working very well together. With that, I would be happy to take any questions.

Chair Considine:
Do we have any questions? [There were none.] I will move to testimony on the bill. First, we will hear testimony in support of Assembly Bill 57 here in Carson City.

Todd Ingalsbee, President, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada:
We support this bill. Having a dispatch system that is uniform and communicating together is vital to getting the response initiated and started so we can start handling that incident. Communication is also one of the most important things that happens when we are at an incident. To enhance this not only makes it safer for our community and protects our citizens but also protects our natural resources here in Nevada.

Paul J. Moradkhan, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Vegas Chamber:
The Chamber supports the bill as the Chamber supports efforts to modernize and better align state operations and efficiencies. The Chamber also has a long-standing history of supporting mutual aid agreements as it better protects Nevada families and businesses in our communities.

Chair Considine:
Thank you. Anyone in support in Carson City? [There was no one.] We will move to Las Vegas. Anyone in support of Assembly Bill 57 in Las Vegas? [There was no one.] Do we have anyone on the phone in support? [There was no one.] Anyone in opposition? [There

was no one in Carson City, Las Vegas, or over the phone opposed to Assembly Bill 57.] Is there anyone in neutral? [There was no one in Carson City, Las Vegas, or over the phone neutral to Assembly Bill 57.] Is there any last statements you would like to make?

Kacey KC:
I do not have any last statements. I appreciate the time that you have given me today and I appreciate the support that the Legislature and the Governor's Office have provided to our agency.

Chair Considine:
I will now close the hearing on Assembly Bill 57. I will now open the hearing on Assembly Bill 14, which revises provisions relating to certain public officers. To present this measure we have Jennifer Berthiaume, the Government Affairs Manager for the Nevada Association of Counties.

Assembly Bill 14: Revises provisions relating to certain public officers. (BDR 20-453)

Jennifer Berthiaume, Government Affairs Manager, Nevada Association of Counties:
Thank you for the opportunity to present Assembly Bill 14 on behalf of the Nevada Association of Counties, whose members represent all 17 of Nevada's counties. Assembly Bill 14 would require county elected officials to be registered to vote in the state of Nevada. The list of county officials includes commissioners, clerks, recorders, sheriffs, treasurers, assessors, district attorneys, public administrators, and constables. Current law requires each of these offices, except district attorneys, to be qualified electors in their respective counties. In the case of district attorney, they must be residents of the state and duly licensed and admitted to practice law in all courts of the state. Registering to vote is the first step in participating in elections, whether it is for local, state, or national offices as well as important ballot measures. Through conversations with our members, they felt that aside from voting being a fundamental democratic right and civic responsibility, there was also a need for consistency.

Typically, I would walk through the bill, but really the only change is the cleanup, requiring county elected officials to be registered voters in addition to being qualified electors. With that, I would like to provide a couple of examples where some inconsistency has occurred. First in Carson City, all of the boards, committees, and commissions such as parks and recreation, historic resources commission, debt management commission, audit committee and planning commissions, require that members of those bodies appointed by the Board of Supervisors be registered voters. In Douglas County, upon doing some research and reaching out to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), they discovered that to file for trustee of a general improvement district (GID), an individual is required to be both a qualified elector and a registered voter within the GID. Additionally, on the national level we found that over 30 states require county commissioners to also be registered voters. This completes my presentation of Assembly Bill 14. I am happy to take any questions the Committee may have.

Assemblymember D'Silva:
I know this is a clean-up bill here, but was there any situation that brought this to bear to attention or was this just strictly an administrative sort of move?

Jennifer Berthiaume:
Yes, it was just an administrative cleanup that some of our member counties brought to light and wanted to make a consistency in law.

Assemblymember Flanagan:
I just want a point of understanding as it deals with county positions. I did not see any. Does it not apply to school districts even though they represent county entities in theory?

Jennifer Berthiaume:
In our conversations with LCB in drafting the bill, they had given us a comprehensive list of other offices that a comprehensive bill would affect in the fact that we do represent counties and our members are county commissioners. We felt that it was best to stick to those offices and did not consider school districts in that.

Chair Considine:
Do we have any other questions from Committee members? [There were none.] Next, we will hear testimony on the bill. Is there any testimony in support here in Carson City? [There was none.] We will move to Las Vegas. [There was none.] Do we have any one in opposition to Assembly Bill 14? [There was no one.] I will close the hearing on Assembly Bill 14.

Before Committee members pack up, we have one more item. We are introducing Bill Draft Request (BDR) 20-363, which authorizes any county to create an office of registrar of voters. Remember voting in favor of introducing a BDR does not imply a commitment to supporting the measure later. All this action does is to allow the BDR to become a bill and enter the legislative hearing process.

BDR 20-363—Authorizes any county to create the office of registrar of voters. (Later introduced as Assembly Bill 237.)

I will now entertain a motion to introduce BDR 20-363.

> ASSEMBLYMEMBER NGUYEN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BILL DRAFT REQUEST 20-363.
>
> ASSEMBLYMEMBER CARTER SECONDED THE MOTION.
>
> THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEMBER KASAMA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Considine:
We will now move to public comment. [There was none.] Our next meeting is Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 8 a.m. That concludes our meeting. The meeting is adjourned [at 9:45 a.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

_____
William Puchert
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

_____
Assemblymember Venicia Considine, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
	C	Pamela Goynes-Brown, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas	PowerPoint Presentation titled, "Building a Vibrant Community in North Las Vegas"
	D	Kacey KC, State Forester Firewarden, Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	PowerPoint Presentation titled, "Nevada Division of Forestry, Assembly Committee on Government Affairs"