

**City of Albuquerque
Small Business
Regulatory Advisory Commission**



Chair: Myra Ghattas
Vice Chairman: Tim Nisly

City Legal: Leigh Brunner
Staff: D. Lara
L. Abeyta
M. Mitchell
S. Romero

Commissioners: Paulette Baca
Matthew Biggs
Kenneth J. Carson
Cailyn Kilcup
Tim Nisly

January 25, 2022
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
ED Conference Room – 11th Floor Civic Plaza

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cabq.zoom.us/j/9697603096>

Meeting ID: 969 760 3096

Find your local number: <https://cabq.zoom.us/u/acvh98go08>

AGENDA

I. Approval of minutes – Chair

MOTION to Approve October Minutes: COMMISSIONER Myra Ghattas
SECOND by COMMISSIONER Ken Carson
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

II. Additions/deletions to agenda – Chair

III. Introductions – by Commissioners

IV. City Update – Interim Director Damian Lara, Deputy Director Lisa Abeyta, and Sr. Economic Developer Monica Mitchell

- Internal EDD Staff updates:
 - Lisa Abeyta, new Deputy Director, introduced herself/background
- Commissioner updates
 - Looking to fill a seat on Commission - Closing application process on February 11. Goes to City Council on 3/7/22 with the possibility of approval on 3/27/22. First meeting would be the April SBRAC meeting.
- Charles Ashley, III has been appointed as new EDD Director. Charles to start January 31, 2022. Damian will continue to serve as a contractor.
- SBO Liaison – still vacant, final rounds of interviews. Hope to have candidate by end of February.

- Planning position applications closed on 1/19/22. First rounds of interview to be conducted next week.
- EDD managed 4 rounds of grants during pandemic, and is now working to fill department vacancies.
- Legislation - Damian is part of the City's Policy team – he will give an update at the next meeting on the legislative items affecting small businesses.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Damian to be placed on Agenda to provide legislative update at next meeting.
- Councilors Bassan, Grout, and Jones will also be included on agenda next month.

V. Open Discussion with City Councilors

- Chair updated Councilor Pena that SBRAC's focus is small business and legislation to help them grow and succeed.
- Councilor Pena - Introduced herself and provided the following updates:
 - Sponsored and supported \$1m for black-owned businesses
 - Sponsored program with local artists to get engaged in arts culture for artwork displayed on Central Avenue.
 - Supports legislation regarding Plastic Bag Ordinance.
 - Councilor Pena is in support of SBRAC.
 - Councilor last year was on the Committee of the Whole, agreed to legislation regarding small businesses.
 - Working with Administration and Planning Dept. to make department more efficient.
 - 100th year anniversary of Route 66. Would love to capitalize on the event with small business, have capital money available to use: \$1m for celebrations.
 - Continuing the Banner Project.
 - Continuing support of small businesses – heart of community.
 - **Suggested that SBRAC put together a list of top 10 issues to be heard by City Council; include plastic bag ban. Where does SBRAC stand on issue?**
 - **Chair thanked Councilor Pena for her support of SBRAC.**
- Commissioners discussed their list of current concerns:
 - Tim - Planning & Zoning department, lack of housing, 18% in rental growth rates, need new stock, better density. Always receives delays from Planning – needs improvement. Department needs to improve efficiency, causes big delays in construction.
 - Paulette – expressed her frustration with delays in Planning Department.
 - Cailyn – expressed frustration as a small business across all City Departments. How can we achieve a cultural shift in the City? Discussed parking tickets during pandemic. Entity operates on its own, Mayor has no control over the parking ticket issue.
 - Ken – supported what other Commissioners stated.

VI. Committee Update

- Chair – Requested to add to February meeting agenda on licensing for small businesses. She agrees with Tim and Ken regarding SBRAC charter goals. Items discussed can fall within SBRAC charter.
- Ken – Business registration system/permitting system is very difficult to navigate
- Cailyn – can SBRAC have a panel / open forum for small businesses regarding needs from CABQ? What are needs/small businesses facing? Get small businesses involved. Strong cultural shift across City departments is needed.
- Matt – Agreed with hosting forum. Cultural shift benefits big businesses. Likes idea of outreach. Suggested Commission come up with a list of topics for forum for series/events.
- Tim – Reminder that goal of Charter is to be reactive to legislation that is put forward.
- Ken – agrees with Tim. Put together lists of issues per Councilor Pena. Would like to review/discuss systemic issues.
- Matt – need to maintain focus.
- Paulette – focus on small business issues – expressed frustration with licensing, fees, etc. with City government and the issues in NM for new businesses breaking into a new industry.
- Myra suggested that Commissioners each express their top concern for CABQ:
 - Matt – Reactive to City Councilors – form an opinion on plastic bag ban, push from hospitals to have small practitioners to obtain insurance, info/status on Small Business Office, City preferences in general, keep status of licensing fees (parking, fees), update on local preference
 - Ken – Licensing fees, vandalism/crime, more to look at what could be done legislatively that could curb/help situation; homeless situation and update on the new division of Police Department.
 - Paulette – Planning/Zoning Department issues with efficiency. Work should be done per code, not to please inspector; homelessness addressed, advantages to small, women-owned and minority businesses to City contracts.
 - Cailyn – Planning/Zoning, fees; cultural shift among City employees for constituents across the board; working with CABQ/processes; crime prevention.
 - Tim – maintaining charter for SBRAC for legislative issues, develop processes for SBRAC, cultural shift, licensing is an administrative issue; Planning/Zoning remains issue, homelessness, crime prevention,
 - Myra – Plastic Bag Ban – put on next month's Agenda – SBRAC will have a statement; SBO status, permitting fees/licensing, vandalism/crime, homelessness, Planning/Zoning, cultural shift, we need to commit to SBRAC to make SBRAC relevant.

Discussion to approve/disapprove of Plastic Bag Ban:

- Chair: Requesting Approval of Plastic Bag Ban to Commissioners.
- Ken – approves – anti-plastic
- Matt – not ready to approve, would like further data on plastic bag ban
- Cailyn – anti-plastic
- Paulette – approves
- Tim – need more statistics
- Myra – approves – would like to support to leave ban as is.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Chair to create memo for supporting Plastic Bag Ban and information about licensing with next Agenda. Memo to be posted with agenda for next meeting.
- Monica to add Licensing for Small Businesses on next month's Agenda
- Monica will change next month's meeting time to 9:30am for SBRAC Commissioners, Councilors will join at 10:00 am.

VII. Motion to Adjourn: Chair

SECOND: Commissioner Tim Nisly

Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 11:46am.

Notice to Persons with Disabilities

If you have a disability and require special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Monica Mitchell as soon as possible before the meeting date at 505-768-3226.