



# **NEVADA LEGISLATURE JOINT INTERIM STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**([Nevada Revised Statutes \[NRS\] 218E.320](#))**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**May 10, 2022**

The fourth meeting of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs for the 2021–2022 Interim was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 9 a.m. in Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4100, Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

The agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and audio or video recording of the meeting are available on the Joint Interim Standing Committee's [meeting page](#). The audio or video recording may also be found at <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Video/>. Copies of the audio or video record can be obtained through the Publications Office of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) ([publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us) or 775/684-6835).

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:**

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair  
Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Vice Chair  
Senator Dina Neal  
Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May  
Assemblyman Andy Matthews  
Assemblywoman Selena Torres

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:**

Senator Pete Goicoechea

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDING VIA REMOTELY:**

Assemblywoman Jill Dickman

### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Jered M. McDonald, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division  
Erin Andersen, Research Policy Assistant, Research Division

Steven Jamieson, Research Policy Assistant, Research Division  
Heidi Chlarson, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Cathy Crocket, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division

*Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.  
[Indicate a summary of comments.]*

## **AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS**

### ***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Good morning. I call this meeting to order. Welcome to the fourth meeting of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs. Thank you to everyone joining us in person or online today.

Our research policy assistant is going to call the roll today. Ms. Andersen?

[Roll call reflected in Committee Members Present.]

[Chair Dondero Loop reviewed virtual meeting and testimony guidelines.]

## **AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT**

[Chair Dondero Loop reviewed all options to provide public comment.]

### ***Chair Dondero Loop:***

I am not seeing anyone here in Las Vegas. Is there anyone present in Carson City to give public comment?

### ***Senator Goicoechea:***

I do not see anybody coming forward, Madam Chair.

### ***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Thank you, Senator, for being my eyes up there. Now let us go to the phones. Broadcast and Productions Services (BPS) staff, please add the first caller when you are ready.

### ***BPS:***

The public line is open and working, but there are no callers.

## **AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON MARCH 15, 2022**

### ***Chair Dondero Loop:***

We are going to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 15, 2022. The draft minutes were made available to Committee members and the public last week. Do I have a motion to approve?

VICE CHAIR FLORES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON MARCH 15, 2022.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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**AGENDA ITEM IV—UPDATES FROM COUNTY GOVERNMENTS REGARDING FISCAL YEARS 2021–2022 AND 2022–2023 BUDGETS AND REVIEW OF [AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021](#) (H.R.1319 OF THE 117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS) RELATED EXPENDITURES**

***Char Dondero Loop:***

Today we are going to receive updates from several of our local governments regarding their current and future budget situation and how they are expending funds provided under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). To begin, we are going to hear from Clark County. If you will come to the table and begin when you are ready.

**A. CLARK COUNTY**

***Joanna Jacob, Government Affairs Manager, Clark County:***

Chief Financial Officer, Jessica Colvin, will be assisting in this presentation. Ms. Colvin will cover our budget and the comparison to where we were in fiscal year (FY) 2021–2022. We will then give you a brief overview of how we expended our Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([S.3548 of the 116th Congress](#)) funds and our rental assistance funding, a portion of which is funded through ARPA, which was the committee's request. Then we will give you an update on where we are overall with ARPA and our next steps (Agenda Item IV A). Ms. Colvin will go through our FY 2022–2023 budget.

***Jessica Colvin, Chief Financial Officer, Clark County:***

This gives you an illustration of Clark County's general fund revenues. The general fund is the operating fund of Clark County and contains the majority of discretionary revenue for the county and is where the majority of county departments are funded. You will notice that 42.4 percent is funded from intergovernmental revenue. That is consolidated tax revenue, so any type of impact to sales tax is going to impact 42 percent of our revenue. Property tax is the second largest component of general fund revenues at 35.5 percent, followed by the third largest, licenses and permits, at 15.9 percent.

To give you a breakdown of those components of revenue from our FY 2021–2022 and FY 2022–2023 budget, we prepared this table by line item. One thing to note, you are going to see significant increases in licenses and permits and consolidated tax revenue from FY 2021–2022 to FY 2022–2023. The reason for this is that during FY 2021–2022, when we compiled this budget, we still had Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) mitigations in place. We were not completely open, and we were not sure what that recovery was going to look like, so we were rather conservative when we built that FY 2021–2022 budget. Now we are experiencing a much stronger recovery in FY 2021–2022 that is built into FY 2022–2023, so you are seeing those large 20 percent increases, budget to budget. Overall, the County is expected to increase 15.2 percent in general fund revenues.

This is an illustration of the county general fund expenditures by function in the general fund. You will notice that 50.7 percent is dedicated to public safety. That is going to be our police department and detention or correction services as well as our public safety departments. A total of \$1.7 billion is projected for FY 2022–2023 in expenditures.

To illustrate budget to budget when looking at FY 2021–2022 to FY 2022–2023, we broke this table down by function. Overall, there was a 15.1 percent increase in general fund expenditures. One anomaly is judicial looks like it is decreasing 26 percent; that is just a

reporting in the budget. The Eighth Judicial District Court is now going to be a separate agency and will be making contributions, and so you can see a large increase in other general expense.

**Ms. Jacob:**

We get a lot of questions about the federal funding that came into Clark County. This is a brief snapshot of our CARES dollars that we had previously. This is all the \$295 million that the county received. Coronavirus relief funds were allocated within the timeframe originally set by the United States Treasury, and this is a breakdown of where we put [inaudible] dollars. A broad category, 54 percent was in public health infrastructure. We had a large portion going to support our community—food assistance, eviction mitigation, and rent and utility assistance. This is a theme as we move into our ARPA funding requests.

We also get a lot of questions about rental assistance funding. Clark County is administering both city funds that were generated in rental assistance, county funds, and a portion of the state funding through our CARES Housing Assistance Program (CHAP), and that is because the county had invested in the infrastructure to administer that program. We have a brief snapshot of where we are in various rental assistance funding that has come in. This is an approximation because this dollar amount fluctuates daily; we are still actively putting out rental assistance into our community, and these slides were prepared last week. This includes Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) 1 and ERA2. I know the Committee is aware of this because it has been discussed, but these were tranches of funding that came to be allocated for rental assistance in ARPA, and we are administering the state's portion. There is a section here where we have county ERA1. That is 92 percent expended. For the Committee's edification, we were 100 percent expended at that time, but because Clark County's funds were expended, we were able to recapture funds from other areas of the country that had not spent their rental assistance funds because of the need that we have in our community, and that money was reallocated to Clark County. We are spending down these funds as we continue to administer rental assistance.

This is our recommended allocation of our \$440 million that the county received from ARPA. This allocation was approved by our Board of County Commissioners last August that had to be reported to the U.S. Treasury at the end of August. I wanted to talk to you about how we set these priorities. We contracted with a firm called [Management Partners](#)—I know many of you engaged with us when we were doing this last summer—to help us with our community outreach in advance of submitting our plan. We held several county commission meetings. Our commissioners held neighborhood meetings, and we did a community survey with approximately 3,200 responses from our community about what their priorities would be in administering this one-time unprecedented funding that comes to our community. We also did a preapplication process. We got an idea from our community partners about proposals they would fund through ARPA. We received hundreds of proposals, and this is where the board decided to allocate their funds. As I noted in the CARES funding, our board has really set a priority to put the funding out into the community to areas where we see the most need. The largest share of this funding is dedicated to housing support. We set aside \$44 million for revenue replacement. That was originally set aside to take some of the Treasury funding and put it into our General Fund to assist smaller nonprofit grants, which we allocated. Ms. Colvin will be going into more detail in the slides that follow, but I will also note that Clark County's revenue loss due to COVID-19 exceeded our total award of \$440 million. When we calculated it under the Treasury guidelines, we were at \$677 million through June 30, 2021. This is the plan that we are following, which has been set by our board with guidance and input from the community. I will move it over to Ms. Colvin, and she will explain how we are allocating our ARPA funds.

**Ms. Colvin:**

At the beginning, when we were first awarded the ARPA funds, we were operating under an interim rule; we went through that community engagement phase and reviewed the applications. As we moved forward, we saw the final rule. We provided a variety of comments through Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) and Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) have many more restrictions than the CARES Act fund had. Also, it was going to be used for more long-term investments where we saw that we were going to have some time restrictions, having them obligated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026. When we filed our last Treasury report, we claimed \$374 million in revenue replacement, and we charged public safety costs—that is going to be our police and fire. In FY 2021–2022, we will be transferring \$374 million to the general fund, and that is going to create a one-time surplus in the general fund. That surplus is immediately going to be transferred back to a housing fund, which we will discuss later, to pursue the development of affordable housing into our COVID-19 response fund. We will still be pursuing and funding those programs, but it is going to give us a little more time and flexibility in the execution of those programs into our providers as well as our county departments and other government agencies.

It should be noted that we have \$66 million obligated to date. This is primarily in our response efforts, and we can go through this phased approach that we took in allocating and awarding these ARPA dollars. With community engagement, we identified several nonprofits that were smaller, have not had a lot of experience with federal awards, and were not going to be able to comply with the requirements under ARPA. We identified those programs that are \$100,000 or less serving immediate response needs in the community. Those were initially funded, and then we looked at phase two. These are response services programs over \$100,000 that could be stood up in 90 days or less. We are just completing the award of phase two and now entering in phase 3A and 3B where this is really going to be our investments in the recovery in this community. With 3A being more programmatic, those are going to be investments in behavioral health, broadband, water, sewer, and capital improvements. Then 3B are housing developments as well as workforce, and 3A will also include workforce and job training.

To give you a summary, we put this table together so you could see where we are to date. Phase one is helping those nonprofits continue the good work they are doing but not having the strict requirements of ARPA. We funded 38 projects totaling \$2.5 million dollars, and we use that revenue replacement funds—that surplus that was in the general fund. Those programs are awarded and in progress.

For phase two, our nonprofit community, we have awarded 45 projects totaling \$34 million. These are under the final role of ARPA or the SLFRF. Those programs are primarily related to response needs. As a result of the pandemic, a lot of that is going to be food, shelter, and behavioral health services. In phase two, even within our county departments, we have seven programs internally that we funded under the final role of the SLFRF, totaling \$35 million. Those response programs are in progress and awarded.

That moves us into 3A where we really get into long-term recovery efforts. For phase 3A, we received 250 preapplications totaling \$1.9 billion. As I mentioned earlier, these applications will be scored. They were due last weekend. We are now going through and compiling them; they will be scored by two separate panels with a recommendation taken to the board for award, and we anticipate they will be funded this fall. These projects will be funded through that revenue replacement mechanism where it will be that one-time general

fund surplus coming through. Phase 3B will be dedicated to the development of affordable housing. We have received 33 preapplications. We opened that application last week to all developers who are interested in nonprofit providers. That application will close at the end of May, and then we anticipate scoring with an award and recommendation in mid to late fall next year. Those are going to be much more complicated types of projects with multiple sources of financing, and we think it will take a little bit longer beyond December 31, 2024, to obligate those fully for the development of affordable housing units.

***Ms. Jacob:***

If there are questions from the Committee particular to our housing programs, I have Deputy County Manager Kevin Schiller here to assist with those questions. I wanted to give you a snapshot of the [Community Housing Fund](#) (CHF) that was announced last week. This is a long-term investment from the Clark County Board of Commissioners. We have been working on this for a number of years given the significant need we have in our community for affordable housing stock. This CHF will fund a number of measures that will help to address the development of affordable housing in our community. This includes some things we have heard from our developers about providing gap financing to encourage them to be able to pencil out a deal on developing low-income units. We have specifically looked at down payment assistance programs. The land trust model that we are proposing is designed to include a density bonus for senior housing and to create investing in preserving affordability and various other components. With this initiative we are trying to tackle this from multiple fronts. When Ms. Colvin speaks about phase 3B, this is where the investment of those funds is going to help. We opened the applications last week; that is available on our website.

If any of the Committee members would like more information, we have our contact information at the end. Please feel free to reach out to me and we can get that information to you. We would appreciate assistance in getting the word out to our community and to developers to come forward and partner with the county in addressing affordable housing. I know you have a full agenda, Madam Chair, so we can open it up for questions.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Any questions from the Committee here in Las Vegas? Vice Chair Flores, please.

***Vice Chair Flores:***

I appreciate that we are opening up on the discussion for our housing crisis here in the state and in the county. Anecdotally, I have been hearing a lot of conversations in the community from all folks on every single side of the spectrum. One of the things that we keep talking about is home rule and what we can and cannot do. I am curious to see what the County is hearing, what things have been brought forth by some of our nonprofits and our stakeholders, and whether that is something the County can address or is it something that should be punted up to the Legislature. In 2015, we had conversations about home rule, and afterwards, Senator Julia Ratti and a few other folks put a lot of these conversations on the table, so if we could engage in them slightly, I would appreciate it.

***Ms. Jacob:***

That is a very weighty topic, as you know. We at Clark County have been hearing the same anecdotal evidence that you are hearing—people are struggling with rent increases that are not necessarily due to impacts from COVID-19. To address that, we have several commissioners who have directed county staff to look at a program that we may be able to

put in place. We are calling it a CHAP look-alike program where we may be able to assist similar types of rental assistance. We certainly think that is permissible under the Treasury guidelines and what we can do with our ARPA funds. That program is under development right now and is largely, under the board's direction, geared towards seniors.

Vice Chair Flores, I know you probably have heard these stories as well, our seniors are being particularly impacted—those on fixed income who are not able to shoulder a rent increase. Under the leadership of the deputy county manager, we are trying to partner with the [Nevada State Apartment Association](#) and with the landlords directly because we think any solution, whether it is from the Legislature or from the County, needs to be made in collaboration with the landlords themselves. We are doing a lot of work with the Apartment Association; it feels like it's never enough, to be honest with you. There is something called [Operation Home!](#)—Deputy County Manager Schiller can come up and tell me if I am misspeaking—where we have tried to partner with landlords to develop and hold units there affordable for particular tenants who are impacted. We have tried to develop collaborations where we can while we are investigating what the answer is to your question about home rule.

There are certainly feelings and debate on whether there are state laws on landlord/tenant law, and then there is also an expanded home rule that the Legislature passed in 2015. We are looking at those options, but I cannot answer definitively today whether we have come out with an opinion on that right now. We want to be part of that conversation regardless of where it is held because the County is the largest social service provider, and we also are hearing those stories every day like you. Those come my way from community providers, legislators, and it seems like we are getting them every day. We definitely want to work with you on whatever solution we can come up with.

***Vice Chair Flores:***

Obviously, there are so many moving parts and so many different conversations happening simultaneously. It sounds like—and I want to make sure I am not putting words in your mouth—that at this time, an official position has not been laid out. It is just a vetting process; we are not sure or clear. Nothing official has been put out there that XYZ cannot be done because we feel our hands are tied.

***Ms. Jacob:***

I agree with that statement. Nothing official has been put out. We are looking at all options.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Anybody else in Las Vegas or Carson City have questions? Assemblywoman Torres, go ahead please.

***Assemblywoman Torres:***

I know we had the opportunity to work together throughout the legislative session, so it is great to see you again in this Committee. I had a specific question regarding the FY 2022–2023 budgeted general fund expenditures. Can I get some clarification on what the difference is between the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), detention, and public safety? I know that public safety included police and fire. How do those overlap, and how do those two work together?



**Ms. Jacob:**

I will have Ms. Colvin explain the difference in those categories.

**Ms. Colvin:**

The difference is we have LVMPD and detention, and that truly is our Police Department and correction services. Then we have other public safety departments, and that is our [Clark County Department of Family Services](#), [Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services](#), as well as the [Clark County Fire Department](#). Those are going to be the primary other public safety departments. Combined, they total 50.7 percent of the general fund budget.

**Assemblywoman Torres:**

How does the budget in the FY 2022–2023 compare to that from previous years? I know we are looking at this FY, but it is hard for me to draw a comparison. Are we spending it making the same investments or have there been changes?

**Ms. Jacob:**

We put this together so you can see the comparison to FY 2021–2022, but that is this immediate past year. I can have Ms. Colvin give her thoughts on how we compare to other previous years.

**Ms. Colvin:**

If you look back to FY 2018–2019 and FY 2019–2020, the prepandemic years, we were experiencing approximately on average 6 percent growth in revenue, and our expenditures were growing accordingly. With FY 2020–2021 and the pandemic, we immediately put in cost containment measures that we had in place during the recession. All those cost containment measures have been removed. We are back to where we would have been previously, as far as expenditures. Where we are not growing as quickly is that limitation in our revenue growth where we have missed out, so we have been limited on adding additional resources in the form of supplemental positions as a result of the pandemic.

**Assemblywoman Torres:**

I am looking specifically at the Board of County Commissioner's recommended allocation of the \$440 million award. Could you talk to us a little bit about what that education assistance looked like, who it is specifically serving, and what student population?

**Ms. Jacob:**

I can see if Ms. Colvin can give you more details about education assistance and the projects that we have seen submitted or our plans in that category.

**Ms. Colvin:**

During the preapplication process, we received a variety of applications for programs such as tutoring, additional after school programs, including additional pre-K investments. Those were the primary applications that we received, but we put the application out there for additional nonprofit providers to be able to apply for additional programs that they see that

there is a need for, especially one to two years following the pandemic and the closures that were in place or the reduced school hours.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Additional questions? I have one. Are all these education assistance applications nonprofits?

***Ms. Jacob:***

I will put this to Ms. Colvin to answer.

***Ms. Colvin:***

All the applicants were nonprofits or government agencies, but I do not recall a government agency applying for a program for education assistance. Those applications have now just closed, so we will be evaluating them. I cannot speak to who applied or what types of programs. Probably 30 days from now we will have a better idea of that.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

That was my next question. I noticed your timeline said the applications closed April 30, and they would be decided on this summer. Is there a firm date?

***Ms. Jacob:***

We anticipated this summer. I know Ms. Colvin has said perhaps early fall. We are evaluating those applications right now. I do not know if she has an update further on the timeline.

***Ms. Colvin:***

It is anticipated that we will score those applications over this month and come back in early July with a recommendation to the Board and then go through that award and contract process with contracts awarded in early fall of 2022.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Across the board for anyone who has made applications, if they do not have some structure when school starts, and you push it out to the fall, then we are two to three months into school that we have lost with students again. I suggest that you consider that within the timeline so that they can do the work and that they are not behind again.

Senator Neal, good morning and welcome.

***Senator Neal:***

I had a question on job training assistance. Where have you spent your dollars? I know with COVID-19, and even now, there has been conversation around upscaling, taking people from their existing skill to a new skill so they can get into the available market. I am assuming your partners are Workforce Connections and others, but I am wondering how many people have come through the jobs assistance training, the different categories in which they have been served, and what has been the actual success? The data shows specifically in my district—zip codes 89030, 89032, 89115 and 89106—that the largest number of people who are underemployed happen to be women, women with children, and

women of color. They are falling roughly around 13 percent. This is what COVID-19 data has told us; this is the data I received from the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) over a period of six months. We dug in from December to last month. How have you targeted this? What are you doing in this space?

**Ms. Jacob:**

The Board prioritized using this funding to target communities that have been disproportionately impacted. Ms. Colvin can speak to how we have worked this into the scoring of these applications. We have put in factors related to historic work with underrepresented communities or partners who have demonstrated policies towards diversity initiatives and are going to actually assist those communities, and that is something that we did through collaboration when we did our outreach program. The job assistance training, and I will have Ms. Colvin correct me if I misspeak, applications are coming. We talked about our phases of our applications, and the job assistance training is coming in the long-term recovery investments.

**Ms. Colvin:**

Yes, the workforce training and development was included in our phase three. Those applications just closed last week, and we will begin scoring them this month with a recommendation by the end of June or mid-July timeframe. In the scoring criteria, we have provided additional weight for any program that affects those who are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Those types of services to that population should rise to the top to provide services to the most vulnerable population.

**Senator Neal:**

I hear what you are saying, but who are the partners that applied and what is the alignment in which they are working for the job assistance? We have these categories that we focus on and target for work, but they may not be the industries in which individuals may be able to work. How are we meeting that mid-gap need of the individuals who may not even be in that training or eligible for that training? Let me give you a clear example. I have individuals who are interested in emergency management training (EMT); however, they cannot do it on the [inaudible] side unless they are super poor. They do not have a job, but if they have a job and they are trying to upscale, they are not eligible for the program. They have to quit their job in order to be eligible for the program. On the other side, and this is no stain on the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), but if they walk through CSN and try to use another set of funding, then the credit side of the school determines the courses and classes. An individual walks through not just one door but two doors just to get the training and get the job to ultimately be a firefighter. I am trying to figure out how you are making this simpler within this request for proposal (RFP) that you put out and the funding partners when we know there are individuals who have an immediate need to either make more money now or make more money within the next four months. What is the deviation? Are you guys doing an innovation on the process, as the County, since you are the largest social service group out there?

**Ms. Jacob:**

Senator Neal, I am going to try and tackle that question, which had multiple facets to it. You asked if we were partnering with Workforce Connections, and I did not address that in my previous response. We do partner with Workforce Connections quite substantially, and when we were working last summer to get proposals from the community, we partnered with them specifically. Not only did we do public meetings, but we also did other meetings

with our community partners, like Workforce Connections, to try and figure out how to allocate these funds. We have certain buckets that are permitted in the Treasury guidelines. This is something that we have tried to structure, but we have to stay in those parameters. When you speak to innovations and whether we are innovating the process, we have tried to innovate in the sense that by taking the funds out of the U.S Treasury guidelines and putting them into our general fund, we can partner with nonprofits who might not have had experience with administering federal funds. We can give some flexibility there while still doing oversight. That does not mean we are not going to give oversight and accountability and those things, but we have some flexibility in the people with whom we can partner under this approach. I do not know if I can speak specifically to EMT training, which is a need that we have in our area, and I do not know if Ms. Colvin wants to speak to the job assistance programs. We said earlier that those applications just closed. I do not know if we are in a position to tell you right now about who applied because we are reviewing those applications right now. That will go to the Board this summer and be publicly reported. Then, if there is a need that you specifically see, we can certainly remain open to working with you on that particular need; even outside the ARPA funding, there are opportunities that we can take.

***Kevin Schiller, Deputy County Manager, Clark County:***

I want to introduce a couple things. Joanna has spoken to the fact that applications are in process, and we are looking at our partners. I am going to add a third layer to that, which is triage. I am going to give you the formula for success, and I say success moderately—workforce and housing are the two big bangs for the buck. Housing has been, for the last two and one-half years, the absolute crisis. I am not telling you anything you do not know, but that housing component is worse today than it was a year ago, and it will get worse before we hit that session in January. Why I say that to you on workforce is, as the applications are scored and we look at what those vendors have proposed, the two pieces I would emphasize are you cannot speak about workforce without speaking about childcare, and you cannot speak about workforce without speaking about housing, and you cannot speak to either of those without asking, “How do we simplify the bureaucracy to assist and get dollars to the client?”

From my perspective, one of the things we are trying to do—and I credit our Board and our partners with the state—Workforce Connections, the Foundation for an Independent Tomorrow (FIT), or any of those individuals who have applied and with whom we are working—goes back to that basic formula—do I have housing, and am I triaging that? Emergency housing has become transitional housing, and if not, long-term housing over the last six to nine months. To your point, there are people out there working and pounding the pavement, and they want to change careers; they want to increase their revenue component. One of the things we are trying to do by taking the handcuffs off those dollars when we reverted it to the general fund, whether that is the CHF and allowing flexibility, is allowing us to help that population, and Senator Neal, you know this. You have contacted me with clients where you have asked, “Where do we place them?” A family at Circus Circus, we placed them; that is one population. But your question is gearing towards that population that may be housed, and they are just trying to figure out how to make the pieces of the puzzle fit. That is where the flexibility with our vendors is going to allow us to say, “Let us help you with your childcare; let us take dollars out of another social service fund to support you while you increase what your vocational capacity is going to look like.” The problem is we are in such an emergency crisis in terms of housing and getting that message to those multiple layers is one of the challenges. To your point on the zip codes you listed, we must be creative on how we market it because I think there is also a trust

issue in terms of, "How do I know that I am going to get those services, and how do I manage that?"

That is a long answer to your question, but I think it is important because we are trying to take all those dollars, federal included—but as you know, those federal dollars become much more handcuffed—so that we can create the flexibility. My hope is when those vendors are speaking to us, we are going to be able to "negotiate" some of those proposals to address that, but then maybe in this other category, I am going to be working on other social service funds to assist them in how I stipend that. How do I keep them in housing? How do they get them into a more permanent setting where they are system free.

***Senator Neal:***

I know I normally beat up on just about anybody; however, you have done significant work. When I have called you to triage some serious issues, Kevin has jumped right in. And when I say it is a snowball problem, it is a snowball problem, and they go in and fix it. I am aware of the work and the level of consistency that you bring forward, but just keep me in the loop. I will always partner and figure it out. I literally got a text on Mother's Day about how someone can access services at the County and where they could go. I know what you do, but while you are pivoting and doing this transition of dollars to unhandcuffed, help me to navigate so that when I send someone your way, I know what to tell them to ask for now that we are shifting.

***Mr. Schiller:***

I want to add one more comment. The piece that is difficult, and I will use the word "pivot" because I think it is a good way to explain it. We want to be able to sustain whatever we build. As I approach the ARPA funds and where people are applying, there is a one-time component to that over that period, so the sustainability is critical. I want to apply it to another standard. I think to Vice Chair Flores' question on rental assistance or how we manage that, controls and affordability, same conversation. As a jurisdiction, we could implement some level of control and affordability about rents. But it is a statewide issue in terms of affordable housing, how we address it, and how we work with landlords in that world. Your piece, Senator Neal, is tied into that because we are trying to be creative with the eviction court. We are trying to figure out how we enter into the eviction court sooner and process those things.

On your workforce question, we want to be behind that scene. You know me, but on the same token, I cannot be the person who is communicating that service out within that high-need area. The other piece is how do we market it, message it, and control that messaging so that it, and I say this lightly, is not coming necessarily from the government entity from the perspective of where the client is interfacing. That is why I said the triage is so important. Getting somebody housed, you may not think a roadway inn is suitable housing, but to that family, it is. The issue we struggle with is how do we get that mom or that dad who may have been employed in a hospitality job, and they are not retrained, back out into our system. It is clear we will be keeping you in the loop, but I will be honest, we are pivoting pretty much weekly saying, "Do we try this?" That application process has been interesting in terms of what proposals have come forward, and now we do have some ability to negotiate within that just because of how we are using those dollars.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

I think we have one more question from Assemblywoman Torres. Go ahead, please.

***Assemblywoman Torres:***

Thank you both because I know that you all have been on the front end of making sure that we are servicing our community. I have reached out to you many times to find out how we can help specific constituents or community members who have reached out, but it is so difficult to navigate the County. If I were to try to figure out how to help a student or a family, I would not know who to contact, and that is a problem. I am educated, an elected official, and English is my first language, but I would not know where to go or who to contact, so there has to be a better way of how we approach this because people are often confused. They do not know where they can get help, and they do not know about the great services that the County does have to offer or where they can go to get them. It is not just the marketing component of it, it is the fact that there are all these offices in this big building, and if you just walk into that building, you are going to get lost or you are not going to know where to go. If I were to search on the Clark County [website](#), it is no easier to navigate; we know that from filing time when we are trying to find where that page is again. We must figure out how to make the County and our local government more accessible to the community. We are making advances in the right direction. I think you did some of that with consolidating the housing program, but I think we have to see more of that in the future.

***Ms. Jacob:***

Madam Chair, I would like to acknowledge the question from Assemblywoman Torres. I know that as a representative of the County, it is hard to explain how big the County is and our various programs and do it justice. Your point is well-taken. I know it is overwhelming, and I know, too, that our Board has really given direction to our departments to go out and take it to the street. Recently, our Board asked our Department of Family Services to engage with the community more from that perspective, to let them know that it is a resource, and to be visible in the community. We are constantly looking for ways to promote and make the programs that we do offer accessible. We have made some innovations in the sense that we have some additional staff on board to look at this from a strategic sense. If you have ideas, you know how to contact me. I can take input if there are challenges in accessing information, or something cannot be found in Clark County, or if you see barriers. I am happy to take that input back to our manager because I know this is one of her priorities as well.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

I do not think we have any additional questions. I am sure there may be some follow-up offline. I thank you for all this information and for being here today. We are going to go up to Carson City for Lyon County. Go ahead, Mr. Page.

***B. LYON COUNTY***

***Jeff Page, County Manager, Lyon County:***

I started with the county in 1985. We had a population of barely 13,000 people, and today we are pushing 60,000 people (Agenda Item IV B). I have provided you with some basic information about the County so that everybody understands the complexities of a county that does not have a centralized community. I have eight separate communities within my County, and they all want services their way. You can see our population as of the last census and the increases we have had in the last ten years. Ten years prior to that, we had a 50.4 percent growth rate from 2000 to 2010. We continue to grow as a county, and we also continue to grow with challenges. To say that I am a rural county is not quite true

anymore. We refer to ourselves either as rural and everybody else is frontier, or, we are suburban and Washoe and Clark Counties are urban and the rest are rural, but we are no longer a small county.

Regarding the services we provide throughout the County, and unlike Carson, Douglas, or Churchill that surround me, I have at least four of everything—four substations, five libraries, and four human services offices for people to get services. Lyon County is spread out with over 2,100 square miles, similar to what Nye and Elko Counties deal with but on a little bit smaller scale. When we start talking about the budget and looking at our public safety numbers, Lyon County, as a government, does not provide fire protection. It is provided by four separate county fire protection districts ([Chapter 474](#) of NRS) with their own tax rate and their own governing board. We have zero authority, say, or jurisdiction over the fire protection districts, and they are not part of our budget. It is both a blessing and a curse depending on the situation. We run three utility general improvement districts (GIDs)—one dealing with water and sewer in one, water in another, and sewer in another.

There are three justice courts in Yerington, Dayton, and Fernley that deal with the court issues; three district attorney substations; and two offices for community development for a breakdown of our roads and those kinds of issues. We have expanded greatly over the last decade with fewer employees than we had ten years ago.

For FY 2022–2023, I provided our projected revenue and our budgeted expenditures. We will see a change to the judicial; \$150,000 to \$200,000 will be moved from the tentative budget to the final budget as we are working on another capital murder case in Lyon County right now. When we did the tentative budget, the suspect had not yet been apprehended; now that he is in custody, we are budgeting for that capital case for the next several years. When you look at our overall budget, we have \$0 in public works because our public works is strictly the road department, which is funded out of three separate funds in a different section of the overall budget. The majority of our health funding goes to state contracts. The majority of our welfare is coming in with grant dollars and some tax rate.

For a little bit of history, I have provided you a number of bar graphs that my comptroller put together for our budget process. Over the last ten or so years we have increased our assessed valuation. The first graph is the actual increases; the second graph on the bottom shows you the percentage up or down; the next is all governmental funds or property taxes coming in; and followed up with our general fund property tax. Since 2014, the general fund has increased over the years from \$8 million to about \$12 to \$13 million this year. We continue to see those increases as we grow. When I first became the county manager, we were pretty much an agriculturally based economy. We have diversified our economy with agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and potentially some data center operations coming in, so we are continuing to move. It is important to recognize that even with a population of 60,000, the majority is either retired or commutes to Carson City, Reno, Fallon, or Storey County for employment. We are still working on building that infrastructure and getting those businesses in place so that the people who reside in Lyon County can actually be employed in Lyon County.

Consolidated tax makes up 47 percent of our budget. After getting notification last year from the Department of Taxation that we no longer meet the requirements to be a guaranteed county, the Lyon County Board of Commissioners made the decision to be removed from guaranteed status. This next FY, we will no longer be on guaranteed status for consolidated tax. I never thought Lyon County would get to that point, but here we are, doing well. Part of the increase in consolidated tax for the last two years is sales tax coming from Internet sales. During COVID-19, when we were locked down, we did not have the

same experience that Clark County had in regard to lost revenues. I believe my wife herself was a large contributor to our sales tax increases. United Parcel Service (UPS) and FedEx had a distribution center in my driveway every day, and we saw that increase greatly throughout the County with people shopping online versus going to the store. The farther away you live from urbanized areas where you have the niceties of big box stores, the more we see people in the County purchasing online and being delivered. Maybe not as much in Dayton and Fernley, but in Silver Springs, Yerington, and Smith Valley you see a significant increase in Internet sales. When I first started with the County, the UPS guy came to Yerington once or twice a week. Now there are three UPS guys in Yerington every single day, so things have increased in that aspect. Our consolidated and property tax combined have increased.

To say that we have had these increases and that we do not have any budgetary issues is not a correct statement for a variety of reasons. Last session, this Legislature addressed bail hearings indirectly through the court system as well as changes to criminal justice reform, and we are very pleased the Legislature is willing to work with us and not mandate a 24-hour bail hearing but work with a 48-hour bail hearing. We have sat down with all three courts, the district attorney, the public defender, and the sheriff's office, and July 1 we will be going to seven days a week for bail hearings. That means having to bring on additional staffing for pretrial services as well as additional staffing for the sheriff in his detention center, basically clerical staff, to assist with that process. We expect that once that process gets in place, we may have to add additional staffing to make it function, but our goal is to get people in, and if they get arrested today, within 48 hours—hopefully within 24 hours—they are getting a bail hearing and being properly addressed and dealt with. Our concern from that perspective is ensuring that all three of our courts and our two municipal courts work nicely with each other to ensure that we can get this taken care of. So far, we have an agreement from all the judges who will take turns doing weekends, holidays, and those kinds of things, but we will see how that moves forward in the future.

A lot of people have had some significant challenges with ARPA, and many members of the public viewed it as it is time for us to get our fair share and do all kinds of fun pet projects. Initially, we spent about \$6.2 million in ARPA funds dealing with utility issues, water, and sewer because that was the first guidance that came out—broadband, water, sewer, and personal protective equipment (PPE) type of stuff. So we hit that right off the start with addressing some of those issues in our three GIDs and our Enterprise Funds to address some of those water and sewer issues.

Then the guidance began to change and provide for all government operations. This list of ARPA funding was decided a few weeks ago in a Lyon County Board of Commissioners meeting. Since then, we have notified the Board that we have some serious concerns with what they have approved or allocated; some of the things they have approved cannot be done in the timeline that ARPA is going to exist because they did not fully fund something. My Board has requested a special workshop to be done on May 23 to address those issues, shortfalls, and how we are going to come up with the funding. We do not provide fire emergency medical services (EMS) but the fire EMS departments came to us and said, "COVID-19 hit us really hard on the EMS front. We need to replace some ambulances. What can you do to help us?" So we provided funding for that. I do not anticipate that changing, but we did have some challenges with the Supreme Court of Nevada's decision in regards to jury trials. I have a court in Dayton that is 120 years old. In order for me to retrofit that building to put a jury box in, it is going to cost twice what it would cost if we were not in a historic district or a historic building. We are in the process of designing a centralized government center in Dayton. I am using capital improvement funding—no funding is coming from ARPA—to build a new courthouse, sheriff station, and human services office to



get us out of old antiquated buildings or multiple year leases where we actually own the building that they are in and have a one-stop shop for the public in Dayton, so they do not have to drive all over Dayton to pay their water bill, get a fire permit, and go to court. We wanted to do the same thing in Fernley. Again, this is a bit of a challenge in Fernley; that building was built before 1985, so in trying to get it set up for jury trials, we determined that the cost is going to be about \$4 million. The Board decided to fund about \$1.8 million of it, so it will have to go through this list again and figure out how to make those ends meet and where we will get funding to take care of some other things.

Some interesting things that the Board did was provide the [Boys and Girls Club of Mason Valley](#) with funding for a daycare center. In Smith Valley, daycare childcare is very difficult to get, so the Board decided some time ago that there are some things that government should not be involved in, and childcare is one of them. They have no problem with funding the building but hiring staff and maintaining a childcare center is costly, and we do not always get the best bang for our bucks. We are working hand in hand with the Boys and Girls Club. Similarly, with the City of Fernley, we are providing funding for their community center, which will be managed and maintained by the [Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows](#) for their operation that they provide in Fernley. We have two different units of Boys and Girls Clubs in Lyon County. Mason Valley takes care of Dayton, Silver Springs, Yerington, and Mineral County. Truckee Meadows has Fernley, so we are working to provide a place for our kids to go after school and during the summer as well as to address childcare issues in the south end of the County.

We are providing the Dayton Valley Conservation District funding to do river cleanup and flood control issues on the Carson River that goes through Dayton. Carson River is a little problematic because it is a [Superfund](#) site. I am the proud owner of two Superfund sites. It is always fun to deal with those issues, and everything we do on those Superfund sites is more expensive.

We also provided some funding to our fair rodeo grounds so that we can get some of the antiquated bucking chutes replaced; they have not been addressed in 40 years. Yerington is still a very agricultural community. A number of events occur there throughout the year. In fact, it is booked from now until August. Besides the annual rodeo, the Yerington High School rodeo club and other youth organizations utilize those grounds on a regular basis, and so we are trying to get some of those issues taken care of and addressed. Smith Valley, one of the smallest communities we have, has a small tennis court park. The pavement is in bad shape so we are trying to get that fixed so we do not have people falling or tripping, and the kids have someplace to go to play basketball and tennis.

There were a number of things we did not fund; either they did not meet the requirements of ARPA funding or the Board decided that at this point in time we will find other ways to fund it. For example, the cemetery in Silver City is full and it needs to be expanded, so we are looking at other avenues, such as private donations or grant funding to assist those folks.

I will entertain any questions or comments you may have for me.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Any questions from the Committee? Senator Neal, please go ahead.

**Senator Neal:**

Correct me if I am wrong. You mentioned \$6.2 million that you spent on utility issues. What specifically were those issues?

**Mr. Page:**

As I stated before, I have three utilities. One of them is an enterprise fund, which is the Dayton utilities and is the largest utility that we have. Nevada's Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, strengthened regulations. We had to increase the volume of our treatment facility to meet the requirements for NDEP, including building a new rapid infiltration basin. We went out to bond, and we raised rates by 5 percent a year for five years. We still went short because of the cost of getting supplies. Right now the supplier for pipe will not give our contractors more than a week guarantee on prices, so we put additional funding into that project. In the Willow Creek GID, which is a small sewer operation in the south end of the County, we replaced some aerators and equipment that were in desperate need. Odors were becoming an issue. Then the same thing within the Silver Springs GID—improving equipment, addressing odor issues, and getting those things taken care of. Both GIDs were small dollar amounts. The majority of that money went to the Dayton utilities for the rapid infiltration basin and piping to get effluent there.

**Senator Neal:**

On the childcare funding, you mentioned you are trying to use the Boys and Girls Clubs for after school, and it sounded like these are kids who are at least elementary, middle school, or high school age. It looks like you have \$500,000 in the budget for indigent care, behavioral health, and childcare. So how are you dealing with the younger children who may need work? You mentioned that you are trying to align some of your economic development so that the actual residents work in Lyon versus commuting to other places. What do you have in place regarding infants and smaller children of parents who may need childcare? I do recognize your statement that you have an aging population, but from what I understand, you have an aging population, and then you have a young population, so there is this gap.

**Mr. Page:**

Yes, the ARPA funding going to the Boys and Girls Club in Yerington, along with other funding they have coming in, is to build a childcare facility within Yerington. They provide childcare for infants to preschool now in their clubs within Lyon County. I cannot speak to what they do in Mineral County because I am not aware. They continue to provide that service. We have partnered with them since the Great Recession when we laid off all our part-time after school program activities, and they took that over for us. We have had a strong partnership with them for a good number of years. We provide them access to our properties for their annual fundraiser, Night in the Country, which brings about 15,000 people to Yerington for a four-day weekend of country music. We provide them that ground for no charge, and they pay us a nominal rate to assist with security. In exchange, they are providing the services that we used to provide more than a decade ago for after school childcare that—to be quite honest with you—we did not do a good job. We could not pay well; we could not find the employees. And we struggle still to this day, because for us, they would be part-time employees, and for the Boys and Girls Club, they are full-time employees.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Vice Chair Flores, please go ahead.

***Vice Chair Flores:***

I was curious to engage in the conversation of food insecurity. Obviously, during the pandemic, we saw how hard many of our communities were hit, and I noticed that in one of the slides, we are talking about what we needed but was not allocated was the food pantry. I wonder if that is because you partnered up with some of the nonprofits, or you realized that you could fulfill that obligation through perhaps a different mechanism, so I was curious to understand that. Also, if we could talk a little bit about the involvement of our tribes and how they played into all these conversations, in collaborating and working together. If you could provide some insight into that, thank you.

***Mr. Page:***

Regarding the food pantry, their initial request was to enlarge and remodel a facility they had in Dayton. Then they lost the site they had in Silver Springs and came to us for the purchase of property. The ARPA funding requirements did not allow us to purchase property. We could have bought a building, but they were just going to buy bare land and then move their modular facility to that, for which the ARPA funding did not provide. Since then, my staff has worked with them to identify a couple of commercial buildings in the Silver Springs area that will meet their needs. The challenge is we have to make sure that it addresses traffic, because like most of central Lyon County, you are either impacting Highway 50 or impacting U.S. 95A when you line up 600 cars for food-pantry day. We need to have a place for them that could address the traffic safety issue, and we believe we have found one, and they are now working with us to address how they are going to pay for the lease and those kinds of issues. We did not leave them—sorry, thanks but no thanks. Both my community development director and my human services director are working with them to get their location in place and get them up and operational by the end of June to go from where they are to the new place. That is why they were not funded; they were looking to purchase bare land and build a building, and the ARPA funding did not allow for that to occur. I am sorry. I forgot the second question.

***Vice Chair Flores:***

The second part of the question was just the relationship with the tribes and working with them, and if you could give us some insight into that.

***Mr. Page:***

I have two tribes that are now within Lyon County—Yerington Paiute Tribe, which is in Mason Valley, and the Walker River Paiute Tribe in Schurz, which is in Mineral County, but over the years, they have acquired other properties that bring them into Lyon County. We have had some decent dialogue with the Walker River Paiute Tribe on a variety of issues over the years. The Yerington Paiute Tribe has been a little more challenging for us to get that communication, until recently. They elected a new chair, and we are beginning those conversations regarding a public lands bill that we are working on right now, which has opened the door for more communication. They have not made a request for anything. When we did the public hearings regarding people's requests, we notified everybody through electronic and social media about the process to apply for ARPA fundings—fill out this form, send it to us, and you will have ten minutes to do your presentation. Neither tribe provided us with anything for a request.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

I will jump up to Carson City. Senator Goicoechea and Assemblywoman Dickman, any questions?

***Senator Goicoechea:***

One thing we do not want to let escape, and Mr. Page opened with it, is you must understand we are dealing with, in this case, almost 60,000 people, but technically being provided for out of three different communities. I understand Lyon County, and I know how it functions. The other thing that Jeff opened with is you must understand this is a county that, because of a capital murder case, is now going to have to open up and augment its budget. If that happened in some of these other jurisdictions, Washoe or Clark, you guys would have the budget open three times a day. The bottom line is we do not want to lose the fact that it costs a lot of money to provide it, and in four different jurisdictions. Lyon County is somewhat unique, even more so than Elko and some of the others, because they are truly different communities between Silver Springs, Fernley, Yerington, and Dayton, and I sympathize, Mr. Page.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Any additional questions? Thank you, Mr. Page for that overview. I, too, on a very different scale, understand Lyon County and the challenges it has being so spread out and the different areas of population. I have driven every square inch of it. We will go to Washoe County. When you are ready let us know.

***C. WASHOE COUNTY***

***Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Washoe County:***

We have a five-member board. Our current chair is Commissioner Vaughn Hartung (Agenda Item IV C). Our Vice Chair is Commissioner Alexis Hill. Commissioners Bob Lucey, Kitty Jung, and Jeanne Herman, our remaining members, are all up for election this cycle. Commissioner Jung has been termed out, so at the start of the new year, we will have at least one new commissioner. Our county leadership includes County Manager Eric Brown; Assistant County Managers Dave Solaro P.E. and Kate Thomas; CFO Christine Vuletich; Assistant to County Manager, Erick Willrich; Communications Director Nancy Leuenhagan; and County Security Administrator Benjamin West.

Washoe County consists of 6,542 square miles. Our population, along with many others in Nevada, continues to grow. We have a current population of 493,400 people. Our full-time employees continue to increase so that we can provide services to all those residents. We consist of 28 different departments. In Washoe County, the bulk of our population does exist within the lower region of Washoe County, which includes the City of Reno and the City of Sparks as well as the unincorporated areas around those two cities. Other jurisdictions within Washoe County are listed here. We have the City of Reno and City of Sparks—you are hearing from them today; the school district; several GIDs; and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District.

Some of the services that are provided to unincorporated Washoe County residents include: business licensing; building and safety services; community parks and recreation; fire protection; land use; wastewater; and so on. Our regional services are provided to both unincorporated and incorporated residents throughout Washoe County as well as some of our neighboring jurisdictions. For example, Clark County and Washoe County have a

coroner or medical examiner, and we provide those services split between the rest of the counties in Nevada.

Similar to many other jurisdictions, 51 percent of our revenue comes from property tax. The next largest chunk is 33 percent, which is our consolidated tax (C-tax), and then we have a small percentage of other revenues that do come into Washoe County.

The bulk of our expenses includes salaries and benefits for staff to be able to provide services, and then 15 percent goes to services and supplies. The next largest piece, transfers out, is at 12 percent; this includes funds that go to the state to help offset the Medicaid match requirements that the counties have.

The bulk of our appropriations in terms of how we are funding our budget is general fund. We also have some special revenue funds, enterprise funds, capital funds, debt services funds, and so forth.

Our FY 2022–2023 budget outlook is based on information provided from Nevada’s Department of Taxation. We are expecting a small increase of our property tax and C-tax. Our fines and fee revenue continues to go down, and other revenues are projected for either very slow growth or flattening based on our current economic situations. In looking at a comparison of our last FY budget and this next FY budget, we, along with many others, were very conservative in our budgets for the last couple of years, not knowing the impacts of COVID-19. We are feeling a little more confident of where we are. We have a substantial increase this FY in spending. A large part of that will be going towards homeless services, which will be provided starting January 1 and will be fully supported by the county. We can get into some of those details here coming up.

Here are some of the highlights for this FY. We are on year two of our property tax refunds. You may have heard we had a settlement with some Incline Village property owners based on some issues with their property taxes. We are on year two of that legal obligation to refund those property owners. We do have some unfunded mandates that we are addressing. That includes [AB 424](#) (2021) as well as the cost for elections as we continue to make changes to our election process. We have an increase of our stabilization fund, investment in capital improvement projects, expansion of our [Nevada Cares Campus](#), and operating costs for the homeless services. We have had a substantial increase in our full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) for this year. For our general fund fiscal sustainability forecast, our ending fund balances within the Washoe County’s policy—state requirement is 4 percent—we always try to be a little over 10 percent, and we hope to have an ending fund balance.

Washoe County received \$91 million of ARPA funds. The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners approved five categories for spending the funds: (1) addressing health disparities; (2) addressing the root causes of homelessness; (3) bolstering economic and social recovery; (4) building stronger neighborhoods; and (5) and promoting healthy childhood environments. The bulk of the funds have gone to negative economic impacts; 19 percent has gone to public sector capacity health and negative economic impacts. A very small piece of \$48,000 has gone towards revenue replacement, and 3 percent has gone towards public health.

We will be using the rest of the funds to continue working on our reinvestment grant programs. We expect a release this summer for the local nonprofits who have requested funds. We have created a public dashboard so the public can track what programs we have funded and those funding amounts. As we look at our second tranche, we are working on

identifying needs and priorities for the County as well as continuing our reporting to the U.S. Treasury and sharing that information with the public of how and where those funds are being used.

We have requested some funds from the state ARPA amounts for: disproportionately impacted communities, infrastructure with projects primarily related to stormwater in Washoe County, and the health district as it continues to move forward past responses to COVID-19. We have more details that I am happy to share with the Committee if you would like.

[Our Place](#) is something I believe everyone on this Committee has heard us talk about before. This is the women, children, and family homeless shelter that was created by Washoe County. This was done in correlation with the state; this is actually state property that they have allowed us to use. This continues to grow, and we have just completed a new community garden in partnership with a local nonprofit to help the members living at Our Place grow their own healthy sustainable foods while they are at Our Place and to help them as they transition into more permanent housing. Also, opening later this year, will be Our Place to Shine Community Boutique; we are working with other nonprofits to help women find clothing and things they need so that when they are out looking for employment, they are able to have clothes that they need. Suitable clothes can be more difficult to find for people who are experiencing homelessness and to be able to look the part as they are applying for employment.

We are proud of our outcomes thus far for the end of last year. Successful family exits were at 50 percent; substance use went down substantially; and recidivism was very low. Those are things of which we are very proud. Mental illness continues to be a large component with 53 percent of our residents reporting mental illness, and chronic homelessness was up 22 percent. That number continues to grow as we work through the impacts of COVID-19 and housing availability in Washoe County. We are expecting these populations, unfortunately, to continue to grow for some time.

The [Nevada Cares Campus](#) was created with full regional input and support between Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks using CARES funding to purchase and build the Cares Campus. We have a men's shelter, and we have [Safe Camp](#), which is available for individuals who do not want to stay in a shelter, but we are still providing them a safe place to live. We are working towards a phased build up of our Cares Campus. The blue is the current sprung structure. In front of those in phase two, we are building permanent bathroom and laundry facilities on the outside of the structure, as well as doing some internal upgrades to section out the area to allow for more privacy for the individuals who will be staying there. Phase three is the building in the middle, which is going to be a kitchen and cafeteria for the people staying on the campus, and the second floor will allow for case management individuals. We are trying to create a one-stop shop for these individuals so they do not have to go somewhere else to find their case managers and get more assistance. Phase four is the dark and light pink. The light pink is additional overflow housing. The dark pink is going to be an additional resource center for individuals staying on the campus to help them understand what resources may be available and help them if they are running into issues in receiving those resources. In yellow we have [HOPES](#), a local nonprofit clinic that exists in downtown Reno, and they will be building a new clinic on the Cares Campus to help provide services to those individuals.

It is important to note that we have in our budget a \$16 million annual operating cost for our Homeless Services Transition plan. This is a \$7 million increase to Washoe County that will start this upcoming FY as we transition to Washoe County being the sole responsible

entity for homeless services. We worked with the cities and have agreed that the cities will continue their work with affordable housing while the County will focus on helping those who are less fortunate.

Lastly, we have Washoe [311](#). We appreciate that counties supply a multitude of services, and it can be very difficult for the public to know who to call or where to get those services. Through Washoe 311, people can call or email our call center, which can either provide them the information they are looking for or direct them to the appropriate department or entity. Oftentimes they call us for a city service. I know the cities have similar programs, and they often have to direct them to us if it is a county resource, but we have tried very hard to give our residents truly a one-stop shop to get the information they need, whether they need assistance or just basic information regarding government in Washoe County.

We continue to work and expand our public outreach. We use social media, and we have a newsroom. We have [Washoe County TV](#), which includes our broadcasting of meetings, and we also do public service announcements (PSAs) and other information through that channel. We recently launched the [Washoe Life](#) podcast; this provides stories of what is going on in Washoe County and people who live in Washoe County as well as specific programs highlighting what is happening in our region, such as the discussion of National Donate Life Month. We have commissioner [newsletters](#) that now go out regularly for our five commissioners and their districts. Madam Chair and Committee, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Questions from the Committee here in Las Vegas? Senator Neal.

***Senator Neal:***

There have been a series of challenges with the Cares Campus. The news story I read—drug use, stabbing, bathrooms not being clean, a horrendous setup, and a series of deaths that have occurred on the Campus, meaning they have been found in their bed or in the bathroom. There is not enough staffing or security. Security is limited; there is a check of the backpack but no check for drugs or anything else. There is also a segregation within the facility; it sounded good in theory but in practice, it is not working out well. Can you address some of those serious issues?

***Ms. Rodriguez:***

Yes, we have had some growing pains. In creating the shelter, it was put together very quickly because we saw the need for our homeless growing so quickly, and so there have been issues. Addressing that population does make it more difficult for us. There are limits on how much searching we can do, and people can be very clever. There is a fine line of appreciating their privacy and not going through all their items, which then becomes a roadblock for people to come and stay at the campus. We have seen a shift in the population based on changes we have made at the Campus. We are working on building out the new facilities to allow for better access and more facilities to be made available to this population. We, along with many others, are having staffing issues, so while we have been able to grow and bring on more people, it has not been an easy thing to do. This population has been very difficult for us to find people there, so we have had, at times, staffing issues to accommodate the facility and especially during the wintertime, making sure we had as many beds open as possible. There have been some growing pains in the operation of the Cares Campus. Based on the plans we have, the additional budgets being made available to

the campus starting this FY, and those build outs, we are confident that we will be able to address those issues. We have seen a shift in that population of people feeling more comfortable about coming there and people leaving encampments who feel the work we are doing makes it a place they want to be and that services that they want to use are being provided.

***Senator Neal:***

You have the infrastructure where you submitted a request to the state for your stormwater projects—Spanish Springs, Lemon Valley—and immediately I thought about [WC-1](#) in 2018, which was a tax levy on storm drains. With that tax levy, were you able to bond for roughly \$162 million or something around that? What is going on with this request? Is the tax levy not enough? It is outside of your tax cap. Can you help me build the dots between the WC-1 and storm drains?

***Ms. Rodriguez:***

I may need to defer to Lori to help answer some of that, but I think there may be some confusion because WC-1 from 2018 was the school district funding. That was a sales tax increase to help offset the cost to build more schools. If Lori is on, she can probably help you with the tax bonding for stormwater.

***Senator Neal:***

It is the Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA); the tax levy was an amount of 0.0248 cents per \$100 of assessed value. There was a flood management authority issue for \$89 million of general obligation funds, and there was also a property tax levy for 30 years, and there were a series of bonds. You guys have had a lot of ballot questions, but I am not talking about the school one.

***Lori Cooke, Budget Manager, Washoe County:***

That went on the ballot; it did not pass. When we were going through that process, TRFMA, which is a separate entity from the county, went through the process, and they had several options of what to put on the ballot. Those options are what you are referring to, and that did not pass when it went on the ballot in 2018. We do have a flood management authority. It is one-eighth of a cent, and that comes in through the County. Then there are about six employees who get paid, and the rest of it goes to TRFMA. They have their own charter and elected officials who participate on the TRFMA board, and they have different funding for projects that they work on.

***Senator Neal:***

Thank you for that clarification because I read it and remembered all the Government Affairs hearings that I have been in where you either came in with a ballot question or said, "Hey we want to do this; we want to take this to the people." You guys had at least 12 from 2006 forward. It might even be more than that; it might be 18. I just wanted to know because you always come to the Legislature with something, so thanks for the clarification so I can have that for the future

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Additional questions? Assemblywoman Brown-May.



***Assemblywoman Brown-May:***

You talked about addressing the root causes of homelessness, and I am curious to know if you would step through that just a little bit to identify some of the solutions that you have engaged with the ARPA dollars.

***Ms. Rodriguez:***

With Washoe County taking over the spearheading of addressing homelessness, we have worked on several programs to address the problem as it exists with more of a broad scale approach to address it. We have worked with many of our partners. That includes the expansion of the HOPE clinic coming to the facility, which will help with some of the mental health issues as well as other general health issues that exist within these populations. We have been increasing our [CrossRoads](#) program. That is part of our drug-free program where we work with people who are experiencing substance abuse to help them overcome those abuses, as well as learning how to reenter after living a certain lifestyle for a period. We have worked extensively on increasing that program to help with substance abuse. With help from the HOPES campus, we will hopefully be able to address many more of the mental health issues. The clinic that existed in Washoe County recently closed, and so we have been working with many partners to help fill that gap for people who are experiencing extreme crisis so that they have somewhere to go and have resources made available to them. This is a multifaction, and I am happy to get more specific information to you, Assemblywoman, regarding those partnerships and all the groups we are working with to help this population address both homelessness and mental health issues.

***Assemblywoman Brown-May:***

Are you able to identify if there is indeed a decrease in the number of people entering homelessness that you are experiencing in the County? Do you have the data around that number?

***Ms. Rodriguez:***

I do not have the numbers. Our homeless numbers do continue to increase as housing markets become more difficult, rent continues to increase, and finding sustainable housing continues to be more difficult in Washoe County. I can get those specific numbers to you and the Committee.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Additional questions up north?

***Senator Goicoechea:***

I am really impressed with the Cares Campus. Where is that location?

***Ms. Rodriguez:***

If you drive on U.S. 395 N, as you approach the spaghetti bowl, it is in the southwest corner. It is state land that we purchased.

***Senator Goicoechea:***

How do you provide the security? Are these sworn officers?

***Ms. Rodriguez:***

We have a contract with a company called Allied Services that provides the security for all county facilities, and that does include the Cares Campus.

***Senator Goicoechea:***

I believe in this "Field of Dreams"; build it and they will come. I am impressed with what you are proposing, and we know there is a need. Unfortunately, we tend to be a little more seasonal up here with the homeless people. When we get into the summer there is the river and some shade and being homeless is not nearly as bad as it is the first of January. I am sure that gradually you will get this transition. We know it is needed, and it is a good start. I appreciate it, and I want to thank you and your Commission.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Assemblywoman Dickman.

***Assemblywoman Dickman:***

I often hear stories of how the homeless do not like going to the shelter. They would rather live in their tents. They do not like the restrictions of the Campus. What is happening with that? Are you getting more people? I know you said that the population is changing a little bit, but are people becoming more comfortable? I hear lots of stories about security. At any given time, how many security people do you have here?

***Ms. Rodriguez:***

I do not know the exact numbers in terms of security on the Cares Campus, but I will happily get that for you. Our approach to how we have built out the Cares Campus, including the Safe Camp option, has helped with those who do not want to be in a shelter or have that kind of communal living but want somewhere safe to stay. The operation and expansion of our Safe Camp has helped individuals leave encampments and come to the facility. In phase two, I talked about some internal improvements that we are going to be doing. Part of that is creating more sectional housing like we have at Our Place, so people can stay in an area that they feel is their area and gives them a little bit more privacy, which helps overcome that hurdle of people not wanting to come to a homeless shelter because they feel they are just in this large room with a lot of bunks. There are certain things that we are doing to entice people to be there rather than encampments. I am working on stepping stones to allow them to stay in a more secure area, more privacy, something that is a little bit more long term, and not your traditional homeless shelter where you show up for the day, have a bed that day, leave that night, and come back hoping that you have a bed. We are looking at the long term and not just providing a bed for the night but looking at helping to get these people out of that cycle and out of homelessness. Our upgrades that we will be doing inside the facility will help address those hurdles and fears that people have when coming to a shelter.

***Assemblywoman Dickman:***

I think the job you are doing is amazing. Are they are able to bring their dogs with them?

***Ms. Rodriguez:***

I apologize because I am drawing a genuine blank as to whether we allow that. I believe in certain areas we do, but I do not want to misspeak. I will confirm that and get back to you.

***Assemblywoman Dickman:***

I think you do, but that is an important piece because a lot of people will not leave their dogs.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Any additional questions? Seeing none, I appreciate Washoe County being here today. I am sure there are other questions that they will take offline. Next, we will go to White Pine County. When you are ready, please let us know.

***D. WHITE PINE COUNTY***

***Elanie Eldridge, Chief Deputy Finance Director, White Pine County:***

I am going to focus on White Pine County's ARPA funds today (Agenda Item IV D). White Pine County is going to use ARPA funds to build a community service building. This building will house our public health office, public health nurse office, social services, and juvenile probation. The public health nurse office portion of the building will be what ARPA will fund. This slide shows the conceptual plan from our architect of the proposed building. During the pandemic, several issues came to light that were deficiencies in our current facilities for our health nurse in their functionality. The office is currently at the rear of our county administrative building where clients must go through the public halls to be seen, and this creates problems in both patient privacy and potentially ill patients coming into contact with employees and other members of the public. Currently, that building houses our county assessor, finance department, county manager, social services, juvenile probation, and the public health nurse.

When the pandemic started, the two ladies working in the office needed to come up with a way for ill patients to be seen without them going through those public halls. Their solution was to start a drive-thru in the alley behind the building. They continued with their vaccinations, immunizations, family [inaudible], and added COVID-19 rapid testings and vaccinations to the services they provided. The only difference was that it was in the alley on the side of the building. There were a few issues with this location. There is no covering—rain or shine—and we just had our last snowstorm a couple weeks ago. These ladies worked tirelessly during freezing temperatures in their stocking caps and coats to keep servicing the community. The alleyway is paved, but it is not straight out for people driving through; you either have to go to the left to get out, to the right by a private resident garage, or veer right and go out. The portion of our building has snow removal, but the other portions of the exit do not have snow removal. The alternative clinic entrance has zero Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access or visibility for the employees to see who was outside waiting for them. Obviously, this entrance was never meant to be a public entrance. The steps during bad weather were snow and ice slip hazards, and you had to walk right by that large electrical power box. The second issue with this alley is that it is adjacent to a private residence, so when we were having these drive-thru vaccinations or any other service that they provided, the private citizen could not get to their garage. With COVID-19, we would have certain blocks of days—two or three days—that the ladies would have vaccinations, and people had to wait 15 to 20 minutes to see if they had any adverse reaction. If they were getting rapid testing, they would have to wait for their results. The

line of cars would go up the street. If this private person had left their residence and then came back, there was no way for them to get into their garage.

These are the vaccination and immunization totals from December 2020 through April of this year. Those ladies did 3,665 vaccinations, which is one of the highest per capita totals in the state. Most of these services were performed in that makeshift alley. When the ARPA funds became available, a possible solution to the obstacles that our health nurse had dealt with was presented to the White Pine County Board of Commissioners. With these funds we plan to construct a new building at the site of the former courthouse annex, which was demolished in 2014. The courthouse annex had been used for administrative offices prior to demolition. This slide shows an overlay of where the annex was compared to where the new building will be situated, so it will be on County land. This site is in downtown Ely in proximity to the historic courthouse library and senior center. This places the public health facility closer to downtown in proximity to the individuals needing these services. The new building will house the public health nurse, including exterior canopies for drive-thru services; the juvenile probation office; and the social services office for White Pine County.

The White Pine County ARPA funds of \$1,860,803 will be used to pay for only the public health portion of the building, which is approximately 1,220 square feet of office space, plus exterior canopies and portions of shared public and support spaces, such as hallways, janitorial, and data closets. The new drive-thru canopy will provide protection to staff and patients and alleviate traffic hazards. A probable cost estimate was done in December 2021, and since then, we have added 10 percent due to inflation and supply chain issues. We now figure a probable cost will be approximately \$5,432,200. We will be using a construction manager at risk (CMAR) with a guaranteed maximum price for the construction. We currently have selected Lombard Conrad Architects as the architect engineers and CORE Construction as the CMAR. Both companies were selected following federal and state requirements. CORE Construction is currently putting together a preconstruction estimate where White Pine County will work with them and the architects to come to an agreed upon guaranteed maximum price with any additions or deletions as the budget will allow. We plan to break ground this summer in 2022 with planned completion of the project within 18 months or the fall of 2024.

As far as our FY 2022–2023 budget, we have submitted our tentative budget with our ending fund balance of over 25 percent of our expenditures or three months of operating reserves. There will be some changes to the final budget, but the fund balance of at least 25 percent will stay the same. Our net proceeds of mineral revenues for FY 2022–2023 is estimated to be \$4,417,806. These funds have been budgeted to improve infrastructure for White Pine County. Part of that will be the juvenile probation portion of the new community service building; restoration and renovation of our historic courthouse; and a new well at the golf course to alleviate pressure on the City of Ely's residential water system.

White Pine County, like everyone else, is trying to diversify its economy. We have reopened our economic development fund for FY 2022–2023, and we are in the planning stages of a sewer line upgrade for a housing development that is adjacent to our golf course and Highway 93. We have a significant housing shortage, and to bring any industry to White Pine County, we need homes. We currently have issues recruiting doctors, teachers, and sheriff's deputies due to this housing shortage. Our inventory is very low, and most of our available homes are 40, 50, or 60 years old. These are the highlights I have for our FY 2022–2023 budgets other than regular operations.

Are there any questions?

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Any questions? Assemblywoman Brown-May, please.

***Assemblywoman Brown-May:***

I have one question regarding the construction project that you just detailed. The federal relief dollars would be considered a public project, right? Is it a public facility?

***Ms. Eldridge:***

Yes, the federal dollars, the ARPA funds, will only be used to construct the public health nurse portion, so it is part of the pandemic issues.

***Assemblywoman Brown May:***

If only part of the building is being constructed with public dollars, how is the contractor preparing? Perhaps this is a little bit too in the weeds, but how will labor be utilized throughout the construction project?

***Ms. Eldridge:***

The ARPA funds will be used for the public health nurse portion. The social service portion of the building will be funded with our current social services fund balance because it is substantial. Capital improvements and the net proceeds of minerals will pay for the juvenile probation part of the building. Since all of it is either local or federal funds, it will all go with the same [Davis-Bacon](#) wages.

***Assemblywoman Brown-May:***

That was really where I was going with that.

***Ms. Eldridge:***

Yes, it will all be under state and federal regulations.

***Assemblywoman Brown-May:***

One final question relative to the labor market. Do you feel like you have adequate contractors and construction personnel, and are you going to be able to address employment opportunities in the area through this construction project?

***Ms. Eldridge:***

CORE Construction, which we just used for our new courthouse justice facility, came in with the guaranteed maximum price. They bid out to subcontractors to get drywall or anything they need. They try as hard as they can to use local contractors when possible. I agree that there is a labor shortage, but they just completed the courthouse and justice facility without any issues.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Assemblywoman Torres.

***Assemblywoman Torres:***

Following up on those questions from the Assemblywoman, it would also be great if there was some reach out to help build apprenticeship programs by guaranteeing that some of those jobs went to apprentices. One of the problems that we see with the labor shortage is that we have labor, but if we are not putting apprentices to work, we cannot train more workers. Has that already been a consideration so that we can do some job training in White Pine County and get people gainful employment to help them provide for their families?

***Ms. Eldridge:***

I am not aware of any programs like that, but I will make a note of that and see what we can do.

***Assemblywoman Torres:***

Just to clarify, the programs already exist, so it just needs to be a partnership from White Pine County to ensure that apprentices are doing some of that work.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Senator Neal.

***Senator Neal:***

What are the industries in White Pine County? In regards to COVID-19 and any pivoting that happened during the pandemic, how are you either innovating or reinventing? There have been so many conversations about what industry was doing well prior to COVID-19 and what is going on now. I do not know if you said that and I did not hear.

***Ms. Eldridge:***

No, I did not. Mining is White Pine County's major industry. Right now, and even during the pandemic, we did not have any issues. We did not have any layoffs or anything like that because the mining was going strong. Our issue is when mineral prices go down. That is when we have revenue issues.

***Senator Neal:***

I thought you had agriculture too?

***Ms. Eldridge:***

Yes, there is some agriculture, but the majority is mining.

***Senator Neal:***

We know that mining has this cyclical relationship to when our economy is doing well, they are not. When we are doing bad, mining is awesome. What have you built into White Pine County in order to buffer yourselves?

**Ms. Eldridge:**

That is one of the reasons why our Commission passed our ending fund balance for our general fund. Our operating needs to be at 25 percent during budget cycles so that we have a reserve if mining slows down. We also have a net proceeds of mitigation fund of \$8 million that cannot be used unless it is a very dire situation.

**Senator Neal:**

So you are not trying to diversify?

**Ms. Eldridge:**

Yes, we are, but we cannot without housing. Our inventory of homes for sale is—I am just putting a number out there because I do not know the exact number—around 20 to 25 homes, and the majority of them are very old homes that need a lot of work before you can even move in.

**Senator Neal:**

I thought mining had a workforce housing program. They do not?

**Ms. Eldridge:**

No. Not that I am aware of.

**Senator Neal:**

Have you asked them for one?

**Ms. Eldridge:**

Not that I am aware of. I know our county manager has been working with the mine to see what we can do together to get a housing development to come in, but we do not have the workforce. We do not have a developer out there who is willing to come in and build a development, so we are trying to get infrastructure done. We are trying to get the sewer line extended so that it will entice somebody to come in to do a housing development or something to that sort.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

Additional questions here? Vice Chair Flores.

**Vice Chair Flores:**

I know that over the years when we have an opportunity to speak and listen to presentations in the Legislature from our different counties, cities, et cetera, a lot of our colleagues from the north always educate us because there is sometimes a disconnect. We do not understand exactly what is happening out there. Exactly what you said—it is very difficult to attract the folks; if you could just get them there, there is a lot of confidence that you can get to work quickly and set them up. It is just attracting and building. How is that relationship flowing? You mentioned sewage, and there is a whole host of things that must take place under ground to allow for growth. Has there been an opportunity to discuss the federal funds that are coming in and work specifically with the private industry and have a much more in-depth conversation as to what the next phase looks like? Here is what we

are going to do; what we are going to invest; and where we are laying out the groundwork. On the end side of that, here are the folks that we have been partnering with that we know would come into this space and really allow for that next step of growth and to attract more folks into the area. Have you had that type of conversations at all?

**Ms. Eldridge:**

Not that I am aware of.

**Vice Chair Flores:**

Around three sessions ago I had a presentation come before the Government Affairs Committee about law enforcement and fire, and White Pine County talked about its large volunteer force that it relies on for resources. Was it discussed to use some of this federal funding to provide resources to the County's large volunteer force? Was that part of the conversation? Or because it is a one-time deal, it did not make sense to do something like that?

**Ms. Eldridge:**

I am not aware if that was ever discussed. This building and getting something that was accessible to people who needed it and making it a safe environment for the public and employees was top priority.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

I always know just enough about Nevada history to be dangerous. For those of you who have never been, there is Ely, Ruth, and McGill. Back in the day, Ruth was built as a place for miners to live. Those small towns have gone by the wayside a little bit, but we still have people in them. I think there were thoughts along the way, but the cyclical nature of mining has also been difficult for White Pine County as a rural.

Up north, Senator Goicoechea or Assemblywoman Dickman?

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Clearly there has been an assessment done in White Pine County, especially the City of Ely by the [Main Street](#) program. They documented they need 300 doors. Those of us on the Committee seem to be forgetting, but the Ely State Prison is running at about a 40 percent vacancy rate. The reason for that is there is no housing. If we had employees, there is no place for them to live. Some of those employees are actually living their shifts in motel rooms in Ely and then commuting either into Utah or back to Las Vegas after their shifts. Housing is a huge issue in White Pine County. It looks to me that commissioners have taken a little different venue, but I know there has been conversations, even in front of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC). As we look at the need for homes in White Pine County, employment is not the issue there; it is finding somebody to take the job. We also do not want to shift away from the fact that a lot of employment in White Pine County is government jobs, whether you are working for the Prison, Bureau of Land Management, or forest service; 40 percent of the employment in Ely proper is with government agencies and providing those services. You have the Robinson Mine, clearly the old mine in the community, with Ruth and McGill, but their large producer today is [Kinross](#) Gold Corporation at Bald Mountain. Most of those people are paying proceeds into White Pine County but they are living in Elko because there is no housing available in Ely for them. For the Pan project, those people are either living in Eureka or in a camp trailer someplace. There is no housing



available for White Pine County. Yes, we need to address it, and it was brought up in IFC as we were looking some at some of the other new dollars rolling in. If White Pine County had the money to assist in and help get this off, we could rejuvenate that community, but it is going to take housing. I am sure Ms. Eldridge agrees.

**Ms. Eldridge:**

Yes, thank you.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

You are right. White Pine County has always struggled, and it is surrounded by some of its wealthier friends in Eureka. Anybody else up north?

Thank you for being here today. We appreciate the information. Before we transition into the city groups, we are going to take a short break and give everybody just a few minutes and come back at 11:35 a.m. We are in recess.

## **AGENDA ITEM V—UPDATES FROM CITY GOVERNMENTS REGARDING FISCAL YEARS 2021–2022 AND 2022–2023 BUDGETS AND REVIEW OF [AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021](#) (H.R.1319 OF THE 117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS) RELATED EXPENDITURES**

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

We are on Agenda Item V, and we are going to have a presentation from the Urban Consortium and its members, which include the City of Henderson, Las Vegas, Reno, and Sparks. To kick things off we have former Senator Hardy, and our other presenters are Mr. McIntosh, Ms. Heltsley, Mr. Cronk, and Ms. Calli Wilsey. Go ahead when you are ready.

### **A. THE URBAN CONSORTIUM**

**Warren B. Hardy II, Principal Consultant, Warren Hardy Strategies:**

I want to formally introduce the Urban Consortium. We were born and came out on the fly last session. The four major cities in Nevada decided that we might be able to help ourselves and help the Legislature by getting together, as a group and as an organization, by fine tuning issues that we want to bring before the Legislature and making sure we are bringing you a unified voice, to the extent possible. Obviously, that is not always going to happen, but our goal is to come forward and bring a combined effort on behalf of the four large cities in order to save the Legislature time and also to have a single point of contact for members of the Legislature who want to reach out to the large cities so that we can get collective answers.

Today is our first time really presenting as a consortium. Our financial presentations today are going to focus on a high-level view of the financials. Some of the things we want to talk about, since this is a policy committee, are the things that we are looking at going forward in terms of policy priorities. After the cities are done presenting, I would like to come back and take a couple of minutes to talk about the working title of the slide, "Things That Are Keeping Us Up At Night." In the spirit of the Consortium, it is becoming evident that we would be better served as cities and as local governments if we collectively work together to address these issues. We are constantly reminding the Legislature of things that we believe are local government responsibilities, and with that, comes an obligation to make recommendations and have our act together. But as we have the discussions after

COVID-19, it has become evident that there are a lot of issues that we need to collectively deal with in the counties and with you as legislators. The end of our presentation will discuss that.

## **1. City of Henderson**

### ***Nicole Rourke, Director of Government and Public Affairs, City of Henderson:***

Jim McIntosh, our Chief Financial Officer (CFO), will be giving you an overview of our financial position and our ARPA funds and CARES Act funds that were [inaudible]. Jim and I have known each other a long time. Prior to his last six years with the City of Henderson, he was the CFO for the Clark County School District (CCSD), and as you all well know, I spent a good amount of time there myself. With that, I am going to turn it over to Jim, and we will be happy to answer any questions along the way or at the end, as you see fit.

### ***Jim McIntosh, CFO, City of Henderson:***

I am here to provide you with a financial overview of the City and how we have spent some of our federal COVID-19 dollars (Agenda Item V A). These are the largest revenue sources in the general fund, which are the day-to-day operations of the City of Henderson. This is our tentative budget for FY 2022–2023. Consolidated tax is our largest component of revenue at 45.4 percent, and the next largest is property taxes at 28.2 percent. In total, 74 percent of our general fund revenues is comprised of the consolidated and property taxes and are very important to us, which is why we do a lot of analysis and spend a lot of focus and time on these two important revenue sources. The revenue and total for the general fund for the City of Henderson in FY 2022–2023 is projected at \$325.4 million. That is general fund revenue. The total citywide revenue when we incorporate all our funds, which includes our utilities, would be over \$700 million.

Where does the money go? The largest component of our budget in the general fund is related to public safety. Public safety includes our fire department, police department, and our corrections department, which is the operation of our detention facility. The next largest set of costs is general government. Those are people like me, the finance department, human resources, and information technology (IT). The next component is very important to the City of Henderson—parks and recreation at 14.4 percent. Then you can see some smaller components, public works, our judicial component, and community support.

I would like to give you a sense of what has occurred in the City of Henderson. This 12-year timeline represents the growth that has occurred since the Great Recession. So FY 2008–2009 to the previous FY 2020–2021, the population in the City of Henderson has grown by 22.6 percent to a population currently over 330,000 citizens. We are the second largest city in the State of Nevada. In terms of general fund, of full-time position growth, we only see about 8.1 percent growth from the recession to today. The ratio for FTEs per 1,000 residents has shifted from 5.3 to 4.7 percent, which is a decrease of 12.7 percent. We like to believe we have grown back from the last recession much more efficiently, able to do more with less, and we are very proud of that statistic.

The five strategic priorities important to our City Council and where they like to see dollars directed include: (1) community safety; (2) livable communities; (3) high-performing public service; (4) economic vitality; and (5) and quality education. I am not going to go through all the bullet points that are listed here, but these are all programs that have been incorporated in our budget for FY 2022–2023. I would like to point out the importance of community safety; it makes up over 58 percent of our budget, which has been a huge

strategic priority for our city and our constituents. We engage through our community survey every year. We are growing as a city, and there is a need, particularly in West Henderson, for both fire and police services. We will be providing a physical presence of our police department through a police substation in West Henderson and then begin the designs for a fire station in West Henderson in this next budget year; we like to highlight those items here and that we will begin having those presences in that area of town.

While we are not directly responsible for education in the City of Henderson, we are certainly very supportive and a partner with CCSD. We do that through the 18 percent redevelopment agency (RDA) set-aside funds. In addition to that, our Council has also approved one-third of our recreational marijuana licensing fees to be directed towards education, and we do that through our Community Education Advisory Board, which is a group of constituents who work with the school district to determine the greatest need. We like to highlight some of the programs that are included through the use of those funds.

At the beginning of the pandemic, one of the first tranches of funds the city received was the CARES Act funds in the amount of \$34 million, and we are currently operating under the ARPA and SLFRF funds; the City of Henderson received \$37 million. The areas where the largest amount of these dollars are going to be spent include education, childcare, and rental/utility assistance, and a large component of the funds have been directed towards COVID-19 mitigation, testing, and vaccine response. When we received these dollars, we did a community survey early on to see what the community's expectation was for spending these dollars. One of the things that stood out on the survey was a large request for mental health and wellness services, and so we have incorporated into our plan close to \$3 million to be directed towards mental health services. These are not core services that the City of Henderson normally provides. We usually look to regional partners, like the county, to assist us in providing those services. So we will be looking to work with our county partner and/or nonprofits that have begun that process already to find out what is the best way to deliver those services.

I will take any questions.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Questions? Senator Neal.

***Senator Neal:***

Regarding your economic development, I know you have done a lot on Water Street, but you still have an area in Henderson between Water Street and Lake Las Vegas that is more impoverished. You have these poor neighborhoods; they are not trailer parks, but they are clearly underserved. In terms of ARPA funds, how did you go into those neighborhoods and service those populations? What was the strategy around the lower-income individuals who happen to live in Henderson? You have pockets that get left out of the narrative more often than not because they are in between a very wealthy community and what you consider the downtown Water Street area. What is the outreach and what have you done with them?

***Mr. McIntosh:***

The area I believe you are talking about is what we consider to be part of a redevelopment area. The city has five redevelopment areas. The goal of a redevelopment area is to incentivize economic development in those areas in order to increase the values of property taxes so that we can then reinvest in that area. That neighborhood you are talking about is

within two redevelopment areas where we are working. We understand that the area is considered to be blighted, and we do what we can as a city. One of the reasons an RDA exists is to invest funds into the infrastructure in that area. When it comes to our COVID-19 response, we ran, internally, a Residential Recovery Grant Program. The purpose of this program was to assist our low-income citizens. We had a rigorous application process. I cannot speak specifically to that area, but the whole purpose of this program was to direct dollars for rental assistance, mortgage assistance, utility assistance, and broadband. Because the school district had moved to distance learning, there was a need for some of our lower-income households who did not have access to broadband to now have that access to provide education to their kids. I cannot speak to how many citizens were served in that area, but it was limited to those who were low- to moderate-income.

***Ms. Rourke:***

We did a number of things. We focused, to Jim's point, those redevelopment dollar funds and the education set-aside funds. We got the call from CCSD early on. We all went home March 15 when the shutdown happened in 2020, and we got calls a couple weeks later when we knew schools were not in session and students were learning from home with no resources. We made an effort to give CCSD \$2 million from those set-aside funds specifically for digital learning, broadband access, MiFis, Chromebooks, and that sort of thing.

Another thing that is not necessarily ARPA dollars, but to focus on that area, we are beginning a project on Boulder Highway through a federal [INRFA](#) grant, some other federal dollars, and some funding from Nevada's Department of Transportation (NDOT) to refurbish seven and one-half miles of the Boulder Highway in that area all the way up through Maryland Parkway in order to make it more walkable and safer to give better bus access. We know residents in those areas frequently cross that very dangerous road, and we are looking to make it safer and more accessible for all our residents, so I just wanted to add that to answer your question.

***Senator Neal:***

Are you doing a workforce in roads into that area? I only know this because I have spent way too much time on Lake Mead, and it is distinct poverty. During COVID-19, Walgreens was closing earlier in general; they were having a serious number of thefts and other things were going on, which is an indication of poverty—I do not have enough money to pay; therefore, I am going to steal it. It is not necessarily the opportunity, but when you look at that particular population, there are some minorities mixed in, but you can tell because they walk; they do not drive. They walk Lake Mead to get to Walmart, Panda Express, 7-Eleven, Smith's Food King, or anything that is over there. I think you guys need to do a better job of having a care team that goes into those neighborhoods to give resources and services.

***Mr. McIntosh:***

I am not the Community Development Department, but when we talk about mental health, I know that neighborhood is one they focus very heavily on. We understand that they do not always have access to transportation, and one of the things that has been considered is a mobile provider. That area was considered a food desert prior to the Smith's Food King being built. Whatever we can do to bring what we call the "Veggie Buck Truck," where we bring fresh vegetables to those areas via mobile service. We are also looking at how we can provide some sort of mobile services when it comes to wellness or mental health. Those are

not services that the City has historically provided. We are trying; we are just entering that space and really need the assistance of our third-party nonprofits to help us here.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Additional questions? I know that area that Senator Neal is talking about because many years ago I did my student teaching at C.T. Sewell. Boulder Highway was the only way out there, and that area has always been a forgotten little circle, even back then, so I appreciate that. I also appreciate what you did with childcare during the COVID-19 shutdown because that was a really important piece that helped a lot of people, and you stepped up to do that, so thank you.

Up north, do we have any questions? Seeing none, we will let you off the hot seat.

**2. City of Las Vegas**

[This agenda item was taken out of order.]

***Randy Robinson, Director of Government Affairs, City of Las Vegas:***

It is my privilege this morning to have with me Susan Heltsley. She has been with the city a little over six months. She comes to the city well-experienced with over 20 years in government finance, most recently at the Clark County Water Reclamation District with some private work mixed in there as well. We are happy to have her. She is very capable and is a quick study. She drew the short straw to this finance presentation this morning, so I will let her go.

***Susan Heltsley, Finance Director, City of Las Vegas:***

I have been with the city for six months, so I know enough to be dangerous. We will just get into the presentation (Agenda Item V A). Our first slide is our general fund revenues for FY 2022–2023, and this is our tentative budget. It is about \$696.7 million, and as with most of the other jurisdictions, our largest source of revenue is our consolidated tax. For this particular FY it is 55.3 percent, about \$385 million. Our property tax makes up another 20.3 percent, so \$141 million. We have another \$95 million in licenses and franchise fees, and then our other fees are \$75.3 million. Those are made up mostly of our business license fees, municipal court fees, and other fees that do not really fit into these particular buckets.

Our general fund expenditures for FY 2022–2023 are showing about an \$8 million surplus currently. Salaries and benefits make up about 50 percent of our entire general fund budget, which is the majority. We are pretty much in line with our other counterparts. Our nonlabor is 18.5 percent. We also fund a portion of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD/Metro), so it is made up of both city and county contributions. Ours is \$158 million or 23 percent of our budget. We have a small portion for our debt service and then others is 6 percent, \$41.5 million. Those are transfers to other funds that we take care of each year either to our capital funds or some of our special revenue funds to make up some of their shortfalls. The general fund does subsidize other funds within the City.

This is our general fund expenditures by category. Public Safety takes up 62.4 percent. That is our contribution to Metro, our own marshals, and the fire department. Public Works is 1.8 percent. We do have our own sewer system in the City, but it is funded by its own enterprise fund, so very little general fund money goes toward that sanitation. Culture and recreation are another 8.5 percent; debt service is 2.4 percent; general government is 10.6 percent; judicial is \$32.7 million; and then other is the 9.5 percent or \$65.4 million.

This last slide shows how we are planning on allocating our ARPA funds. We received about \$130 million in ARPA. So far, we are allocating \$121 million of it; we are holding back \$9 million in reserve because we were not sure what was going to happen with all the different variants that we are having with the COVID-19 virus. We most likely will be allocating that out in the fall of this year. We have about 19 percent of it, or \$23 million, that we are targeting towards affordable housing. We sent another 40 percent to nonprofit organizations so they could directly help the community; if they have housing or public health issues, they are in a much better position to help our community than the City is because they know exactly where those programs need to be. We also have another \$23.3 million going towards our small businesses and then another \$25.3 million went to pandemic response.

That is the end of my financial presentation. Are there any questions?

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Questions? Senator Neal.

***Senator Neal:***

I want to dig into your business assistance. What is the number of businesses that you serve? I heard more about the county program and more about what North Las Vegas did in regard to business assistance than what you have actually done in this space. Can you breakdown what work you have done?

***Ms. Heltsley:***

That is an excellent question. We went through a very comprehensive vetting process for all the applications we received last fall. We received over 500 applications that total almost \$2 million for \$130 million in funding. They finalized the recipients back in January, and I am not privy to exactly who is getting that or what programs we are doing. I am more than happy to follow up with you because we have just started signing the contracts with the folks to get the money out into the communities.

***Senator Neal:***

Definitely, please get me more information about that. A lot of people did business grants. Who did those business grants go to? A lot of people redirected their business model to go into something else because they suffered during the moment. There were also some startup businesses that started during the pandemic, and I have been hearing that a lot of them could not find or did not fit the criteria that was being set out in order for them to take advantage of it.

***Ms. Heltsley:***

We are contemplating taking some of our ARPA money back as revenue replacement, just as the county has done, so we can relieve those businesses of those burdens of reporting. As of right now, we are still exploring with the folks that we have awarded to find out if they can meet the requirements and how best we can serve them. I do not exactly have the final numbers or the final recipients. Randy is looking on his phone.

**Mr. Robinson:**

I was looking at the list of those applicants who were approved or who came out of our application process. In the business category, there is a little bit of startup money; there is a little bit of workforce training dollars; and there are some data businesses and general business systems. We are working with the chambers to help small and minority businesses through licensing processes and those sorts of things if they need to retool. We can certainly provide you more information once we have a bit more information as we are making the agreements individually with those applicants.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

I will go to Assemblyman Matthews.

**Assemblyman Matthews:**

You mentioned briefly that some of the \$48.9 million for nonprofit organizations might be used for affordable housing. Can you talk a bit more about what other types of nonprofits might be included in that category?

**Mr. Robinson:**

Looking through the list of applicants who were approved, it looks like there are health care nonprofits; food and nutrition assistance nonprofits; one called Families in Need, which is a wraparound service; Healthy Smiles; employment training nonprofits; Strong Start Academies for young children; Second Chance employment; and a variety of other nonprofits. As our council was discussing what we would do with our dollars, we intentionally decided to dedicate a larger chunk of the dollars we received to our nonprofits because they are on the front lines every day and they know exactly almost individual by individual who needs help and how they need it, so we made an effort to spend the bulk of our money there.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

Assemblywoman Brown-May.

**Assemblywoman Brown-May:**

I have a question relative to public safety. In your general fund expenditures, you noted that a portion of that helps to fund Metro. Is there any funding that is allocated for state police for areas that are just outside of the City? Is there any compensation for state public safety as well as your locality?

**Ms. Heltsley:**

That is a great question, and the short answer is no. The majority of our funds, if not all of our funds, go to either Metro, which is for Clark County and the City of Las Vegas, and also our marshals within the City. It is mostly within the city limits, and we also fund Metro because they are our police force.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

Additional questions? Assemblywoman Torres?

***Assemblywoman Torres:***

In regard to my community and my constituency, I serve a large Latino, Spanish-speaking population, but recently all communication from the City of Las Vegas has come in English. Any public participation, events, or meetings about how you can participate or voice your concerns is in English. How does the city determine what communication is going to be made available in the second most predominant language here in Southern Nevada.

***Ms. Heltsley:***

We have recently hired a Spanish-speaking public information officer, and I know that she is working very closely with our current public information officer and our other departments to determine exactly what you are talking about—which of our communication needs to go out in just Spanish. They are working on putting together a survey for our Spanish-speaking constituents, so we can get more in touch with them. She has been with us with three months now, so she is coming up to speed. We are very aware that we need to reach out more consistently to our Spanish-speaking community.

***Assemblywoman Torres:***

I definitely urge the city to make sure of that for any communication on public works projects. We are getting rid of a park in my neighborhood, and it is going to become something else; my community is frustrated because they feel like they did not have a voice in it, which they did not, because they could not understand what they got in the mail.

On a separate topic, I want to learn more about the Strong Start Academy and the role the City of Las Vegas is playing in that. I understand that it is a public charter school, but it is an interesting way that the City of Las Vegas is working in the education space. How is that working and being funded? How is the city using funds?

***Ms. Heltsley:***

The charter school is being funded partially by some of the ARPA funds. We are looking to spend some of the ARPA money on buying them a permanent location. Our general fund is also funding a portion of the charter school. Eventually, once they have students, they will be getting those allocations from the state, so it is going to be a combination of state money that is coming in by student and some general fund money that is funded by the City. This is a separate nonprofit, so they are a separate entity from the City. They will be operated by their own board. They have their own people who are taking care of this. From a financial standpoint, we are keeping them separate from us. They will have their own books and teachers. They are the ones doing all the contracting. The City will be providing some funds with the hope that eventually they will become self-supporting, but we do know that we will be supporting them in the near future.

***Assemblywoman Torres:***

Why did the City decide to go this route instead of funding some of the schools that we already have in the community, either by helping them with support programs, creating after-school funding, or supporting other public charter schools in the area? Why did they go with this option of essentially creating an alternative school within a city system?



**Ms. Heltsley:**

I have been here six months, and this was decided before I started, so I do not know all the background. Mayor Goodman is a very strong proponent for education. I am not exactly sure what the precipitous was to go this route to fund other things. We do other after-school programs through our [Youth Development Social Innovation program](#). We do many after-school programs. We partner with the local elementary schools for those, so we are very active with the local community schools. Again, I am not exactly sure why they chose to go this route.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

I am going to jump in here because that was one of my questions. I have not had a conversation with anyone about this. What I find a little discerning, unless I do not understand, is that they are going to be totally separate. If the city is going to fund through ARPA funds, which are their funds, and they are going to allow the board to be totally separate and self-governing and using public money, I find that an interesting piece when nobody is overseeing the school that hands out the money. I have not had one conversation with anybody from the city about this. No one has said to me, "This is what we are doing. What do you think?" I find it interesting that it is a totally separate entity when they are using public money. As I always say on the record, I truly do not have a problem with how people educate their kids, but I always feel very strongly that if it is public money, then it becomes public accountability. That is my own personal opinion. I have five grandkids in schools. I am always trying to keep track of what is going on in different entities. The City has done after-school programs and summer programs for as long as I have been alive, as well as the county, but the schooling piece is new.

**Mr. Robinson:**

I came on with the City of Las Vegas towards the end of the whole discussion about whether we enter the education space or not. While there was extensive debate among the City Council about whether the City ultimately takes that step, they are focusing on a population of young students who have a number of challenges that makes it more difficult to reach them in terms of a consistent educational program. This is a charter school; it is not a different independent kind of entity. They did get chartered through the [Nevada State Public Charter School Authority](#) (SPCSA). The Council does appoint the board of that school, so they have an accountability ultimately back to the Council but also to SPCSA. There is that oversight monitoring, but it was the Council's decision that rather than put the Council in charge as the governing body of that school, they would reach out and try to find, much like a traditional charter school model, individuals with particular areas of expertise they could bring to the board who would manage the operation of that school. I would emphasize that it is a charter school, licensed by SPCSA, and it still has that accountability line, and the board has the accountability line back to the Council.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

Senator Neal, go ahead.

**Senator Neal:**

I was present in the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs meeting when the City came and initially asked to use some of the redevelopment dollars because you guys had a set-aside. You had done a moratorium on affordable housing, and you had 18 percent—nine and nine—and 9 percent you asked for the authority in order to go and do this experiment

around schools. My biggest statement then was: (1) why; (2) you have to be self-sufficient; and (3) you were diluting and going into it because the goal was just to do early childhood education, but now it has morphed into more than that. What is concerning is that now you are going to be asking for per-pupil expenditure from the state, which was not anticipated. Then you say you are working on the same at-risk population that we are basically trying to fund and serve within the district itself. While everybody has the bright idea of peeling off and then having their hand out to say, "Can you please give me more money to take care of the same exact student that we are trying to fund and serve?" It is not helpful to me. People can say that was not my original intent to become our own "mini" school district, or whatever the agenda is, but ultimately, you are still coming to the state for the funds to pay for it. If you have been listening, you know we had a series of issues with accountability with the SPCSA; they are not necessarily performing any greater than the public schools. So, it is always an issue for me when the city puts their hands in something that is beyond the regular services and then turns around and says, "Hey state, can you also give us that additional money to fund who we are already funding?" It is duplicate kids. Some of them are in my district, and so you are still treating the same child that we are trying to address. It looks like you guys are going into higher grade levels now. What is it? Are you past grade 2? You are pre-K and what?

**Mr. Robinson:**

Up to grade 2.

**Senator Neal:**

You carved out this piece, and now you want us to fund it. I am saying it because ultimately you are saying that you are going to get state funds—our State General Fund. I am really thrown off because I was there when you guys asked for the redevelopment dollars to do it, and now you are morphing your funding in various ways. I had also asked probably about a year ago what the status was and where was the funding, and I know General Fund was not mentioned to me; you were using your own city general fund in order to take care of those schools.

**Ms. Heltsley:**

The funding that I am referring to for those students is the allocation that the state gives to whichever school those children are going to. As Randy was saying, they have been authorized as a charter school, so they are a legitimate charter school that would be eligible for that funding. It does not matter that the City of Las Vegas is also funding them with some of their money. That school is entitled to that funding per student. If those students are at a different school, that funding follows them

**Senator Neal:**

I appreciate that comment. The point that I am trying to make is that you have other things that you guys need to fund within your city. You need to fund the corridor. You have increases that you need to take care of with your homelessness and mental health. I know for a fact the question has come back up to figure out how to get the additional \$9 million that you need just to fund the corridor that you started. You are engaging in the practice of education, but you do not have the capacity to fully fund services that you are supposed to fund, and that was my argument when it was brought to my attention in the committee on the Assembly side for the redevelopment funds. My statement then and my statement now is to take care of what you need to take care of, and if you have surplus, then let us talk about that. You are not in a place where you have surplus because you still have needs and

other mandated services that you are supposed to take care of for your citizens, but you put your hand in education. It is the strangest behavior to me, and then if you cannot sustain it, you are then going to be back calling us out saying, "Give us more money in order to do X. Give us more money to take care of the corridor. Give us more money to take care of homelessness." Education was never within your purview; that was never actually within your purview. You asked for it to run a pilot, and now it is turning into this "thing." I know you just got here six months ago, but it upsets me because I know what was said in the Government Affairs hearing, and I gave them the blues then.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Additional comments here or up north? Do you have any closing comments?

***Mr. Robinson:***

I appreciate the opportunity to be in front of you. Thank you very much.

**3. City of Reno**

***Calli Wilsey, Senior Management Analyst, Intergovernmental Relations, City Manager's Office, City of Reno:***

As we look at the City of Reno's financial information (Agenda Item V A), you are going to see a lot of the same trends that you have heard from other jurisdictions today. For our general fund revenues for FY 2022–2023, we are projecting approximately \$269 million in total. Similar to those other jurisdictions, C-tax and property tax are the two biggest components of our general fund with 38 percent of our general fund being driven by C-tax, and 26 percent being driven by property tax.

We look at our expenditures in two different ways. First, salaries and benefits take up the majority of our expenditures with 78 percent, and 17 percent going to services and supplies to care for different contracts and supplies to operate our programs. Our debt service is around 2 percent for next year.

We also look at our expenditures from a functional standpoint, and public safety represents about 58 percent of our budget for the City of Reno. That would be our Reno Police Department as well as the Reno Fire Department. The next is general government. This is going to include human resources, finance, and IT—the behind-the-scenes departments that are helping all the operations of the other departments within the city. We also fund out of the general fund our parks, recreation and community services and a portion of our public works; we have street funds and a sewer fund that pays for the majority of our folks there. Reno Municipal Court is in here as well as community support, which includes some of our development services, code enforcement, and other programs throughout the city.

How we are going to spend these funds is going to be driven by the City of Reno's priorities. These are driven by fiscal sustainability; public safety; economic opportunity, as we look at homelessness in our community and affordable housing; economic and community development, as the city is experiencing an extreme period of growth, and we know we need to focus on providing efficient services; ensuring infrastructure; and ensuring our arts, parks, and historical resources are funded appropriately. We have heard from our community that those are priorities.

When we look at ARPA, the City of Reno was awarded \$51.5 million. Of the first half of that allocation plan, 53 percent went to affordable housing. We have identified several projects

that money is going to go towards, including partnering with several of our organizations in our community, such as the [Reno Housing Authority](#), to build a new 12-unit building that will provide units that are 30 percent and below area median income (AMI). We are partnering with the [Community Housing Land Trust](#) to build an additional 96 units in phase two, which we call [Village on Sage Street](#). Phase one was very successful, and we are looking forward to building out that second phase of this project. We are also partnering with [Volunteers of America](#) to convert 35 motels to permanent units. When we went out in the fall to learn what our community felt was priorities for these dollars, affordable housing was clearly one that we heard a lot about, and parks and recreation came in second. This is a consistent theme that we are hearing from City of Reno residents as a part of our master plan. We have heard the need to continue to maintain and the value of open space, and so we are putting a good portion of the ARPA dollars towards parks and recreation to build some additional new fields, as well as make accessibility and trail improvements to our existing parks.

I am happy to answer questions on any of the budget information.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Questions from the Committee? Senator Neal.

***Senator Neal:***

I wanted to know about the affordable housing—the tiny houses that you developed, which I know were meant to be affordable, but they are not. Have you attempted to do more of that, or have you limited that activity?

***Ms. Wilsey:***

I believe you are talking about a private development that was around tiny houses, and you are correct, that was more around market rate. I think some of the projects that you are hearing about today, like the Village on Stage Street, is a dorm-style project that has been successful. When we launched phase one, it was 216 units. It has been 100 percent occupied since then. It is offering rent around \$400 a month, which is supposed to target our folks who are on Social Security, disability, and are receiving incomes around minimum wage. I think it is probably two different things that we are talking about, but the dollars we are talking about are going to some tiny homes, but they are more income-restricted rather than market rate.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Assemblywoman Brown-May.

***Assemblywoman Brown-May:***

I just have a comment. I would like to commend your efforts relative to accessibility in your outside spaces. There has been a very focused effort on rehabbing some of those parks and recreation restrooms to ensure accessibility for all people, and so mobility issues that have previously existed throughout your community are now being addressed in a different way. I want to congratulate you on that effort.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Additional questions? Okay, thank you and happy to have you here today. Next is the City of Sparks.

**4. City of Sparks**

***Jeff Cronk, CFO, Financial Services, City of Sparks:***

Our general fund revenues total \$94.5 million for our upcoming FY 2022–2023 budget cycle (Agenda Item V A). Our largest piece of that pie is consolidating fair share taxes of \$42.5 million or 45 percent, followed by property taxes at \$29.7 million or 31 percent, and then licenses and permits at \$17.1 million or 18 percent. I call those the “big three.” Those three general fund areas comprise well over 90 percent, and as we have our total general fund revenues and are looking forward to this next year, it is not changing; it is going to be 94 percent next year. We spend a lot of time on those areas as appropriate.

I want to show you a different aspect and give you a historical look and some context. It is the same general fund sources of revenue, but I want to show you how we have been comparing over the years as we have emerged from the recession over the past ten years. The main take away is how the type of revenues that we are relying on are changing. It is an area that is keeping me up at night. As I look back at roughly ten years ago, there was an equal amount of reliance on property taxes and consolidated taxes. Fast forward ten years, you can see how that has progressed such that consolidated tax takes up quite a bit more of our revenue streams as a matter of reliance and not so much on property taxes. That has changed from 36 percent from ten years ago to 45 percent now for consolidated taxes, and 31 percent for property taxes. The reason I bring that up to you is because the consolidated tax is a more volatile revenue stream. If you look forward into the next one to four years, if we were to experience another downturn, that consolidated tax is the area that we would see significant impact first. Property taxes do have a little more stability to it based on how the structure of that calculation and how that revenue source comes in. Consolidated taxes, which is primarily sales taxes, is directly reactive to the economy. That is an area, as it grows in importance, that is concerning for us.

We are a full-serviced city. Our general fund expenditures for FY 2022–2023 total \$94.5 million. This is both a departmental and functional look. Police and fire are fully functioning departments and services that take up the vast majority of our revenues that we allocate to our expenditures. We have a five-year consistent trend of allocating our expenses to our police and fire department. About two-thirds of all the revenues that come in and that we expend go towards our police and fire public safety functions. The third largest category is our community services. That is primarily our public works function and our parks and recreation maintenance type services that we have. Then we get into some administrative functions in management services and financial services, which entail human resources, accounting, budgeting, and IT. Then rounding out the picture there is our municipal court, city attorney, mayor, and City Council.

I wanted to end my comments today on how we are planning to spend our ARPA funds. The City of Sparks was allocated \$16.2 million. We received the first tranche of that, and we are going to be getting the second tranche in the coming weeks. Our City Council approved, just this last week, a conceptual framework for how to finish spending those funds out. They wanted to take a slower approach to this purposely. We learned some lessons when we got the CARES fund. That was pretty rushed, and we saw some successes and some areas that had more limited success. We decided we wanted to be more strategic in how we are

approaching this now that we have got a few more years to spend in comparison to how CARES was administered. The conceptual framework that our Council approved was the vast majority going to public health measures and what we are calling supplies and infrastructure, with public health being about 49 percent of the overall spending plan. Some of the areas that we have specifically identified are areas that we plan to address, and so we still have yet to reach out to our community partners and some of the application process. This is the mix that our Council would like to see these resources spent on within our community. A large majority of the public health measures is related to Nevada Cares Campus. We want to help fund and take partnership with the City of Reno and Washoe County to help fund the Nevada Cares Campus and other medical facilities like Nevada HOPES. The second biggest piece of this is supplies and infrastructure, and that is areas that we are going to be funding mostly out of our lost revenue general fund component where we have a little bit more flexibility. We have some public safety infrastructure that we need to address, specifically a new fire station that, in order to improve our response times, has been needed for some years. Then rounding out the conceptual spending plan is 5 percent for business assistance; 4 percent for households; and 1 percent for employees. Like a lot of other organization businesses around the nation, we are having a hard time attracting and retaining employees, so we are trying to address that to the extent that we can.

I wanted to keep my comments limited, but I am certainly available to answer any questions you may have.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Questions from the Committee up north? Assemblywoman Dickman.

***Assemblywoman Dickman:***

Can you expand on what you meant in the last comment about a portion that goes to households? What does that mean?

***Mr. Cronk:***

We are looking to address three different areas. Childcare services is something that we have a lot of services in—our Parks and Recreation Department, after school, and summer programs. We are also looking to address some senior citizen issues and direct food assistance. We are hoping to partner with the [Food Bank of Northern Nevada](#) to accomplish that. That is the section we are immediately looking at, but my caveat to that is we are just starting that process, so we still need to reach out to our community partners and see exactly where they can best use those funds.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Any comments? Seeing no more questions, thank you, Mr. Kronk, for being here, and we appreciate your time. We will go to former Senator Hardy.

***Mr. Hardy:***

As I stated earlier, our working title of this slide was, "The Things That Are Keeping Us Up At Night," The reason for the Consortium is for us to be more direct, specific, and distilled with bringing issues forward. When we asked our folks at our individual cities to let us know what concerns them for the next year, this is a list they came up with. Everybody across the board mentioned the immediate national economic outlook, the uncertainty that is occurring

in the economy right now. Although the underlying principles of the economy seem to be strong, we are still seeing an increase in inflation to deal with the money that was fluxed into the economy with COVID-19. In addition, we are concerned with the issue of supply chain and employment. There seems to be some indication that we may already be in a recession and moving towards stagflation. As Mr. Kronk mentioned, this increased reliance on consolidated tax—not that there is anything wrong with the consolidated tax but it is a less stable tax—could be problematic if we go into an economic downturn. I should indicate we are not asking you to do anything here. We are not looking for suggestions. We are just telling you what we are thinking about because for a lot of these things there are collective solutions. The cost related to employee and retiree benefits is increasing. The problem is not that it is increasing but we must be able to provide benefits to our employees. We already struggle to compete with the private sector in a lot of cases, and benefits are one of the main issues we have that attracts workers. As the costs related to those go up, cutting them is not an option. We have to figure out a collective way to be competitive in the workplace for our employees and those who we ask to get involved in local government as a career. Workers' compensation is another issue, and it sort of fits under that employee retirement benefit tranche. We have seen a significant increase in the cost of workers' compensation, and we want to bring that in front of the Legislature for some help in how to address it. You can see from the presentations that one of the main concerns is affordable housing. Affordable housing and housing affordability—we are entering a stage in Nevada where housing is not affordable for anybody with the prices going up and the challenges of folks to try to keep up with that.

Finally, one of the things we are hearing on the street from our constituents is mental health. The federal government estimates that depression and those sorts of things are up 25 percent since COVID-19. This is an issue with which we collectively struggle. We are just letting you know that we are thinking about the same things you are thinking about as legislators, and as these issues come before the Legislature, and as you start thinking about them going into the legislative session, we want to be a partner in coming up with solutions. That is the reason we put the Consortium together—to make it easier for you as our state legislators to work with us as local governments. With that, I would be happy to answer any global questions. I have got a lot of people behind me that have the answers.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Always good to have backup. Assemblywoman Torres.

***Assemblywoman Torres:***

Can you just put into context the workers' compensation statement because there was nothing provided for any of the cities about workers' compensation being the major issue, so if you could just explain that a little bit more.

***Mr. Hardy:***

We are seeing an increase in permanent partial disability as an impact on our costs. I would like to put together some documentation on that to give you specifics so that you get the full picture. The point here is that it is becoming an increasing amount of our overall budget, and a lot of that has to do with bills that have been passed in the last ten years in the Legislature. I would be happy to provide a document that ties that all together rather than fumbling through it here to make sure I get you a complete answer.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Thank you. Senator Neal.

***Senator Neal:***

I wanted to touch on the increased reliance on consolidated tax. I do not know if the conversations are still going, but during the last session we had conversations around modernization of the sales tax and digital goods. There was a conversation with local governments and charts showing how “if you do X and Y,” this will be the benefit that will come through, not only to the consolidated tax bucket but also in the stabilization of revenue. Is there continued buzz or conversation around modernizing our sales tax?

***Mr. Hardy:***

Senator Neal brings up an excellent point, and it is a conversation that she and I have had. I have been at this for a little over 30 years, and when I first got involved as a member of the Assembly, the first document I read was a study called The [\*Price Waterhouse\*](#) Study that was published in 1989. When I was first elected, the Legislature ignored the study. To your point, we have not done a comprehensive study to make sure our tax structure matches our revenue structure or matches our economy. Senator Neal, as you reached out and tried to address that with a digital goods tax, that is frontline stuff. You also have the fuel tax with electric fuels. On our side, there is a massive recognition that our tax structure is outdated and needs to be modernized. We are working with the private sector to try to get somebody to help fund and establish a study that is not pushed by political ideas or agendas but takes a hard look at where we stand in terms of our revenue structure. We hope, in working with our partners in the private sector, to present something to the next Legislature that looks at options for modernizing. We will not look at how we spend it. Those are issues the Legislature will decide; we just want to provide the information. The work you tried to do on that during session illustrated the problem as well as anything, and specific to the local governments is a consolidated tax. You are right; it is a problem across the board that we can no longer ignore.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Any additional questions down here? I think that is it. Thank you for being here. We will ask our next presenter, City of North Las Vegas, please go ahead when you are ready.

***B. CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS***

***Leonardo Benavides, Government Affairs Manager, City of North Las Vegas:***

Today we are going to give an overview of what we are doing with the ARPA dollars (Agenda Item V B). Then Mr. Harty will close it out and talk more about the budget numbers. We do not have more detailed information on the presentation, but we are willing to provide that information afterwards to the members.

In expending and allocating the funding for our ARPA dollars, COVID-19 had a huge effect on the City of North Las Vegas. When we had a statewide shutdown, we were looking at the highest unemployment rate at around 30 percent, as well as some of the gravest education inequalities in the state. Due to such negative effects on the day-to-day lives of the citizens, the City endeavored to deploy CARES dollars by putting the majority of it directly into the hands of residents and businesses. The same is true for the deployment of ARPA funds.



With a limited amount of dollars, we are trying to be super strategic and stretch the dollars to make the greatest impact possible to our community.

The City of North Las Vegas should strive together meaningful community engagement in order to appropriate the SLFRF funding to meet the needs of our constituents. This included an online survey in both English and Spanish, as well as public forums in each of our wards among other methods. Based on this extensive community feedback, the city carved ARPA into four buckets for deployment: (1) \$9 million in assisting families, workers, and businesses impacted by COVID-19; (2) \$9 million in addressing educational disparities; (3) \$15 million in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; and (4) \$13 million in sustaining and enhancing government services. Each of these strategic investments align to three overarching goals for the City of North Las Vegas: (1) identify and meet the needs of the North Las Vegas families, workers, and businesses impacted by COVID-19 and its effect on public and economic health; (2) invest in eligible products with clear and measurable long-term benefits to cities and residents in the areas of education, workforce business development, and resident quality of life; (3) and endure an equitable recovery through targeted community engagement, intentional program design, and strategic investment in historically disadvantaged subgroups, especially those disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

In our first bucket, the City of North Las Vegas had a partnership with the Nevada Small Business Development Center at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). We launched the City of North Las Vegas [Small Business Connector](#) at City Hall, which has provided technical support, workforce development incentives, and working capital to more than 400 women- and minority-owned businesses since its launch this past October. A second component in this bucket is the North Las Vegas CARES Community grant program where nonprofits and community organizations will be invited to submit applications for funding for various eligible projects. Priority will be given to projects that align to the City's input session related around education, economic development, job creation, public health, and housing. Our panel city leaders and community stakeholders will be able to score these submissions to the City with the North Las Vegas City Council having final approval. That application is still being worked on as we speak.

The second bucket addresses educational disparities. Educational inequities have been top of mind for the city. When COVID-19 shutdown, remote learning had a drastic effect on many of our students, especially in our hardest hit communities in North Las Vegas. That is why the city worked together to create the [Southern Nevada Urban Micro Academy](#) (SNUMA) to help address some of the learning gaps those students were facing during this remote learning. With this funding, \$400,000 was committed to make sure the SNUMA would last for School Year (SY) 2021–2022 in order to address those learning gaps. In regards to the rest of the money in that bucket, the city will continue to commit itself in addressing educational disparities. We have recently formed the [Education Advisory Committee](#) and have also had quarterly meetings with principals in North Las Vegas schools to explore how these dollars can best be leveraged while not doubling the efforts of CCSD and their extra funding in order to fill the critical gaps in our community. As we start to see where CCSD's allocation starts to fall, we will be able to pivot faster to fill gaps effecting North Las Vegas students and schools where possible.

For water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, we have earmarked \$15 million as a match for the regional Economic Development Administration (EDA) Build Back Better grant to increase our competitiveness and complete the APEX Industrial Park water infrastructure. The addition of this third phase project to the city's water line can dramatically jumpstart development in the northern areas of APEX to make economic diversity and increasing

quality jobs to the region a reality in the near term. The project will accelerate development of APEX by creating a temporary water supply line to support general and advanced manufacturing business by providing necessary water infrastructure in the short term. With support for APEX, we could be looking at about 70,000 jobs, direct and indirect, created over a 20-year period and about \$7.5 billion of economic impact on investment. We are working with the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT), Office of the Governor, as a digital divide has been something that has greatly affected our students throughout North Las Vegas. This has been laid bare through the pandemic and the need for widespread connectivity; however, [Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Connectivity Fund](#), emergency broadband benefit, and connecting minority communities. The city is currently waiting to allocate resources towards broadband infrastructure at this time. That being said, work on providing every resident with access to reliable high speed Internet continues, and on top of taking advantage of these programs, we will continue to work with OSIT to see where we can map these gaps in order to provide services.

The fourth and final bucket—sustaining and enhancing government services. The City's leadership is working closely with staff to identify essential city services that were reduced or eliminated from the prior budgets due to COVID-19-related concerns. As we analyze a role in equitable and strong economic recovery, these projects are to be aligned with the results from various public forums that we mentioned earlier in order to best support the strategic framework for the recovery plan. These can include: parks, recreation, and trails; projects to develop and execute the future vision of our communities; public works projects to improve roadways, walkways, infrastructure, and increase traffic and pedestrian safety; and investment in public safety, including critical North Las Vegas Fire Department and North Las Vegas Police Department infrastructure, equipment, and programming to keep our residents safe and healthy. Next, Mr. Harty will go over some other budget numbers.

***William Harty, Finance Director, City of North Las Vegas:***

I want to apologize for the brevity of the budget material that we have. We figured with the number of people on the agenda, we would spend most of our time talking about ARPA. We do have a slide to review briefly the 2023 budget presentation that we provided to Council last month. We do have a presentation that we can provide you after the meeting if you would like. The total preparations for the City for FY 2022–2023 total more than \$800 million, and that excludes depreciation. The City is growing. The budget anticipates adding 129 new positions for community support, and our plan keeps us compliant with all the responsibilities that we have to reduce payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) and the reliance on that. We want to be 100 percent transparent, so if there are any questions on the budget, we do have that presentation to provide you after the meeting. We are available for any questions.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Questions? Assemblywoman Torres.

***Assemblywoman Torres:***

I want to look at addressing educational disparities. There is a \$9 million investment to the educational disparities but only \$400,000 is covered by SNUMA. Can we get a more specific breakdown of how the other investments were made?

**Mr. Benavides:**

Yes, the other \$9 million investment has not been earmarked for a particular program yet. This is an ongoing discussion point right now with both the Education Advisory Committee that was just formed, as well as principals throughout the City. The Education Advisory Committee will be asking for some datasets and research as to what areas we can be looking at. I know some of the concerns we have been hearing from our principals and things that we could be looking at, and potentially partnering with CCSD, involve concerns around absenteeism and trying to have more family engagement in our schools. There are continuing conversations, but as I mentioned earlier, we are pivoting so nothing has been particularly marked with that \$9 million.

**Assemblywoman Torres:**

I have some concerns with SNUMA. I want to know to whom they are presenting their outcomes. Who is overseeing this? Traditionally, even the public charter schools are reporting to SPCSA, and SNUMA is not reporting to anyone. The students are labeled as homeschooled, but they are not homeschools; they are under this Micro Academy. How are we measuring the student's success? What did their data look like when they were coming in and what does it look like when they are leaving? What accountability reports is SNUMA providing for the City and for the rest of us? Any public school here in the State of Nevada has accountability reports, but I do not see any type of accountability report that this group would then have to create. That is an issue for me because we are investing public funds into this program; I want to make sure this program makes sense for students and is not going to leave students worse off.

**Mr. Harty:**

I want to make it clear when the pandemic hit, the City management got together and decided what needed to be done. With the closing of the schools, we thought the best way to spend public funds was to assist in this area. To your point, we did not open a charter school; we did not apply for a charter; we did not go down that route. This was trying to provide services that were not being provided in other ways or to supplement services that were already being provided. We did not open up a charter. It is not responsible to the Charter Authority; it was intended to be a short-term solution to an immediate problem.

**Assemblywoman Torres:**

I just want to be clear that this is an Academy that is still operating today?

**Mr. Benavides:**

Yes, it is operating through the school year, but as it filled his purpose, we do not intend to return it for SY 2022–2023.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

Senator Neal, are you ready?

**Senator Neal:**

When did you guys decide not to continue this? I ask this question because I threw a big fit over the fact that it was ongoing right now, and I was told by one of your Council people to

suck it up and that the City was going to continue to do this. Now you are not going to do it?

**Mr. Benavides:**

I am not privy to the exact moment. I am only aware that in the last couple of weeks teachers and families were notified that we will not return for next year.

**Senator Neal:**

Okay. The teachers were not licensed under Nevada's Department of Education (NDE). My understanding is they were a part of some other program, and now they are just going to dissipate. How do you enroll the kids back in? In order to create this, you had to make the parents opt out of CCSD to become homeschooled. Now the parents need to reverse their action, which is to re-enroll back into CCSD and say they no longer want the children to be homeschooled. How is their data going to be transferred to the elementary, middle, or high school to show their academic record and everything else that was associated with the school while they were participating? You have to transfer records over so that the teachers know who they are getting and what their academic achievements were while they were with in this program.

**Mr. Harty:**

These are good questions, and these are things that are going to need to be worked out. We have engaged with parent ambassadors to reach out to every single parent of every single SNUMA student to help them with this transition. We have been gathering and keeping data throughout this process. They have been doing testing. I do not know the extent of the data that we have, but I can get it for you. We are working through parent ambassadors to help every single family with this transition.

**Senator Neal:**

We need to talk offline regarding whatever data you have and any family engagement that you plan on doing. Since CCSD has money for family engagement, I do not think you should be expending any dollars on that, and you certainly should not be expending any dollars on absenteeism when we have put a lot of money into truancy, absenteeism, and other pots of money that you should be accessing. You should be coordinating with Clark County if you are engaging in this practice. I want you to be wise and not spend money when there is money out there. Only 23 percent of [ESSER III](#) has been spent, and they have stuff for truancy and absenteeism, so there is still opportunity

You list the economic development opportunities that you have been engaging in. This is going to be a compliment and a criticism. It is great what you have been doing; I have seen the change. What I have not seen is the way the planning works. On Craig Road, we have Dutch Bros to counter Dunkin' Donuts, and that is wonderful. But now there is another Dutch Bros within two miles. One is on Revere and Camino Al Norte, and then you are getting ready to put another Dutch Bros right by the Cannery. How many Dutch Bros do you need, and how many car washes do you need? At the end of the day, it is a duplicate for the same exact population. When do you survey the community or do a detailed plan around what is appropriate for what you are building the space for? Why do you need two of the same thing on the same street? On Craig, there might be at least six car washes. Is that really a needed economic development? Is that truly diversifying our economy within North Las Vegas and allowing quality work and high wage? I see a lot of high schoolers who work there, which is awesome because that is a population we need to serve and make sure they

work, but what about the future? There is no retirement plan at the car wash. What are we doing for our young people to allow them to get skills to then translate their life into an adult who can pay for themselves and have a quality retirement? I do not see a lot of those blended options. I am not saying do not do the Dutch Bros, but at least have the other as well.

**Mr. Benavides:**

Before we enter that, I want to make it clear on the \$8 million on education, nothing has been encumbered yet. We are trying to be strategic. We are trying to see where CCSD is, and we are trying to work with our partners. Some of those things I mentioned, absenteeism and that, are the concerns that we are seeing from our principals. We are trying to have more conversations for our school district and our partners throughout here in the valley regarding how to make sure that we are not doubling efforts or we are not putting money where we should not be. Those are ongoing conversations.

Regarding economic development, a lot of that is decisions made by private sector industries and their studies. In regards to outreach to the youth and blended education, it is ongoing, and our communication department is trying to reach out for opportunities to make sure that anything of interest is out there in the community. I might have missed part of your question. My apologies.

**Senator Neal:**

The actual diversification. If you have been in the streets, which I am constantly, every meeting I go to, people are complaining that you are doing too much warehousing. There is empty commercial space that was there before COVID-19. The way you are developing the commercial retail space is not conducive to variety, or it is not diversified. If you are listening to the private sector, and the private sector is saying they need three coffee places on Craig, then somebody is lying and milking the cow. At the end of the day, the City has the power to say it does not need another coffee place. It is not private sector because you do not give your power to private sector. You are a city that is supposed to be responsive to its citizens and what they are saying they need. You put businesses up, and there is no alignment to workforce whatsoever. This recent activity that you just started with Workforce Connections happened when the connector came in, but prior to that moment, there was no alignment to the workforce opportunity to the building that was going up. There was no actual outreach. This is a fact. This is not random; I never see a sign and never see anything come through in the millions of emails that North Las Vegas puts out. I will admit, in the past three months, you have been the most emailing city that I have ever run into. That has all been in the past three months, and it is not COVID-19. You were not doing it before COVID-19, and you cannot tell me it is a money problem because I watch your money all the time. In 2018 and 2019, these were not activities that you were performing in. I know you are new because I have never met you, Mr. Harty, and I know Leo just came from CCSD, but you need to do a better job of listening to what the citizens say they want and give it to them. Not this random political foolishness that is going on right now because they are all complaining, and you want to look good in the moment. No, long-term planning.

**Mr. Harty:**

I appreciate both the criticism, and I believe there was a compliment in there as well. As the CFO, I appreciate the work that is being done with our economic development team, both downtown and at APEX. I am already seeing the diversification in our revenues because of

things they did long ago that perhaps we are just barely seeing the impact now. I appreciate that sometimes we do not see it when it is happening; we see it after the fact. We have a very active Planning Commission that works very closely with the Council. In our last Council meeting, they turned down a business that wanted to be yet another liquor store next to another liquor store. Our Council is very mindful when approving business licensing, and they are at least attempting to listen to the constituents. What they are doing with the downtown redevelopment area, I am already seeing the revenues diversify because of decisions made in years past.

***Mr. Benavides:***

There has been a lot of work in place over the years to bring in economic diversification to make North Las Vegas the place you want to go, where you have options for shopping, eating, and dining. A lot of that includes conversations with our citizens, including inviting them to our public forums and understanding that there are certain things that do not make sense for what we want to be as a growing vibrant city. A lot of that work is starting to bloom, and it is starting to come together. There is a lot of excitement with what is happening with APEX, the medical campus, and what we are trying to do in the Lake Mead area downtown. We are definitely trying to change how people see North Las Vegas and its citizens to be able to experience more different businesses serving and catering their needs.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Any additional questions?

***Senator Goicoechea:***

How many students do you have in SNUMA?

***Mr. Harty:***

We have less than 150. I know the number has fluctuated. I believe we currently have less than 100, but I do not believe it ever went over 150.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

I think that is the question of the day. I do not think that anybody totally understands except maybe what we have read in the paper or heard. I am interested in the comment that it will not be continued in 2022–2023. It is really important. I understand that you have told the parents, but I hope it was clear communication, because if they need to go back and reenter themselves in CCSD, it would behoove all of them not to do that on the day school starts; that would be a total disservice to the people who have needed that, and now all of a sudden you are not a homeschooler anymore. You are CCSD, or whatever school you decide to go to, whether it is a private school, charter school, or public school. You have to reenter yourself somewhere, and if the communication is not clear, we could have a whole lot of families that are all of a sudden caught on the first day of school.

***Mr. Harty:***

Madam Chair, I could not agree with you more. Hopefully, our efforts to serve the community, with what we have done with the CARES dollars, ARPA dollars, and even starting the SNUMA, speaks to our dedication to the community. I absolutely know the communication of that decision was very important to them, and I know that they are doing their best to handle that.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

If we do not have any additional questions, then we will let you off the hook. Thank you for being here today and for answering our questions.

**AGENDA ITEM VI—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tammra (Tammy) Morris, Nevada resident, submitted public comment for the record (Agenda Item VI A).

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

We will go to our second round of public comment. Please remember to clearly state and spell your name and limit your comments to three minutes. The staff will be timing, and they will let you know. Please add the first caller.

***BPS:***

To participate in public comment please press \*9 to take your place in the queue.

***Lilith Baran, Program Associate, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Nevada:***

The ACLU is disturbed by some reports about what is going on at the Cares Campus. It is important to understand that the creation of Cares, while maybe it was well-intentioned, is becoming more and more inhumane and used as a tool of enforcement against people engaging in life sustaining activities throughout the city. These community members are being placed in a position where, if they do not go to Cares, laws that should not exist to criminalize poverty are being enforced against them. Lack of transparency from the County has made public and advocacy groups rely on whistleblowers, and as time goes by, we have received numerous intakes depicting assault, subpar conditions, suicides, overdoses, refusal to provide medical care resulting in death, drug dealing, segregated environments, gender-based discrimination, and overall threats to safety and well-being. There is a stark difference between the reports given by the County and the things that are reported by medical professionals, former employees, and people living inside. I have submitted three exhibits to the Committee to better understand the conditions, including a recommendation report given by the consultant they hired, Jon DeCarmine, to evaluate the facility, who said at the time that they had less than half the staff needed to keep the people safe and flagging that there is no exit strategy into housing (Agenda Item VI B). There is no mention in the presentation today about any of these items or data to accurately depict recidivism, transfer to housing and conditions, many of which were preventable and mentioned numerous times on the record by community members and experts before construction. It is simply unacceptable to refer to these things as "growing pains." Even after Cares was constructed, we saw an increase in people who died from exposure in the elements, possibly because people chose to risk their lives over staying at Cares. These federal dollars should have been spent preventing the foreseen issues using best practices with the large amount of money that has been spent to provide this subpar care. This would involve things like smaller and more adequate options, such as those seen at more successful shelter models. I trust that these issues will be taken seriously, and that the Committee ask for data delineated by group to usher in some accountability, as the most vulnerable are suffering and desperately need our help. Thank you very much.

***Chair Dondero Loop:***

Next caller, please.

**BPS:**

Chair, the public lines are open working, but there are no more callers.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

Is there anybody here in Las Vegas who would like to make public comment? Is there anybody in Carson City who would like to make public comment?

**Senator Goicoechea:**

We have one person left, and they say no.

**Senator Dondero Loop:**

Senator, thank you for being my eyes up there. Are there any comments from the Committee?

**Senator Goicoechea:**

I saw a tentative date of June 7 for the next meeting. I have a conflict there.

**Chair Dondero Loop:**

Okay, we will confirm that with you as soon as we talk to staff. I appreciate everybody's time today. Our meeting is adjourned.



## **AGENDA ITEM VII—ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erin Andersen  
Research Policy Assistant

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Jered M. McDonald  
Senior Principal Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Agenda Item IV A	Joanna Jacob, Government Affairs Manager, Clark County; Jessica Colvin, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Clark County; and Kevin Schiller, Deputy County Manager; Clark County;	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item IV B	Jeff Page, County Manager, Lyon County	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item IV C	Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Washoe County; Lori Cooke, Budget Manager, Washoe County	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item IV D	Elanie Eldridge, Chief Deputy Finance Director, White Pine County	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item V A	Warren B. Hardy II, Principal Consultant, Warren Hardy Strategies; Jim McIntosh, CFO, City of Henderson; Susan Heltsley, Finance Director, City of Las Vegas; Calli Wilsey, Senior Management Analyst, Intergovernmental Relations, City Manager's Office, City of Reno; Jeff Cronk, CFO, Financial Services, City of Sparks	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item V B	Leonardo Benavides, Government Affairs Manager, City of North Las Vegas; William Harty, Finance Director, City of North Las Vegas	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item VI A	Tammra (Tammy) Morris, Nevada Resident	Written Public Testimony
Agenda Item VI B	Lilith Baran, Program Associate, American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada	Written Public Testimony

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