



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 22, 2021

In Attendance:

Chairwoman Erika Neuberg
Vice-Chair Derrick Watchman
Commissioner Shereen Lerner
Commissioner David Mehl
Commissioner Douglas York
Executive Director, Brian Schmitt
Public Information Officer, Michelle Crank
Brett Johnson, Snell & Wilmer
Eric Spencer, Esq. Snell & Wilmer
Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Jillian Andrews, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
Doug Johnson, NDC Research
Jim Chang, State Demographer
Angla Miller, Transcriptionist

I. Call to Order and Roll Call *(5:19 YouTube)*

- A. Call for Quorum
- B. Call for Notice

Present:

Chairwoman Neuberg
Vice-Chair Watchman
Commissioner Lerner
Commissioner Mehl
Commissioner York

A quorum is present.

Executive Assistant Valerie Neumann confirmed that the meeting agenda was properly posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

II. Approval of minutes from June 15, 2021 *(7:07 YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Sessions

Vice-Chair Watchman motioned to approve the General Session Minutes minutes, Commissioner Mehl seconds the motion. There were no Executive Session Minutes for June 15, 2021. The motion is approved 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(8:18 YouTube)*

At 8:03am Chairwoman Neuberg opened public comments and indicated that public comments would be open for a minimum of 30 minutes and would remain open until the adjournment of the meeting.

IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to today's (June 22, 2021) meeting. *(9:05 YouTube)*

Chairwoman Neuberg addressed the most common topic from the public comments on concerns with the amount of public hearing offered with the initial proposed travel schedule. Neuberg reassures the public that this Commission is deeply committed to providing many opportunities for the public to express their views.

V. State Demographer's Presentation *(11:22 YouTube)*

Jim Chang, from the State Demographer's Office delivers a presentation on the role and responsibilities of the State Demographer. The Demographer's Office is a unit of the Arizona Commerce Authority and their responsibilities are compiling annual population estimates, population projections, collaborating with the U.S. Census Bureau on decennial censuses, they manage the State Data Center program, and promote the productive use of the Census data.

Mr.Chang provides data on population history and projections, natural population change, places of birth, migration in and out of Arizona, population changes by counties, cities and towns. Information is also provided on past and projected population by race, population by congressional districts, and population by Native American Tribes.

Mr. Chang leaves the meeting at 9:06am.

The State Demographer's presentation is available on the IRC Website (www.IRC.AZ.Gov).

VI. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC *(1:11:50 YouTube)*

Mark Flahan from Timmons/NDC advises of progress made recently with the ESRI mapping software, and that his company has been working on preparation and slides for the Listening tour. Mr. Flahan states he will work on simplifying the project schedule to present to the

Commission and public. The socio economic data will be completed soon, and available to be presented into a mapping format. Timmons will work with Executive Director Schmitt on getting the IRC's Map website up and running, and will be asking the Commission for feedback as to look and feel. Once the redistricting software is installed and configured, Timmons/NDC will coordinate training for the Commissioners with an estimated target date of the end of July. Timmons/NDC will also provide a way for the public to access the mapping training as well.

Mark Flahan leaves the meeting at 9:17am

VII. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof ([1:30:23 YouTube](#))

- A. Office location update
- B. Budget update, including status of FY2021 Expenditures
- C. FTE positions
- D. Discussion of proposed timeline for IT integration and migration
- E. Public Records Request on-line submission portal update
- F. Discussion and possible action on Community Outreach Coordinator and Deputy Director positions

Executive Director advised that the office move is to be completed this afternoon, and updates the public of the new suite number (#127). The budget is near a deal at the legislature, and a vote is expected soon. The IT migration is moving forward with a vendor that is currently under contract with the state. The vendor is putting together a scope of work and a contract for the Commission's review. The Request for Public Records portal is live on the IRC website, under the "Contact Us" menu. Applications for the Deputy Director position have been forwarded to the Commissioners for review, with interview scheduling to begin this week, and then he will move on to the Community Outreach Director position.

VIII. Discussion and possible action on proposed revised travel schedule ([1:34:20 YouTube](#))

Executive Director Schmitt presents a revised Listening Tour Schedule, which includes a meeting at each county in the State. The public will have at least two weeks notice as to the date and time of the meetings. The schedule will be posted to the website, but advises there are still venues, translators, and numerous other details to be confirmed. The evening meetings will begin at 5:00pm, and the weekend meetings will be scheduled at 9:00am or 10:00am. Schmitt advises that the Commissioners may attend the meetings virtually if they are not able to attend in person. A schedule will be circulated to make sure we have enough Commissioners in attendance for each meeting, and the satellite locations will be staffed by at least one staff member.

IX. Discussion and possible action on stock IRC presentation for public use ([1:44:32 YouTube](#))

The stock presentation is being completed and will go to the Legal Team for final review and approval.

X. Discussion and Possible Action on census data, census delays and ways to mitigate its disruption. [\(1:46:50 YouTube\)](#)

A. Status of Arizona-based professor to speak on differential privacy in light of privacy loss budget established by the U.S. Census Bureau.

B. Discussion of academic documents and legal filings concerning differential privacy issues (Appendix A).

The Legal Team advises the Commission that the materials provided (Appendix A), was a collection of academic and legal material for consideration by the Commission, to help inform them when making policy decisions. The legal team was having difficulty locating an Arizona professor who had not already formed an opinion about differential privacy, and was unable to give an analysis before the end of September. "Pro & Con" experts have been located to present to the Commission on differential privacy with a focus on Arizona. There will be a nominal charge for this analysis. Once everything is confirmed names and dates will be provided.

XI. Discussion of future agenda item requests [\(1:59:53 YouTube\)](#)

The Commission looks forward to a presentation on the Voting Rights Act and the Constitutional Requirements for Redistricting by the Legal Team.

XII. Discussion and Possible Action on the scheduling of future meetings [\(2:01:38 YouTube\)](#)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 8:00AM

The meeting which would normally be scheduled on July 6, 2021 will be skipped, in observance of the 4th of July.

XIII. Announcements [\(2:03:08 YouTube\)](#)

No further announcements.

XIV. Next Meeting Date [\(2:03:20 YouTube\)](#)

Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 8:00AM

XV. Closing of the Public Comments [\(2:03:36 YouTube\)](#)

Public Comments are closed at 9:59am.

XVI. Adjournment [\(2:04:07 YouTube\)](#)

Commissioner Mehl moves to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Lerner seconds the motion. The motion is approved unanimously 5-0.