



5. Election of Officers - Jan. 15th, 2025 Planning Commission Mtg

From Manny Becerra <BecerraM@reno.gov>

Date Wed 1/15/2025 11:04 AM

To Mike Railey <RaileyM@reno.gov>; Cali Shy <ShyC@reno.gov>; Michelle Fournier <FournierM@reno.gov>

 1 attachment (88 KB)

2025-01-15 - Statement in Support of Commissioner Silvia Villanueva as Vice Chair.pdf;

Hi Mike, Michelle, and Cali -

Since the January 2nd Planning Commission meeting was canceled, and in light of some concerning public comments made since then—particularly by members of our Council toward one of our commissioners, whom I am supporting as Vice Chair—please include my letter of continued support for Commissioner Villanueva in the record for tonight’s scheduled meeting.

I plan to address this briefly during the meeting as well.

Thank you, team,

Manny

—

Manny Becerra

City of Reno Planning Commissioner

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From: Mike Railey <RaileyM@reno.gov>

Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2024 12:15 PM

To: Manny Becerra <BecerraM@reno.gov>; Cali Shy <ShyC@reno.gov>

Subject: Re: Jan. 2nd 2025 Planning Commission Meeting

Thank you Manny! We will get this into the record. Happy holidays!

From: Manny Becerra <BecerraM@reno.gov>

Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2024 10:31 AM

To: Mike Railey <RaileyM@reno.gov>; Cali Shy <ShyC@reno.gov>

Subject: Jan. 2nd 2025 Planning Commission Meeting

Cali and Mike,

As we head into the New Year, I wanted to give you a heads-up that I may not be able to attend the Jan. 2nd Planning Commission meeting due to holiday commitments. Since the nomination of our newest leadership is on the agenda, I'd like to ensure the attached letter of support is included as part of the public hearing, if I'm not able to attend, specifically under the item related to leadership nominations.

Cali, I'm copying you in because, if I remember correctly, Michelle mentioned she'd also be away for the holidays, and I'm unsure when she's expected back. As always, I truly appreciate your help in keeping everything running smoothly on your end, for all of us.

Wishing you both a joyful and restful holiday season!

Manny



Manny Becerra

Planning Commissioner, Ward 3

Planning Commission

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January 15, 2025

Statement in Support of Commissioner Silvia Villanueva as Vice Chair

As previously stated in my recommendation for the January 2nd public meeting, which was ultimately canceled, I unequivocally support Commissioner Silvia Villanueva as our next Vice Chair. Her thoughtful approach to decision-making, dedication to the community, and commitment to upholding the principles of **integrity** and **fairness** make her an excellent candidate for this leadership role alongside our illustrious Chair, Kerry Rohrmeier.

I understand that some concerns have been raised regarding Commissioner Villanueva's recent decision to abstain from voting during the December 18th meeting. However, these concerns should not detract from her qualifications for Vice Chair, nor overshadow her clear adherence to our Planning Commission bylaws.

Upon reviewing our bylaws today, it is evident they **grant commissioners discretion to abstain** if they feel they lack sufficient information to make an informed decision. Specifically, the bylaws state that commissioners may vote on an item they were not present for during a prior meeting. The emphasis on the word **may** is significant, as it clearly empowers commissioners to abstain if, after their review or deliberation, they do not feel fully prepared to cast a vote. Commissioner Villanueva's decision to abstain during the December 18th meeting was not only within her rights but also **exemplified her commitment to thoughtful, well-informed governance**.

Notably, the bylaws do not mandate whether a commissioner in this specific situation—having missed a prior meeting where no action was taken—should abstain from participating in deliberations altogether. This lack of specificity, coupled with uncertainty expressed by commissioners on both sides of the vote that evening, underscores a need for additional clarity and training. Commissioner Villanueva's principled approach has highlighted an opportunity for us to revisit procedural training for staff and commissioners, including myself, perhaps even Council, to ensure a consistent understanding of **abstentions, decorum**, and other procedural nuances.

Her decision should not be seen as a shortcoming but as a **model of principled governance**. It reflects her commitment to the standards and integrity that define our Commission's responsibilities. Commissioner Villanueva's ability to stand firm in her judgment under these circumstances demonstrates the very qualities we need in a Vice Chair: **integrity, fairness**, and a **steadfast dedication** to the Commission's standards.

I have every confidence in her ability to lead with professionalism, thoughtfulness, and a collaborative spirit. I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Commissioner Villanueva as our next Vice Chair.

Respectfully,

Manny Becerra

City of Reno Planning Commissioner