

1 **LODGERS TAX ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

2 **Minutes for Wednesday July 9, 2024**

3 **500 Railroad Ave., Las Vegas, NM 87701**

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5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM

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8 **ROLL CALL**

9 Krutik Bhakta - Present
10 Oliver L'esperance - Present arrived at 2:06 P.M.
11 Georgina Ortega-Angel - Absent - excused
12 Helen Strader - Present
13 Matt Martinez - Present
14 Elmer Martinez - Present

15 **Others in Attendance:**

16 Lucas Marquez – Community Development Director
17 Charles Griego – Community Development
18 Charles Ortiz – Community Development
19 Scott Zunker – Community Development
20 Morris Madrid – Finance Director
21

22 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

23 Krutik Bhakta led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

24 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

25 Matt Martinez made a motion to approve the agenda.
26 Helen Strader seconded the motion.
27 A voice vote was taken with all voting yes.
28 Motion passed
29

30 **PUBLIC INPUT**

31 No one signed up for the public comment
32

33 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

34 **March 5, 2024 meeting minutes**

35 Matt Martinez moved to approve the March 5, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.

36 Helen Strader seconded the motion.

37 A voice vote was taken with Elmer Martinez abstaining from the vote. All other Board Members

38 In attendance voting in favor. (Note: Elmer Martinez was not on the Board at the time of the

39 March 5, 2024)

40 Motion passed.

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42 **May 29, 2024 Special meeting minutes**
43 Elmer Martinez moved to approve the May 29, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.
44 Matt Martinez seconded the motion.
45 A voice vote was taken with all voting in favor.
46 Motion passed.

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48 **BUSINESS ITEMS**

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50 **Review of the Lodgers' Tax Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

51 Morris Madrid, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Las Vegas, gave an update on the
52 Lodgers' Tax Budget. Mr. Madrid stated that he removed the funding in the line item for
53 Infrastructure. Elmer Martinez asked for if the amount budgeted was the projected
54 income for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year and MR. Madrid stated that it was the projected
55 amount. Mr. Madrid stated the reserves in the fund were 1.5 million dollars. Helen
56 Strader asked if the projected revenue took into consideration the loss due to the
57 cancellation of the 2024 Fiestas? It was stated that the room rates at the local hotels
58 has increased and that would help offset the loss from the Fiestas.
59 It was noted that Infrastructure funding can be funded for a specific tourist facility. Need
60 to plan events in advance in order to have a realistic budget. There was a rate increase
61 in the Lodgers' Tax from 4% to the current 5%, the 1% increase was to fund
62 infrastructure. Mr. Madrid stated that a budget increase could be requested through the
63 City Council and DFA.

64
65 An attempt will be made to look through files from previous years to get an idea of past
66 funding and a detail of expenses. The question was asked about previous infrastructure
67 funding and there were three projects approved by the Lodgers' Tax Board: Lights at
68 Rodriguez Park, the reader Board and a mural at the caboose. Helen Strader wanted to
69 know if interest was being earned on the Lodgers' Tax money. There was a question
70 regarding exemptions on unused monies in reserves being exempt from being swept
71 due to COVID, the fires and flooding. Mr. Madrid is to check with DFA on the current
72 rule in place. Lucas Marquez mentioned the grant with the New Mexico Tourism
73 Department and stated that the first payment is due on Wednesday, July 10th. He
74 followed up asking Mr. Madrid if he had everything needed to issue the payment, Mr.
75 Madrid stated he did. There was discussion on the grant for Sunny 505. It was stated
76 that the Board needs detail information on what is being provided to promote the City of
77 Las Vegas. It previous meeting had been set up but Sunny 505 cancelled the meeting.
78 The Board asked if thee contract could be pulled prior to the next meeting. Matt
79 Martinez expressed that he felt we need to go another route, asking do we continue or
80 not? The Board would like to know what is left on the contract with Sunny 505. The
81 Board feels we should continue to work on matching grants. Elmer Martinez started a
82 conversation regarding the "branding" of Las Vegas. The question was ask how the
83 Friday Alfesco and Music in the Park were going. Chuck Griego stated they were going
84 well and the number in attendance has increased. The Board would like a planning
85 meeting prior to the August 15th deadline for applications for funding. The Board would
86 like a meeting in late July to discuss planning, maybe work on an "app", get the list of
87 events that Sunny 505 is marketing.

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89 **OTHER BUSINESS**

90 NONE

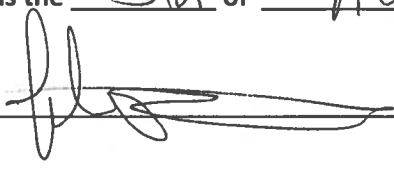
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ADJOURNMENT

Matt Martinez made the motion to adjourn.
Oliver L'esperance seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken with all voting in favor.

The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM

Approved this the 5th of Aug, 2024

Chairman:  _____