

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TASK FORCE FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

The Clyde Hotel
330 Tijeras Ave NW
The Fiesta Room

[Virtual Meeting Link](#) (Zoom)

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Friday, October 25, 2024

10:30 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order and opening remarks from Attorney General Torrez began at 10:36 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. to open for public comment.

A. Introductions – Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary

	Present
1) Stephanie Padilla, Chair	YES – In person
2) Meskee Yanabah Yatsayte, Co-Chair	YES – In person
3) Sevía Gonzales, Secretary	YES – In person

B. Land Acknowledgement and Moment of Silence in recognition of MMIP, Chair Padilla.

C. Brief overview of meeting expectations, Chair Padilla.

D. Approval of Agenda

Member Police Chief Rodriguez made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda as written. Member Police Chief Joye **SECONDED** the motion. Chair Padilla initiated a roll call vote.

VOTE: 19 in favor, 0 opposed, 7 abstentions. **MOTION** carries.

II. INTRODUCTIONS / ROLL CALL / BRIEF OVERVIEW

A. **Member Introductions / Roll Call** – During roll call, each Task Force member briefly introduced themselves, including their name, title/role, and agency.

Roll Call	Present
1) Sen. Shannon Pinto	YES – Virtual
2) Sen. Linda Lopez	NO
3) Rep. Charlotte Little	YES – In person
4) Gabe Aguilar	NO
5) Birga Alden	YES – In person
6) Jamie Allbach	YES – Virtual
7) Police Chief Adrian Armijo	YES – In person
8) Yolanda Azua	YES – Virtual
9) Shelly Begay	YES – In person
10) Bernadine Beyale	YES – In person
11) Reycita Billie	YES – In person
12) Kevin Burns	YES – Virtual
13) DeeJay Chino	YES – In person
14) Amber Kanazbah Crotty	YES – In person

15) Kyle Dowdy	YES – In person
16) Kyle Hartsock	YES – Virtual
17) Police Chief Paul Joye	YES – In person
18) Dinah Lee	NO
19) Cina Littlebird	YES – In person
20) Sheriff James Maiorano III	NO
21) Eliot Neal	YES – In person
22) Kristina Padilla	NO
23) Deiandra Reid	YES – In person
24) Police Chief Victor Rodriguez	YES – In person
25) Joycelyn Shroulote	YES – Virtual
26) Glenn St. Onge	YES – In person
27) Sarah Tafoya	YES – In person
28) Audrey Tolth	NO
29) Octavian Valencia	YES – In person
30) Tonita Vigil	YES – Virtual
31) Meskee Yatsayte	YES – In person
32) Stephanie Padilla	YES – In person

Non-Voting Consultants

1) Alyssa Begay	Present YES – In person
2) Genevieve Chavez	YES – In person
3) Lacey Guinn	YES – In person

(The roll call was briefly interrupted by a fire alarm sounding in the building and everyone present in person exited the room. The issue was resolved as a false alarm and members reconvened after about 10 minutes of interruption and continued the roll call at 11:12 a.m.)

B. Task Force Overview – Chair Padilla provided a brief review of the two main Task Force goals outlined in Senate Joint Memorial 2. Chair Padilla clarified that additional goals could be pursued by the Task Force and that members may bring ideas and requests for additional goals and topics of discussion to the next meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and approval of Task Force Bylaws.

Chair Padilla provided overview of bylaws and opened the floor for member discussion. Member Reycita Billie posed a question regarding Navajo Nation Legislation Branch media inquiry. Member Billie’s question was referred to NMDOJ Communications Director, Lauren Rodriguez, who provided clarification. Member Eliot Neal raised a question regarding membership and participation. Consultant Alyssa Begay raised questions regarding membership. Member Alden raised questions regarding funding for services. Member Sen. Pinto made a remark regarding roll call vote protocol.

Member Police Chief Rodriguez made a **MOTION** to approve the Bylaws as written. Member Police Chief Armijo **SECONDED** the motion. A roll call vote was initiated. **VOTE:** 23 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions. **MOTION** carries.

B. Chair adoption of Task Force Guidelines.

Chair Padilla provided brief overview of the Guidelines, opened the floor to questions and discussion, and then, hearing none, Chair Padilla adopted the Task Force Guidelines as written.

C. Discuss potential goals and topics to be covered during the next Task Force meeting.

Chair Padilla briefly explained that the Task Force will be discussing and identifying goals and objectives at the next meeting.

D. Determine and vote on date, length, and location of next meeting.

Chairwoman Padilla proposed setting the next Task Force meeting sooner than the quarterly cadence and proposed the date of December 6, 2024, as a potential date for that meeting. She then asked the Task Force if there were any volunteers who would like to host the meeting in a location other than Albuquerque. Consultant Alyssa Begay offered to organize the next meeting at a venue in Farmington, NM. Members decided that at least 4 hours would be needed for the December meeting and that the meeting should be held in the morning. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. to open for public comment.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Task Force re-convened at 11:30am to take public comments. Below is a brief summary of the comments received by the Task Force:

Darlene Gomez – MMIP advocate and attorney. Mentioned missing friends and families and the challenges families face. Requested a number of things from the TF, including following the State Response Plan and including families.

Vangie Randall-Shorty – Mother of Zachariah Juwaun Shorty. Described Zachariah’s story and the need for family involvement in the TF. Discussed barriers in communication between law enforcement, families, and the task force.

Elvira Randall-Carlston – Aunt of Zachariah Juwaun Shorty. Described Zachariah’s story. Has had other family members go missing. Questioned funding for families with missing family members.

Becky Martinez – Sister of Calvin Martinez. Asked for answers from the TF and brought up the issue of jurisdiction and the lack of clarity surrounding his case. Requested that the TF communicate clearly with families.

Kimberly Carlston – Family member of missing loved ones. Described her experience searching for loved ones. Mentioned the challenges and lack of funding support for families to travel, obtain lodging, and create materials for searches and advocacy events.

Kimberly Wahpepah – Advocate and survivor. Mentioned her life experience and re-iterated the need for urgent action.

Phyllis Waukazoo – Shared the story of her family. Reiterated the need for meetings and resources and spoke about the power and strength of families coming together. Mentioned the interest of families in collaborating with law enforcement.

Zunneh-bah Jim – MMIP advocate and program manager for MMDR Coalition. Requested that the TF gives full support to advocates, grassroots organizations, and families. Mentioned the need for funding and resources to families.

Sonlatsa Jim – Mentioned the historical challenges and marginalization of native peoples and reiterated the need to hold District Attorneys responsible for the handling of cases within their districts. Expressed hope in the TF's native members' ability to educate the public, government, and law enforcement on who native people are and the importance of culturally sensitive approaches to serving victims, families, and survivors.

Delegate Amber Crotty – Volunteered to give comment, but did not respond when called on.

Heidi Amos – Advocate for survivors of human trafficking. Spoke on behalf of her sisters and those families who have missing relatives. Shared her own story and spoke on the historical silencing of Indigenous communities and the pain families endure without resources.

Anjaleeqa Baldwin – Mentioned the need for jurisdictional challenges to be addressed. Expressed the need to provide resources to NM, AZ, CO, and across tribes, as this is not just a local or statewide issue but a national one.

V. CLOSING: Chairwoman Padilla expressed the importance of hearing the voices of families and asked them to continue sharing their insights and stories with the task force. Directed families to the NMDOJ Indian Affairs attorneys as points of contact and expressed her willingness to share her contact information with anyone who wished to have it. The public comment session adjourned at 12:21 p.m.