

# ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

## STUDY COMMITTEE ON MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**August 28, 2019**  
**11:00 a.m., House Hearing Room 1**

### **Members Present:**

Senator Sally Ann Gonzales	Representative Walter Blackman
Senator Jamescita Peshlakai	Representative Jennifer Jermaine
Senator Frank Pratt	Representative Arlando Teller
Senator Victoria Steele	Jon Huey
Monica Antone	April Ignacio
Paula Flores	Debbie Nez-Manuel
Blaine Gadow	Kim Russell
Dimitri Whelan Gonzalez	Blaze Baggs, Director of the Department of Public Safety's designee
LeAnn Guy	
Patti Hibbeler	

### **Members Excused:**

Representative Myron Tsosie  
Elton Begay  
Timothy Chavez  
Barbara LaWall  
Alfred Urbina

### **Staff:**

Anthony Casselman, House Research Staff  
Jake Agron, Senate Research Staff

Representative Jermaine called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. and attendance was noted.

### **BLESSING - ROYCE MANUEL, SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY**

**Royce Manuel, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community**, gave a blessing for the Committee.

### **CEDAR BURNING "SMUDGING" CEREMONY**

**Diane Uquala, Havasupai Tribe of the Grand Canyon**, performed a traditional smudging ceremony.

## **WELCOME & PURPOSE**

**Representative Jermaine** made opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Representative Jermaine opened the floor for nominations to Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee.

**Representative Teller moved, without objection, that Representative Jermaine be selected as Chair. Representative Jermaine stated that with no objection, Representative Jermaine is the Chair of this Committee.**

**Senator Steele moved, without objection, that Senator Peshlakai be selected as Vice Chair by acclamation. Representative Jermaine stated that without any objections, Senator Peshlakai is Vice Chair of this Committee.**

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

Representative Jermaine requested that the members of the Committee introduce themselves.

Representative Jermaine requested that staff introduce themselves.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

**Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya (Honwungsi Consulting) and Paula Flores (Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Family Advocacy Center) - Victim Services**

**Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya, Hopi Tribe**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Victim Services in Indian Country and Metropolitan Areas" (Attachment A). Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya explained the current system and difficulties in trying to take care of victims and their families. Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya answered questions posed by the Committee.

**Alfred Urbina - Pascua Yaqui Associate Justice - Investigation and Prosecution Challenges**

Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya, in the Honorable Alfred Urbina's absence, testified on excerpts from Mr. Urbina's written testimony (Attachment B). Some of the topics Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya spoke of were jurisdiction, information sharing and lack of technology in some areas. Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya answered questions posed by the Committee.

## **DISCUSSION ON COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS & DATA SHARING WITH TRIBAL NATIONS**

**Jon Huey, Chief of Police, Yavapai-Apache Police Department**, testified regarding tribal access to information systems, the Tribal Access Program and differing tribal council rules. Mr. Huey answered questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Imus-Nahsonhoya answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Jermaine named Representative Teller and Ms. Russell to work with the State Victim's Compensation Board to attempt to solve any issues with compensating victims that use traditional healing.

## **DISCUSSIONS ON METHODS OF GATHERING DATA & COMMUNITY SURVEY**

The Committee discussed collaborative agreements between agencies and tribes.

Representative Jermaine asked for volunteers for a workgroup to study the various collaborative agreements and what needs to be in the agreements. Ms. Nez-Manuel, Ms. Guy, Ms. Flores, Mr. Whelan Gonzalez, Mr. Gadow, Ms. Ignacio and Ms. Hibbeler agreed to be members of the workgroup.

## **PUBLIC TESTIMONY / COMMENTS**

Representative Jermaine asked if anyone from the public would like to speak, to which no one came forward.

The Committee discussed companies using a derogatory term.

Representative Jermaine mentioned that the Committee would possibly meet next on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

As requested, on the date of this meeting, Debbie Manuel will be noted as Debbie Nez-Manuel.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Ponce  
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)