

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



FRANK ZUBIA
DIRECTOR

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION-(NMCVRC)

March 27, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes

6200 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite #210
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Meeting Called to Order

On March 27, 2025, Commission Chair Karst called the February meeting of the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commission Chair Karst announced the attendees of the Commission members of the public body and the acknowledged those who are participating in person and remotely. Information for attending remotely is posted on the CVRC website.

The following Commission Members were present:

David Karst, Commission Chair
Kim Stewart, Sheriff, Commission Member (Virtual)
Dr. Randall Brown, M.D., Commission Member (Virtual)
Cody Rodgers, Commission member (Virtual)

The following NMCVRC staff members were present:

Frank Zubia, Director
Cindy Mok, Chief Financial Officer
Donna Richmond, Grants Bureau Chief (Virtual)
Jacqueline Sanchez, Compensation Bureau Chief
Pamela Brendler, State Investigator Supervisor (Virtual)
Debra Yepa, State Investigator
Rose Martinez, State Investigator
Kristina Escamilla, Administrative Secretary

The following members of the public were in attendance virtually:

Eduardo Ugarte II, Assistant NM Attorney
Ana Cristian
Tony Cristian
Tara Trujillo
Amy Trujillo
Rudy Trujillo
Stephen Shanor, Civil Attorney

Review Agenda

The amended agenda was reviewed by Commission Chair Karst and the Commission Board Members. This amendment involved removing case # 250865 from item #8 of the agenda at the request of the victim's family. Claim #250865 from #8 on the agenda was removed from the agenda. Commission Member Dr. Brown made the motion to approve and Commission Vice Chair Stewart second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Meeting March 27,2025

A roll call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Member Stewart, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes.

Review and Approval of February 27, 2024, Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Board Members reviewed the Commission meeting minutes for February 27, 2025. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve the minutes, it was second by Commission Member Dr. Brown.

A roll call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Vice Chair Stewart, yes, Commission Member Brown, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes.

Public Comment

Ms. Theresa Trujillo thanked the Commission for their time and consideration. She was speaking on behalf of her grieving family, fighting for justice and recognizing that her son was a victim, not a suspect. Ms. Trujillo highlighted that her son was 19 YOA when he was killed, having recently graduated and started building his future, and also became part-owner of his father's business. She emphasized his hard work and dedication. Ms. Trujillo addressed the Commission, stating that a court of law found his shooter guilty of shooting and causing her son's death. Ms. Trujillo noted this was a legal victory, and CVRC's 50% approval for compensation suggested a shared responsibility. Her family disagreed with the decision made by CVRC. Ms. Trujillo emphasized the financial burden and legal battle the family has endured over the past two years. In addition, there has been a loss of work and an emotional toll. Due to the incident, Ms. Trujillo asked the Commission for reconsideration and support from the Crimes Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC), which was created to assist families.

Ms. Amy Trujillo also addressed the Commission, expressed gratitude for the consideration, and highlighted the overwhelming stress of the past two years. She stated the prevalence of violent crime in Espanola and that this was not the first time the family had experienced such trauma.

Mr. Rudy Trujillo, the surviving older brother, told the Commission that they are law-abiding citizens and taxpayers who deserve compensation. Unlike many young people his age, Mr. Trujillo acknowledged that his brother was a hardworking young man who was building a future for himself and his fiancée. He highlighted the family's fractured state due to the events and the financial difficulties they faced. Mr. Trujillo asked the Commission to fulfill its purpose and provide the compensation.

Commission Chair Karst expressed his deepest condolences and assured the family that this Commission takes these matters seriously, considering more than just names on paper. He assured a thorough review and reconsideration of the family's request and was notified of the decision.

Mr. Tony Cristian addressed the Commission and requested funeral service compensation for his son, a victim of a violent crime. Mr. Cristian informed the Commission of recent developments in the case, which include the arrest of two individuals charged with first-degree murder. In addition, three more potential suspects are facing charges of aggravated assault and conspiracy to assault. Mr. Cristian and his family stated the victim was not an aggressor and provided evidence of him being beaten and shot during the incident.

Mr. Cristian stated that the family is still paying for funeral services, which has become a financial burden. Their father's stress affects his health and ability to work. Also, the aunt of the victim, Sonia Lopez, addressed the Commission and asked the Commission to recognize her nephew as a victim of a violent crime and grant full compensation to alleviate the family's financial and emotional burdens.

Commission Chair Karst expressed his deepest condolences and assured the families that the requests would be discussed during the Executive Session, assuring the families of a response by the end of the day.

Agency Financial Report

Ms. Mok began her presentation by addressing the Chair and the Commission with a report on the FY25 Victim Payment Budget status. She noted that nearly \$2 million in victim payouts have been approved and paid out. Only three months are remaining in the fiscal year. Ms. Mok estimates a potential carryover of \$500,000 into the next fiscal year, which would be allowed for the care and support category.

Ms. Mok presented the Crime Victim Fund Budget Status Report to the Commission and informed the Commission that CVRC received \$352,000 in restitution and wages from the Department of Corrections. Also, Ms. Mok highlighted a decline in penalty assessment payments, noting that only minimal payments were routed to the agency since fines and fees were eliminated.

Ms. Mok also provided a financial update on the agency's Legislative appropriations. She announced that House Bill #2 had successfully passed the House and Senate and was awaiting the Governor's signature. With this Legislation, CVRC secured a \$500,000 recurring state appropriation specifically for victim compensation care and support. Additionally, the Commission received two non-recurring special appropriations of \$1 million each for FY26: #1 for sexual assault and #2 for domestic violence services.

FY2025 Crime Victim Fund – Budget Status

Payments received for the period of July 1, 2024, through March 17th, 2025, by category:

Restitution: \$45,499

Corrections: \$280,347

Civil Settlement: \$14,096

Penalty Assessment: \$12,438

Total Received: \$352,380

New Business

CVRC Las Cruces

Mr. Zubia and Ms. Richmond updated the Commission on the responses to the Las Cruces shooting incident. The Commission was informed that the Family Advocacy Center (FAC) in Las Cruces, which was established to assist victims, has been operational and will remain open until 6:00 p.m. the following day. Mr. Zubia and Ms. Richmond were at the FAC during the aftermath, with Ms. Richmond continuing to work from the center.

Mr. Zubia informed the Commission that 30 compensation applications had been received, with many more expected, given the attendance of approximately 200 individuals at the event. CVRC acknowledged the efforts of local victim advocates, including those from the Sheriff's Office, who were instrumental in providing immediate assistance. Based on preliminary information from the Las Cruces Police Department, CVRC has approved services for the families of the three deceased victims and twenty-seven (27) additional victims who submitted compensation applications with all related cases managed and assigned to one State Investigator, Supervisor Rebecca Duran, for consistency.

Mr. Zubia informed the Commission that nearly \$7,000 in emergency assistance funding had been expended. Expenses included accommodations, meals, and family support for those hospitalized in El Paso. Ms. Richmond highlighted the collaborative effort among service providers, including the Red Cross, Families, and Youth Incorporated, and other nonprofits, to ensure victims receive the necessary support.

The Commission also discussed potential eligibility for victims impacted indirectly by the incident, such as family members of suspects facing threats. Mr. Zubia emphasized that these cases would be assessed separately, contingent on meeting specific requirements identifying them as victims of crime.

The Commission concluded with no further questions.

Business

Legislative Updates

Mr. Zubia informed the Commission that the Legislative session concluded with no bills passing that would directly affect the organization despite over 35 proposals with potential implications. Mr. Zubia referred to three bills specifically mentioning the organization that were presented to the previous Commission meeting, but none were enacted. As a result, there will be no anticipated fiscal impact on the organization following this session.

Grant Status Report (VOCA, VAWA, SASP and State Funds)

Grants Bureau Chief Donna Richmond informed the Commission that the Grants team is fully staffed as of January, with all team members trained in their respective roles. The team is actively processing invoices and currently has one outstanding STOP VAWA (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutors Violence Against Women Act formula grant program) request for proposals, which has ended.

Executive Session

At 10:54 a.m. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to enter Executive Session.

The roll call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Member Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, dropped out of the session

At 11:35 a.m. Commission Chair Karst made a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session (Voting Item)

Claim # 252701

Claim # 252037

Claim # 231905

Claim # 250865

The roll call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Member Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes. (Commission Member Brown, dropped out of the session)

Mr. Zubia asked the Commission Members asked for a motion on claim #252701, there was no action taken by Commission it was a status update on the claim.

The roll call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Member Stewart, yes, Commission Member Cody Rogers, yes.

Mr. Zubia asked the Commission Members for a motion for claim #252037, to be tabled. Commission members voted unanimously to table claim #252037.

The roll call vote of the Commission to table #252037 was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Member Stewart, yes, Commission Member Cody Rogers, yes.

Mr. Zubia asked the Commission Members for a motion for claim #231905, to deny or approve. Commission members voted unanimously to deny this claim.

The roll call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, deny, Commission Member Stewart, deny, Commission Member Cody Rogers, deny.

Mr. Zubia asked the Commission Members for a motion regarding Justin J. Miller v. Crime Victims Reparation Commission and a discussion regarding a recommendation from the civil attorney. Commission members voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the civil attorney regarding this matter.

Commission Meeting March 27,2025

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 24th, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission, 6200 Uptown Blvd. NE, Suite 210, in Albuquerque, NM, in the conference room.

Adjourn

At 11:40 a.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the March 27, 2025 Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  Signed by: _____ DATE: 4/24/2025
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Commission Chair Karst