

Four appointees in place on state's new Civil Rights Commission

Written by Staff Reports

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Senator Steve Neville, R- Farmington, has been appointed to the New Mexico Civil Rights Commission that was created by legislation during the special session in July.

The Legislative Council which is made up of leadership from both the house and senate, and other members, appointed Neville to the commission.

Six members of the bipartisan commission are appointed by the Legislative Council, with the other three members of the nine-member commission appointed by the governor.

Lujan Grisham named Retired State Supreme Court Justice Richard Bosson, former Belen Police Chief Victor J. Rodriguez, and Chief Judge Stan Whitaker of the Second Judicial District.

According to the legislation, the Legislative Council and the governor are required to incorporate, among other things, geographic, cultural and racial diversity in naming individuals to the commission.

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The commission, per the authorizing legislation, shall review policies and develop policy proposals for laws for the creation of a civil right of action for the deprivation of any constitutional right, privilege or immunity by a public body or a person acting on behalf of, or under the authority of a public body; shall review the use of qualified immunity as a defense to liability by an employee of a public body; and shall submit a report of its findings, including specific recommendations and proposed legislation, to the governor and legislature by Nov. 15.

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