



Regular Monthly Meeting  
10 a.m. Wednesday, July 9, 2025  
Mayors' Council Conference Room  
Hagåtña, Guam

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** *Vice President* Mayor Robert RDC Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL:**

<b>O</b> ALIG, Jesse L.G.	Mayor	Piti
<b>R</b> ALVAREZ, Dale C. P.	Mayor	Santa Rita-Sumai
ARROYO, Richard B.	Mayor	Agana Heights
BAUTISTA, Jessie P.	Vice Mayor	Barrigada
BENAVENTE, Peter John S.	Mayor	Dededo
<b>V</b> BLAS, June U.	Mayor	Barrigada
BLAS, PEDRO	Vice Mayor	Yigo
CHAMPACO, Franklin J. Q.	Mayor	Malesso'
CHARGUALAF, Anthony P.	Mayor	Inalåhan
<b>O</b> FEJERAN, Christopher J.	Vice Mayor	Hågat
<b>O</b> GUMATAOTAO, Michael T.	Mayor	Hagåtña
HOFMANN, Robert RDC	Mayor	Sinajana
LEON GUERRERO, Ann S. SA	Vice Mayor	Dededo
LIZAMA, Frances S.	Mayor	Yigo
PACO, Rudy A.	Mayor	Mongmong-Toto-Maite
<b>V</b> QUINATA, Johnny A.	Mayor	Humåtak
RIVERA, Louise C.	Mayor	Tamuning
SALAS, Frankie	Mayor	Asan-Maina
SANTOS, Wayne SN	Mayor	Chalan Pago-Ordot
<b>O</b> SUSUICO, Kevin J.T.	Mayor	Hågat
TAITAGUE, Vicente S.	Mayor	Talo'fo'fo'
TERLAJE, Brian J.	Mayor	Yoña
<b>O</b> TOSCO, Edward J. D.	Vice Mayor	Mangilao
TOVES, Albert M.	Vice Mayor	Tamuning
UNGACTA, Allan R.G.	Mayor	Mangilao

**O = ABSENT \* = LATE \*\* = OFF ISLAND R = REPRESENTATIVE  
V = VIRTUAL**

**Eighteen (18) members were present at the time of roll call. A quorum was established.**

### **III. NATIONAL ANTHEM / GUAM HYMN**

- IV. 001-25 GUEST SPEAKERS** – Patrick Lujan, State Historic Preservation Office – Guam Historic Resources Division, Melanie Escobar, President – Guam Kayak and Canoe Federation, Christiana Quinata – USGS Brown Treesnake Project, Vera Topasna, Executive Director – Community Defense Liaison Office, Office of the Governor (CDLO)
- A. Mayor Hofmann introduces the first guest speaker, Mr. Patrick Lujan from the State Historic Preservation Office in the Guam Historic Resources Division. Mr. Lujan begins his presentation by discussing that his office has a list of nationally registered sites for each village, but notes that the list is not complete. He highlights that the focus is on finding different historical infrastructures in each respective village. He discusses that his office has conducted surveys in the South and Central areas and is in the process of finishing the East and North sides of the island. He emphasizes that his office is a resource available to mayors to add value to their respective villages through documenting and identifying significant areas. He encourages Mayors to reach out to his office to collaborate on gathering data and documenting historic sites in their districts. Mr. Lujan provides a presentation that includes a breakdown of the sites in each village that are listed on the National Registry. He underscores the importance of documenting Guam's historical sites and archaeology, including underwater sites along the coastlines. He notes the office's collaboration with the Japanese Consulate to locate Japanese soldiers unaccounted for from World War II. Mayor Hofmann inquires about memorials related to battles and concentration camps, emphasizing the protection that listing sites on the National Registry can provide for these locations. Mr. Lujan explains that, for a site to be listed on the National Registry, it is more difficult to justify memorial sites based on historical significance than battlegrounds, but he encourages pursuing such designations anyway. He states that his office is eager to work with the Mayor's office to document all discoveries and assist with the paperwork and nominations for the National Registry.
- B. President of the Guam Kayak and Canoe Federation, Melanie Escobar, was introduced. She proposed a culturally grounded youth initiative in which the purpose is to introduce a middle school youth outrigger paddling program that promotes CHamoru culture, health, teamwork, and community pride. She highlights that the vision is to show that it's part of deep-rooted CHamoru heritage, and it builds physical fitness, teamwork, and discipline. She emphasizes her desire to move the federation down south for the youth in the southern part of Guam. She notes that the Federation not only focuses on the physical aspect of the sport, but also involves the cultural aspect for the

youth, such as the CHamoru history, terminology, and chants. She notes that the federation has involvement from the elders and master navigators as well. She requests assistance from the mayors in being partners for the start of a paddling team in the villages, with emphasis on equipment such as canoes, paddles, life vests, a location for the canoes, and access to water. Mayor Rivera and other mayors show interest in the proposal to participate. Ms. Escobar notes that she will send out an email with information in an effort to collaborate further with Mayors.

- C. Christiana Quinata from the U.S. Geological Survey with the Brown Tree Snake Project begins her presentation by highlighting the partnership with Guam Power Authority to discuss the effects of snake-inflicted power outages and how they are working to reduce them. She highlights that the team is providing scientific understanding regarding how the Brown Tree Snake is affecting the island in order to manage and control it to avoid any further damage. She notes that the snakes have caused Guam Power Authority millions of dollars and, as a result, have impacted customers multiple times a year. She underscores how the snakes are very cryptic and active at night, in which nighttime snake visual surveys are to be used as research to understand the snake population and come up with mitigation solutions. Ms. Quinata provides contact information to the Mayors to be informed of any snake sightings and surveys in the villages.
- D. Vera Topasna, Executive Director of the Community Defense Liasion Office is introduced. She immediately provides an overview of the effort to mitigate the construction of military build-ups on Guam. Ms. Topasna provides background regarding grants awarded in support of infrastructure projects, community support, and environmental protection. She highlights the importance of community response capabilities and vulnerability assessments in support of the preparedness that is required for the island. Topasna discusses the different critical projects that the CDLO advocates for in coordination with the federal government. She emphasizes the more crucial part of the project is the importance of the island's security. Mayor Arroyo brings up concern regarding Guam High and the response plan for his residents in the base area. Vera explains that there is a grant for a Vulnerability Emergency Response for the entire island, which involves Guam Homeland Security and Department of Defense. She notes the importance of a joint plan regarding the response plan for the community, and highlights the need for participation from village Mayors to come up with a plan or strategy for the ongoing effort. Mayors express support for the funding needed for community preparedness and response, and Vera underlines the steps needed for the Vulnerability Emergency Response project and the importance of the collaboration needed from island leaders.

- V. 002-25      APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES** – Motion to approve meeting minutes by Mayor Taitague and seconded by Mayor Salas. No objections were made, motion passes.
- VI. 003-25      APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT** – Motion to approve treasurer's report by Vice Mayor Bautista and seconded by Mayor Lizama. No objections were made, motion passes.
- VII. 004-25      EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – *Joy Jean R. Arceo*  
Executive Director Joy Jean Arceo reports on the Bid for Abandoned Vehicles which is in Phase III for evaluation after the opening. She notes that the Bid for the White Goods and Electronics is also in Phase III and provides no further information. The funding update for the Recycling Revolving Fund is being worked on and a work request was submitted to the EPA for prior year obligations. Executive Director Arceo discusses obligated funding for FY 2025 and is awaiting FY 2026 updates. Vice Mayor of Tamuning Albert Toves brings concern to the Executive Director regarding the disposal of metals. She notes that the metals are a part of the Recycling Revolving Fund and will be addressed through the procurement process. Mayor Benavente of Dededo provides information for loose metal disposal at Pyramid Recycling and Global Recycling centers, noting that it can be disposed of at no charge.
- VIII. 005-25      COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
**A.      Boards and Commissions –**  
1. Mayor Hofmann announces the open position for the GDOE Board representative and asks for any volunteers to represent the Council. Mayor Brian Terlaje volunteers to sit on the GDOE Board, but notes that he sits in on two other boards and would prefer to relinquish those positions. Mayor Hofmann announces that Vice Mayor Pedro Blas will sit on the Commission on Decolonization Board. Mayor Benavente provides a comment regarding the GDOE Board and acknowledges his predecessor in nominating him to represent the Council. He discusses the challenges faced by the Board and the need for better accounting decisions. Mayor Hofmann announces a vacancy in the Serve Guam Commission.  
**B.** Standing Committees - Mayor Hofmann emphasizes and reminds the Council to inform the Executive Director know if any Committees are not meeting. Mayor Hofmann announces the Change of Command of Colonel Ernest Govea on July 17 and recommends a Certificate of Appreciation of behalf of the Mayors' Council. A motion to approve the certificate made by Vice Mayor Bautista and seconded by Mayor Benavente. The motion passes and

requests for volunteers to represent the Council at the Change of Command ceremony.

**IX. 006-25**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1.

Mayor Hofmann discusses the 81st Liberation Festivities and asks Executive Director Joy Jean Arceo to provide an update regarding the 3 Day event. Executive Director Arceo notes that more information will be forthcoming by Friday after a meeting regarding the 3 Day event as it is still in the preliminary stage.

Mayor Hofmann announces and reminds Mayors who are participating in the parade to provide their write-ups and notes that a handful have already done so. He highlights Malesso, Talo'fo'fo', Agana Heights, Yigo, Santa Rita, Mangilao and Barrigada as districts that have yet to turn in the write-ups. Yona, Inalahan, Dededo, Hagat and Chalan Pago have submitted their write-up.

Executive Director Arceo updates the Council regarding the Budget and reminds the Mayors to begin using their current budget to obligate the funds for the Fiscal Year. She notes the importance of using the funds before requesting for more.

Mayor Hofmann discusses the budget process and reiterates the usage of funds prior to requesting for more. Mayor Hofmann asks for an update regarding outstanding payments.

Executive Director Joy Jean discusses that the Accounting team is working on the outstanding payments. She reminds the Mayors to check their balances and outstanding payments to ensure proper budget use.

Mayor Hofmann announces the MCOG By-Laws, however, requests to table the discussion and delay it due to ongoing efforts to get more clarification on the procurement section. Motion was moved by Mayor Paco and seconded by Mayor Benavente. No objections were made, motion was passed.

**XI. 007-25**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Hofmann calls for any announcements. No announcements were made.

**XII. 008-25**

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m. A motion to adjourn is moved by Talo'fo'fo' Mayor Taitague and seconded by Barrigada Vice Mayor Bautista.

Attested by:



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**MAYOR LOUISE C. RIVERA**  
Council Executive Secretary  
18<sup>th</sup> Mayors' Council of Guam

Transcribed by:



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**Beatrice "Bing" Cruz**  
Private Secretary  
MCOG – Administration