



# Meeting Minutes

## Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Date</b>	August 21, 2019	
	<b>Time</b>	9:00 a.m.	
	<b>Carson City Venue</b>	Nevada State Capitol Building Guinn Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor 101 S. Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89701	
	<b>Las Vegas Venue</b>	Grant Sawyer Building Governor’s Office Conference Room, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor 555 E. Washington Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101	
	<b>Method</b>	Video-Teleconference	
	<b>Recorder</b>	Karen Hall	
<b>Commission Members</b>	<b>Attendance Status</b>	<b>Legislative &amp; Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others</b>	<b>Attendance Status</b>
Governor Steve Sisolak	X	Karen Burke	X
Joseph Lombardo	Abs	Justin Luna	X
Darin Balaam	Abs	Gonzalo Cordova	X
Gregory Cassell	Abs	Chris Ipsen	Abs
Lisa Christensen	X	William McCurdy	X
Mitch Fox	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	X
Frank Gonzales	X	Aaron Rouse	Abs
Ikram Khan	X		
Kate Marshall	X	Samantha Ladich - DAG	X
William McDonald	X	Karen Hall – DEM	X
Charles Moore	X	Kendall Herzer – DEM	X
Richard Perkins	Abs	Meagan Werth-Ranson – DEM	X
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X		
Patricia Wade	X		
Bill Welch	X		

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Governor Sisolak, Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (Commission) Chair, called the meeting to order. Karen Hall, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS) performed the roll call. Quorum was established for the meeting. Ms. Hall informed the Commission that DEM/HS was in receipt of the resignation letter from former Commission member Tom Lozich, MGM Resorts International.

**2. Public Comment**

Governor Sisolak opened discussion for public comment. No public comment was provided in either venue.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Governor Sisolak called for a motion to approve the draft minutes from the March 28, 2019, Commission meeting. Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall motioned to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Programmatic Update**

Chief Justin Luna, DEM/HS, provided a programmatic update on the DEM/HS Report on Existing Grants for the Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2016, 2017, and 2018 outlining the current implementation for programs and projects funded through the HSGP. Commissioners were asked to reference the report provided, and instructed that this information is meant as a reference to assist with the review of future projects. Governor Sisolak called for discussion, with no discussion presented.

**5. Update on the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Funding Award**

Chief Justin Luna, DEM/HS, provided an update on the federal release of the FFY19 HSGP funding award to Nevada, acceptance of the award, and the expected timeline for distribution of FFY19 HSGP funding to sub-recipients. Commissioners were asked to reference the table that summarizes the recently approved projects and funding totals for the FFY 2019 HSGP award as approved by the Commission during its last meeting in May 2019. Chief Luna spoke to the categorization of information provided, and the further breakout by the sub-recipient and the project allocations. Funding amounts are separated by the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), and divided between SHSP projects for local jurisdictions and SHSP projects for state agencies. Las Vegas urban area projects are also separated. Chief Luna indicated that DEM/HS is seeking additional clarification on compliance for a few of the projects. If those projects are determined ineligible, the funds will be reviewed for reallocation. DEM/HS has a 45-day requirement to deliver the grant awards to the sub-recipients, and there is a two-year performance period on the projects. Governor Sisolak called for discussion, with no discussion presented.

**6. Briefing on the 2019 Metropolitan Statistical Analysis (MSA) Process**

Chief Justin Luna, DEM/HS briefed the Commission on the current 2019 MSA process to include data collection, timelines, and how the process affects the HSGP. Referring to the materials provided for this agenda item, Chief Luna explained the graphics are a representation of the elements the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) uses to calculate a relative risk score, which is then used to determine the overall funding allocations for each state and urban area nationwide. DHS uses a combination of threat, vulnerability, and consequence based on information that is provided during the data call period. Referring to the Soft Target Index on the handout provided, Chief Luna spoke to representatives from the Las Vegas urban area working with delegations to get the Soft Target Index added to the calculation. This index accounts for visitors and special events that have helped boost the Las Vegas Urban Area Security Initiative (LVUASI) ranking the past two years. The data call period for the upcoming FFY 2020 HSGP has already been

announced, with indication that the upcoming HSGP grant process may be earlier than normal. The data call includes a request for information on special events and critical infrastructure. This information is then used in the MSA risk calculation process regarding the potential FFY 2020 HSGP grant award. In the past, the data call requests have begun in February, questions are asked on the data call information in March, draft MSA's are released in April, final MSA's are released in May, and then the HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is released near the end of May, with the HSGP grant application due to DHS in June. This process has now started in July, and it is hard to know what this means for the timeline of the grant process. If the typical five month timeline holds true, then the process could be done before the end of the year. Chief Luna indicated that DEM/HS will distribute additional information regarding this timeline as more details are provided.

Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall inquired on the similarity of the risk score between the LVUASI and the entire state of Nevada. Chief Luna spoke to the standard calculation used nationwide to calculate risk, and the lack of distinction between the urban area and statewide risk. The information that the LVUASI submits attributes to the risk score. Lieutenant Governor Marshall inquired if there were no other risk assessments for MSA's in Nevada, with Chief Luna indicating that the LVUASI was the only one. Additional inquiry was made by Lieutenant Governor Marshall on whether the risk analysis has changed for the LVUASI, with Chief Luna indicating that visitor volume and event risk has changed. In 2013, the LVUASI fell out of the funding allocation nationally, and the next year received only the minimum allocation of \$1,000,000. For the past two years, the LVUASI has received \$5,000,000 in allocation. Lieutenant Governor Marshall inquired if the uptick in funding was due to better articulation of risk or rather attributable to a trend, with Chief Luna indicating that the LVUASI has been on the cusp of being funded numerous times throughout the history of the program. Normally, there are approximately 25 urban areas funded nationally, and within the recent past, the LVUASI has been right on the line of not receiving funding. With the addition of the Soft Target Index information, the LVUASI has risen to #17, and that ranking may be a combination of factors including better reporting.

Dr. Ikram Kahn, Quality Care Consultants, spoke to his recollection of a previous Commission meeting addressing congressional congregation assistance with the LVUASI ranking. Chief Luna indicated he believed the LVUASI delegation was instrumental in improving the risk profile. Additional review of ranking calculations is under way as well.

## **7. Briefing on the 2019 Nevada Office of Cyber Defense Coordination Annual Report**

Shaun Rahmeyer, Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Cyber Defense Coordination (OCDC), briefed the Commission on the 2019 OCDC Annual Report submitted as a requirement of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 480.932. The report provides samples of activities and cyber landscape highlights throughout the course of the past year. Included in the report are details on threats affecting not only Nevada, but the nation overall as well as global concerns. Mr. Rahmeyer spoke to the information graphic provided summarizing activities and statistics. With limited staff, the OCDC has coordinated activities with over 75 partners fostering the need to address trends, policy recommendations, and best practices. Outreach has developed critical stakeholder engagement specifically with the Department of Public Safety's Investigation Division, the State of Nevada Office of Administration, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada System of Higher Education, and many others. As these organizations participate in collaborative program relationships, the effort becomes a force multiplier.

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Additional discussion was provided in regards to legislation surrounding Senate Bill (SB) 69 and addressing improvement to the OCDC competencies as several statutes were adjusted to address duplication of effort in addition to added compliance-based initiatives and mandates. SB69 expands information protections for the private sector soliciting support from the OCDC. Currently, administrative code is being developed for cyber response plans in addition to administrative rule making efforts. SB69 also tasks the Nevada National Guard (NNG) for support to the Governor's office, political subdivisions, or government utilities during significant cyber incidents. The OCDC is working with the NNG on this new response function and related response capabilities. The OCDC is also in the final phase of its two-year strategic plan. Mr. Rahmeyer emphasized the increase in national cyber-attacks in both the public and private sectors, noting that several school districts throughout the state including Lyon County, Washoe County, and Clark County have come under attack. At the state level, approximately 12,000 incidents have been logged as malicious, with nearly 50% of those deemed a serious threat. The OCDC continues its efforts to prevent and protect against the cyber threats facing Nevada. Mr. Rahmeyer spoke to challenges in addressing rural Nevada, and the partnership with the Nevada Department of Administration on soliciting HSGP funding to train personnel at the local and state level. Election security is at the forefront of efforts as well, and OCDC is working with the Nevada Secretary of State's office in support of information sharing regarding election security, and other initiatives as well. Future efforts require extensive collaboration and cultivation of new talent to identify and respond to cyber events statewide.

Mr. Rahmeyer thanked the Governor for his support at the Wicked6 cyber event in Las Vegas. The Governor inquired if there have been any breaches or ransomware events in the state. Per Mr. Rahmeyer, what is publically known is approximately one dozen such incidents have occurred. Dr. Ikram Khan spoke to one of the meetings a few months ago and a funding priority of the Commission being cybersecurity. Dr. Khan presented concern with regards to information sharing between the private sector and the State, and if there any challenges with opening up threats as that information sharing continues. Per Mr. Rahmeyer, third-party relationships pose unique challenges. Some vulnerabilities and risks can be mitigated through policy and contract language as the two organizations conduct digital business. Many organizations do not have the skill or assets to manage that information. Some of these issues can be addressed with additional training and awareness. Mitch Fox, Nevada Broadcasters Association, spoke to concerns surrounding election system security and inquired on the Policy Academy status, with Mr. Rahmeyer indicating that security concerns are not just technical in nature, but also emphasized the human factor of manipulation, coercion, and social media impacts. The Policy Academy has not yet taken off; however, efforts are underway and being led by Wayne Thorley from the Nevada Secretary of State's office. Mr. Rahmeyer also indicated that he serves on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors, and is hoping to leverage that relationship for additional security measures.

Governor Sisolak inquired if, in addition to the OCDC's collaboration with the Nevada Secretary of State's Office, there is any work being done with other registrars throughout the state, with Mr. Rahmeyer indicating that he has spoken in Reno at the County Election Workshop in addition to being involved in the last election cycle with the Clark County registrar's office as well.

**8. Report on the Statewide Adoption of the National Incident Management System**

Chief Justin Luna, DEM/HS, provided a report to the Commission on the statewide adoption of, and compliance with, the National Incident Management System, as required by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 239C.310. The report identified basic information pertaining to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS) objectives and DEM/HS quarterly activities. The NIMS Program, and its components, set the foundation for the core capability of Operational Coordination. The NIMS program contains three components including Resource Management, Command and Coordination, and Communications and Information Sharing. DEM/HS continues to coordinate improvements in NIMS-compliant planning, training, and exercise programs, as well as supporting the Statewide Resource Management Program and Credentialing Project for physical, logical, incident access control, and identification verification. Governor Sisolak called for discussion, and no discussion was presented.

**9. Public Comment**

Governor Sisolak opened discussion for public comment. Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, thanked the Nevada Division of Forestry for efforts applied in the suppression of the Jasper Fire. The rapid response resulted in keeping the fire out of an area with 500 homes. Chief Moore spoke to the efficiency of resources and mutual aid agreements currently in place to help local jurisdictions fight fire. Governor Sisolak spoke to spending two days with the Lieutenant Governor at the 2019 Lake Tahoe Summit, noting that wildfire is a major concern. There is a false sense of security, and as precipitation dries out, fire danger in September and October remains high, particularly with human-caused fires on the rise. General (Ret.) Frank Gonzales, Nevada Selective Service, spoke to the appointment of Ondra Berry as the new Nevada National Guard's Adjutant General, and emphasized that it may benefit the Commission to replace his seat on the Commission with Adjutant General Berry. The Governor expressed his appreciation for this request, indicating that Adjutant General Berry is an incredible asset to the state.

**10. Adjourn**

Governor Sisolak called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patricia Wade, Wade Development, motioned to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.