



# STATE OF NEVADA MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA NEVADA COMMISSION ON HOMELAND SECURITY

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**Name of Organization:** NEVADA COMMISSION ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
**Date and Time of Meeting:** WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018 – 10:00 A.M.

**Carson City Location**

Division of Emergency Management  
State Emergency Operations Center  
2478 Fairview Drive  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

**Las Vegas Location**

Clark County Fire Department – Station 18  
Emergency Operations Center  
575 E. Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

**NOTE: Valid photo identification will be required prior to entrance to the Division of Emergency Management building on the Nevada Army National Guard complex in Carson City.**

This meeting will be video or teleconferenced between the locations specified above beginning at 10:00 A.M. The Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (Commission) may take action on items marked "For Possible Action." Items may be taken out of the order presented on the agenda at the discretion of the chairperson. Items may be combined for consideration by the Commission at the discretion of the chairperson. Items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time.

**Please Note:** Witnesses wishing to have their complete testimony/handouts included in the permanent record of this meeting should provide a written or electronic copy to the Commission administrative support staff. Minutes of the meeting are produced in a summary format and are not verbatim.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Chairman, Governor Brian Sandoval.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**– (Discussion Only) – No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. Public comments may be limited to 3 minutes per person at the discretion of the Chair. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – (Discussion/For Possible Action) – Chairman, Governor Sandoval. This agenda item will discuss whether or not to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2018, Commission meeting.
- 4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN** – (Discussion Only) – Chairman, Governor Sandoval.
- 5. PRESENTATION BY THE NEVADA HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP (HSWG) CO-CHAIRS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY IN NEVADA** – (Discussion/For Possible Action) – Chief Caleb Cage, Division of Emergency Management (DEM), State Administrative Agent (SAA), and Deputy Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department (CCFD), Urban Area Administrator (UAA). Chief Cage and Deputy Chief Steinbeck will expand upon the

briefing delivered at the January 29, 2018, Commission meeting, which addressed the need for a shift within emergency management and homeland security to align efforts with a framework that is resilient, adaptable, strategic, and collaborative. The Co-Chairs will present recommendations for consideration and may vote to recommend the following:

- i. Directive requiring a new paradigm of resilience to align statewide homeland security and emergency management efforts;
  - ii. Executive order establishing the “Implementation of Nevada’s Statewide Resiliency Strategy”;
  - iii. Budget considerations for DEM personnel and operations pertaining to the following programs:
    - Search and Rescue (SAR);
    - Planning, Training, and Exercise (PTE);
    - Incident Management Assistant Team (IMAT);
    - Homeland Security; and
    - Recovery.
  - iv. Initial legislative recommendations ahead of the 2019 Legislative Session to include:
    - Create funding override capabilities for the State’s Emergency Assistance Account (EAA) and Disaster Relief Account (DRA).
    - Require DEM to provide an annual report to the Nevada Department of Education, the Public Utilities Commission, and the Gaming Control Board regarding the status of compliance with emergency response plans for entities under their jurisdiction or oversight.
    - Establish a deployable statewide Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT).
    - Establish a deployable Disaster Assistance Response Team through Nevada Volunteers/AmeriCorps.
    - Allow the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security to have one bill draft request for each legislative session.
    - Establish statutory provisions for licensure of out-of-state, private medical practitioners during emergencies and disasters.
    - Require DEM to create regulations for all DEM grants.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - (Discussion Only) - No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. Public comments may be limited to 3 minutes per person at the discretion of the Chair. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint.
7. **ADJOURN** – (Discussion/For Possible Action).

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This is a public meeting. In conformance with the Nevada Public Meeting Law, this agenda was posted or caused to be posted on or before 9:00 a.m. on February 23, 2018, at the following locations:

Las Vegas Governor’s Office, 555 E. Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, NV;  
Carson City Governor’s Office, 101 N. Carson Street, Carson City, NV;  
NV State Emergency Operations Center, 2478 Fairview Drive, Carson City, NV;  
Clark County Fire Department, 575 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV; and  
Posted to the Nevada Department of Public Safety’s Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security website located at: [http://dem.nv.gov/DEM/2018\\_Nevada\\_Commission\\_on\\_Homeland\\_Security/](http://dem.nv.gov/DEM/2018_Nevada_Commission_on_Homeland_Security/)

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, or if you need to obtain meeting materials, please notify Karen Hall, Commission support staff, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, at (775) 687-0300. 24-hour advance notice is requested. Thank you.



# Meeting Minutes

## Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday, February 28, 2018	
	<b>TIME</b>	10:00 AM	
	<b>LOCATION</b>	Division of Emergency Management State Emergency Operations Center 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, Nevada 89701	
	<b>METHOD</b>	Teleconference	
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Karen Hall	
<b>Commission Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Legislative &amp; Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others</b>	
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Karen Burke	X
Joseph Lombardo	X	Caleb Cage	X
Chuck Allen	X	Gonzalo Cordova	
Gregory Cassell	X	Aaron Ford	X
Lisa Christensen	X	Chris Ipsen	X
Frank Gonzales	X	William McCurdy	X
Mark Hutchison	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	X
Ikram Khan		Aaron Rouse	
Tom Lozich			
William McDonald		Mike Jensen – Sr. DAG	X
Charles Moore	X	Karen Hall (NCHS Staff – Carson)	X
Richard Perkins	X	Kendall Herzer (DEM Staff – LV)	X
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X		
Troy Wade			
Bill Welch			

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Brian Sandoval, Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (Commission) called meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Karen Hall, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary. Jill Berntson provided public commentary on her family's experience during the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting event in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 1, 2017. Mrs. Berntson's commentary reflected the emotions recalled from the event, and offered suggestions to help mitigate further mass casualty events. Gratitude and acknowledgement was given to the Governor and Commission members for hearing her commentary, and Mrs. Berntson gave special thanks to Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Chief Greg Cassell, Clark County Fire Department, Chief William McDonald, Las Vegas Fire and

Rescue, Deputy Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department, and Chief Caleb Cage for their efforts during and in the wake of the tragedy. Governor Sandoval praised Mrs. Berntson for her courage and strength in standing up and speaking about this issue, and stated that he wants to do everything he can to mitigate anything like this from happening again, noting that we can make change moving forward. He noted that policy makers need to understand the impact of these incidents and that the Commission will be actively engaged in making that happen. A copy of this public commentary is attached to these minutes at the request of the presenter.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Commission meeting held January 29, 2018. A motion to approve was presented by Chief Greg Cassell, Clark County Fire Department, and a second was provided by Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Governor Sandoval spoke to the National Governors Association meeting in addition to several other meetings on Capitol Hill and the White House that he has attended recently, and emphasized that there is universal consensus that the status quo is no longer acceptable in the wake of yet another school shooting in Florida. He stated that school and public safety must be a priority. As a first step, the Governor stated that he will ask 17 school superintendents to meet and discuss the critical challenges associated with protecting schools in addition to starting a first track on speaking with educators on this issue. Currently, an Executive Order (EO) is underway to get teachers, parents, students, law enforcement, and other organizations associated with school safety to make recommendations in the next Nevada Legislative session. The Governor expressed his direction to agendize school safety in order to bring the experience of the Commission into the discussion as the membership represents the best talent in terms of public safety and homeland security. Chief Cage was given direction to start considering what this effort would look like with input from the Commission in addressing the next legislative session, noting the possibility of utilizing additional grant funding to assist with school safety.

Nevada Assemblyman William McCurdy thanked the Governor for his leadership and inquired on the capacity of the EO and the Governor's vision on the makeup and size of this EO body. Governor Sandoval indicated that he did not want the EO body to become too large, but did require that it have within its membership a school superintendent, parent, student, legislators, and other valuable members. Examples of other models used in best practice are available in Indiana and Texas that have commissions on school safety, as this is occurring in other states as well. The Governor emphasized that there's a rare opportunity to act now to adopt best practices, but it will come with cost. Budget instructions were just recently sent out to State agencies; however the Governor would like an estimate on what this may cost to be able to include in his next budget buildout. The more information obtained now will give the next legislative session more time to consider the recommendation requests.

Sheriff Chuck Allen, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, spoke to Mrs. Berntson's earlier testimony during public comment, and thanked her for sharing her story. Sheriff Allen also spoke to his agency's challenges with obtaining funding for public safety initiatives. Funding must be directed to support school safety resources. Schools are meant to be a safe learning environment, and there needs to be considerable effort in finding funding sources to accomplish safety initiatives. Governor Sandoval spoke to a new atmosphere of fear because of recent events in schools nationally, even within the school which his daughter

attends noting that this is unacceptable moving forward. The Commission has a rare opportunity to address this issue in putting forward recommendations that matter.

## **5. PRESENTATION BY THE NEVADA HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP (HSWG) CO-CHAIRS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY IN NEVADA.**

Chief Cage, and Deputy Chief Steinbeck spoke to the powerful testimony during public commentary provided by Jill Berntson, and reiterated the Governor's emphasis on public safety leading into this agenda item. Emphasis was placed on the need for a shift within emergency management and homeland security to align efforts with a framework that is resilient, adaptable, strategic, and collaborative. In 2017 the Commission was briefed on the unprecedented lessons learned from the disasters and emergencies that occurred, and based on that, the Commission was again briefed in January 2018 with more specific recommendations aimed at resilience. For the meeting today, the Commission will consider the four documents provided to include a Directive, Executive Order, Budget Concepts, and Legislative Recommendations to address a paradigm shift for Emergency Management and Homeland Security based on input from the Governor's 2016 Strategic Plan and statewide input. The proposals presented are not intended to produce overnight change, but rather thoughtful and deliverable change throughout the next year with oversight and input from the Commission to ensure strategic outcome. Discussion ensued on each of the four documents provided, and a summary of those discussions is provided below. *Please reference documents in meeting packet for specifics within each document.*

**Directive (i):** A directive requiring a new paradigm of resilience to align statewide homeland security and emergency management efforts

- Chief Cage spoke to the Directive capturing the high level vision and accountability necessary to carry out the tasks described including necessary timelines and deliverables. Emphasis was placed on the statewide resilience strategy, guidance, and specific outcomes. If the Directive were to be approved, it will set the way for deliberate transformation.

**Executive Order (ii):** An Executive order establishing the "Implementation of Nevada's Statewide Resiliency Strategy"

- Deputy Chief Steinbeck spoke to the Executive Order (EO) based on the Directive, findings, and recommendations of which only the Governor can authorize. It is provided for consideration, and consists over three sections addressing recovery efforts and needs from 2017, expansion of statewide preparedness, and the provision of recommendations ahead of the next Legislative session for transformation to a resilience framework by July 1, 2018, through streamlining existing boards and committees, DEM grant processes, and incentives for partners to embrace resiliency.
- Governor Sandoval called for questions on the Directive and EO as presented. Discussion ensued between Commission members on the makeup of the revised Homeland Security Working Group, with General (Ret.) Frank Gonzales, Nevada Selective Service Commission, asking for consideration to add the Nevada National Guard as a member. Governor Sandoval agreed with that recommendation. Rosemary Vassiliadis, Clark County Aviation, asked for consideration in adding McCarran International Airport as a member, with Deputy Chief Steinbeck and Governor Sandoval agreeing with that recommendation. Nevada Assemblyman William McCurdy inquired if there should be a representative from school police,

getting support from Nevada Senator Aaron Ford and Sheriff Chuck Allen, Washoe County Sheriff's Office on inclusion of the right membership to the working group.

Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department spoke to membership recommendation as presented, and inquired how that membership was derived. Chief Cage spoke to the size of past and current membership of the working group, and the valued collaboration this group has presented. Emphasized were the difficulties in having revolving membership leading to a lack of understanding pertaining to the needs of the state and sustainment of specific projects with limited resources. This recommendation is to streamline the process; however the Co-Chairs are open for suggestions. Sheriff Lombardo inquired if the recommended membership coincided with the core capabilities the Commission had approved, with Chief Cage indicating that the core capabilities drive the grant process, and that the membership list is meant to promote a broad representation for diverse discussion. Deputy Chief Steinbeck indicated that a representative from school police will be on the Urban Area Working Group, and both the Deputy Chief and Governor Sandoval agreed that the school police would be represented with a voice in the process. Senator Ford presented concern that due to recent circumstances, school districts may have a desire to become more involved, but he is not averse to having that expertise flow up in the process to the Commission.

Lieutenant Governor Hutchison spoke to the Co-Chair's discretion in appointing membership for efficiency and geographic representation in addition to inquiring if the Commission will be asked to adopt the EO. Governor Sandoval indicated that would be the case. The Lieutenant Governor emphasized Section [4b] on the Executive Order, and how the development of legislative recommendations and subsequent Homeland Security Working Group Report would ensue, with Chief Cage emphasizing his goal to have a full strategy in front of the Commission in preparation for legislative recommendations.

Chris Ipsen, Desert Research Institute, spoke to his concerns of past participation in the working group, and the possibility of considering that activity in placing new individuals on the body. Chief Cage indicated that the EO specifies that membership requirements, and the Co-Chairs of the working group would be willingly able to amend membership as necessary. Governor Sandoval stressed that information happens at the front end, and the responsibility of attending meetings is crucial given recent events and the current environment. It's a rare opportunity to sit on these committees and have input into the process.

Sheriff Lombardo inquired on Section [4](a)(i) within the EO, and whether that provision was under the Co-Chair's discretion. Chief Cage indicated that the plan is to come up with a proposal to put in front of the Commission to streamline boards and committees as a start to pointing those bodies in the right direction to accomplish the tasks at hand. This is a proposal to the Commission to consider the creation of a Statewide Resilience Commission with streamlined membership, or to consider if what currently exists is adequate. There is no action on this prior to July 1, 2018, before input and approval of the Commission. Sheriff Lombardo also inquired on Section [4](a)(iv) and if it was the intention to abolish the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) in lieu of a new regional Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Deputy Chief Steinbeck indicated that is the case as the MACC is not sufficient to handle large scale events. A regional EOC could handle the needs of the entire community, with redundancy throughout the area with smaller EOC's to handle local events.

**Budget Recommendations (iii)** - Considerations for DEM personnel and operations pertaining to the following programs; 1) Search and Rescue (SAR); 2) Planning, Training, and Exercise (PTE); 3) Incident Management Assistant Team (IMAT); 4) Homeland Security; 5) and Recovery.

- Chief Cage spoke to budget recommendations and the path forward in improving emergency management and homeland security within Nevada. The three strategies presented represent a starting point to discuss how DEM could go about executing the changes required in support of the resilience strategy. Slide 1 indicates a recommendation of \$32 Million to address statutory changes in the Emergency Assistance and Disaster Relief Accounts (EAA/DRA), reestablishment of the Individual Assistance Program (IA), increase in the amount of state general funding, and supplemental recommendations to enhance personnel and program capability. Slide 2 indicates a recommendation of \$6.7 Million with the elimination of the EAA, DRA, and IA requests with suggested supplemental recommendations to enhance personnel and program capability. Slide 3 indicates a highly reduced recommendation \$1.9 Million which could be possible by leveraging existing staff, resources, and funding for minimal support of the strategy moving forward. Governor Sandoval inquired on the significance of the budget recommendations provided, with Chief Cage indicating that the three proposed budget enhancements address differing levels of solution. Senator Ford presented concern on the importance of getting what DEM requires in lieu of the agency shorting itself in an attempt to be efficient by reclassifying positions to become more functional. Chief Cage wanted to stress that he is presenting a solution as to not impede other important needs of the State.
- Sheriff Lombardo inquired on the current DEM funding mechanism, with Chief Cage and Kelli Anderson explaining the current funding strategy for the Division. Emphasis was placed on the highly grant-centric nature of personnel funding, and concerns about having personnel reliant on obtaining federal grant funding and/or state funding of which both cannot be guaranteed. If grant funding decreases, so do services and personnel. Considerable discussion ensued on matching requirements and the desire to push as much funding to local, county, and tribal agencies. The Emergency Management Performance Grant is much more affected than the Homeland Security Grant Program in the way of funding for staff. Sheriff Lombardo also spoke to requirement for Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT), and whether that already was a capability through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Chief Cage indicated that while FEMA does provide IMAT assistance, this recommendation is for the state version as a deployable asset to assist city, county, and tribal locations when immediate support is warranted. Deputy Chief Steinbeck indicated that an IMAT team exists in southern Nevada, and the challenges presented in the region if there is not enough local or regional backup.
- General (Ret.) Gonzales presented concern on whether DEM could perform the functions necessary moving forward with the third and least expensive recommendation. Emphasis was placed on DEM needing more than just the bare minimum to be effective within the new paradigm shift. Chief Cage spoke to this being the difficult question in balancing the needs of the Division over the next five years to support the community with the reality of the budget process. With the lowest budgetary recommendation, the Division could continue to be an essential partner to homeland security and emergency management initiatives throughout the state, although it is difficult to come up with an exact number which would be subject to scrutiny against other public safety needs and economic realities in support of safe



and livable communities. It comes down to what reality is, and the need for public safety. Senator Ford presented concern that DEM should not bid against itself, and that the current Legislature is willing to hear what is actually needed. Chief Cage was asked to present his realistic requirements to enable the Legislature to have all of the facts for future discussions on the matter. Governor Sandoval indicated his preference is to include all needs so that the policy makers are tasked with making this difficult decision. The environment is different now, and there's a sense of urgency to address public safety. Given the current condition of the state, there may be a disposition to look at solutions. Chief Cage expressed his appreciation for the input and support received. Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, indicated his support for the recommendations and praised the Division for the work it performs. Additional discussion was raised on the inclusion of more intelligence and information sharing recommendations, with Chief Cage indicating that those capabilities are part of the efforts moving forward through the assistance of the Nevada Threat Analysis Center, Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center, Homeland Security Working Group, and the resilience strategy.

**Legislative Recommendation (iv):** Initial legislative recommendations ahead of the 2019 Legislative Session to include; 1) Create funding override capabilities for the State's Emergency Assistance Account (EAA) and Disaster Relief Account (DRA); 2) Require DEM to provide an annual report to the Nevada Department of Education, the Public Utilities Commission, and the Gaming Control Board regarding the status of compliance with emergency response plans for entities under their jurisdiction or oversight; 3) Establish a deployable statewide Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT); 4) Establish a deployable Disaster Assistance Response Team through Nevada Volunteers/AmeriCorps; 5) Allow the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security to have one bill draft request for each legislative session; 6) Establish statutory provisions for licensure of out-of-state, private medical practitioners during emergencies and disasters; and 7) Require DEM to create regulations for all DEM grants.

- Deputy Chief Steinbeck spoke to the legislative recommendations before the Commission as a foundation for the process moving forward, and indicated his appreciation to Senator Ford's support of the initiatives which must take place to move the strategy forward.
- Sheriff Lombardo spoke to Recommendation #7 requiring DEM to create high level regulations to facilitate relationships for all DEM grants, and whether that authority already exists within current grant regulations and guidelines, with Chief Cage indicating that this would address Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) authority in the way of agreements with entities for requirements of grants to ensure compliance. Right now, there are federal grant guidelines and state authorities, but there is nothing in the way of DEM authority to enforce grant requirements with current grant allocations. This is a way to facilitate that relationship.
- General (Ret.) Gonzales spoke to Recommendation #2 and his concerns that DEM would have the funding or staff to perform the functions related to the recommendation. Chief Cage spoke to the establishment of the Resort Planning Taskforce and the legislative changes required as an outcome of that recommendations of resort planning taskforce outcome. This will be built into the process moving forward.
- Senator Ford expressed appreciation in getting this list of recommendations early, and offered to share them with his legislative contacts in preparation of a bill draft request for visibility. Senator Ford also commented on his support of many of the recommendations presented. Chief Cage indicated that as August approaches, the

more robust the list and strategy will become, and that legislative support will be invaluable to the process. Governor Sandoval supported getting the information to the Legislature quickly due to the volume of bill drafts. The Governor supported the socialization of the recommendations with the Legislature as they appear currently and moving forward. Lieutenant Governor Hutchison inquired if there is any budgetary recommendation inclusion for Recommendation #4, with Chief Cage indicating that the federal government allows the use of federal grant dollars for this initiative. The Chief would support pursuing Recommendation #3 for sustainability purposes if he had to make a choice, and is trying to set the foundation to pursue this course deliberately and strategically with budgetary numbers developed through estimates including training and personnel per biennium. That number is can be refined over time.

- Richard Perkins, The Perkins Group inquired if DEM had sufficient staff to handle emergency response plans, and if not, this is an issue that must be addressed. Chief Cage indicated that DEM is a repository for over 700 plans throughout the state which are required from utilities and resorts. The item on the budget specific to Planning, Training, and Exercise development in southern Nevada, is presented with the concept to include support for these plans, and also to assist sector partners with exercises and training. Right now, there are two planners that work to make this happen. Governor Sandoval asked if DEM requires more help with this, and Chief Cage indicated more help is needed. Deputy Chief Steinbeck addressed earlier comments by General (Ret.) Gonzales on funding concerns in addressing statewide capability, and the challenges of never knowing what grant funding will be like on a year to year basis for the urban area based on the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) rankings. This presents significant challenge in funding necessary projects to increase capacity and capability.

Governor Sandoval summarized the discussion of changes requested by the Commission related to the documents put forth today, and led further discussion on the budget recommendations with input from Justin Luna, DEM Administrative Services Officer. The discussion resulted in consensus that DEM could be able to institute changes effectively using the \$6.7 budget recommendation put forth. No changes to the legislative recommendations were provided. The Governor called for a motion to approve Agenda Item #5 items to include (i) Directive as presented with no changes; (ii) Executive order as presented with the addition of the Nevada National Guard and McCarran International Airport as members on the revised Homeland Security Working Group roster; (iii) Budget recommendations as presented in \$6.7 Million option; and (iv) Legislative Recommendations as presented with no changes. Lieutenant Governor Hutchison moved to approve the motion as presented and General (Ret.) Gonzales seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously. Governor Sandoval complimented Chief Cage, Deputy Chief Steinbeck, and the support staff involved for their input into this endeavor.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Governor Sandoval called for public commentary in both venues. Sheriff Lombardo requested contact information for the Berntson family.

## **7. ADJOURN**

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was presented by Sheriff Lombardo, and a second was provided by Sheriff Allen. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.

*Kay and Jill Berntson*  
*Governor's Commission on Homeland Security*  
*Public Comment, February 28, 2018*

My name is Jill Berntson, I have been a proud public servant for almost 28 years here in Nevada but I am here today representing myself as a private citizen. With me is my hero and my husband, also of almost 28 years, Kay Berntson. 151 days ago our lives were changed forever. We were in attendance at the Route 91 Harvest Festival at the time of the mass shooting. We are here today to ask you to do three things. Before I do that I'd like to acknowledge that we know we are the "lucky ones". We didn't die, we didn't get shot and I cannot possibly express the deep sorrow I feel for the 58 people who lost their lives that night, their families, and all the people who are still suffering with physical injuries as a result of being shot. We know we are the "lucky ones" but this is our story.

In order to understand the magnitude of our experience you have to know a few of the details about our experience that night.

When the shooting first started, I thought it was firecrackers. I turned to look at my husband and the man just to our left yelled out to the crowd "she's bleeding". The rapid gun fire then started. My husband pulled me to the ground laying on top of me shielding me from gunfire. He laid there tense waiting to be shot, protecting me with his own life, while I laid there tense waiting for him to go limp. We prayed and told each other we loved each other. I prayed that we would live to see our children raise their children and I pictured Jesus's hands covering us. During a pause in the shooting, my husband realized the shooting was coming from an elevated position and said we had to get up and run, he pulled me up to start running. I was terrified, we could hear bullets whizzing by, we could hear the sound of bullets hitting people and we could smell it. As we started running out we had to step over a man lying there lifeless. I know in my brain we did what we had to do to live but in my heart that's another story. The horror I feel for leaving this person to die there alone will haunt me forever. If you are familiar with the diagram we were standing right next to Lisa Romero-Muniz. We did not have the pleasure of knowing her but we are forever connected to her now and everyone else there.

The shooting continued for what felt like forever. We continued running and ran across Las Vegas Blvd while the shooting continued. We kept running until we made it to the Excalibur. It seemed like we were one of the first people inside the Excalibur and we went up to the food court and got a bottle of water, at this point I was pretty hysterical. A big group of people started running and yelling "shooter" inside the Excalibur so we started running again. We ended up in the elevator area going up to the guest rooms. We got on the elevator full of people not knowing what was going on. I asked the young lady next to me if they had a room there and if we could come to their room with them. This is where we stayed the rest of the night, with complete strangers expressing compassion and kindness to people they didn't even know.

We laid awake the whole night and spent time checking on others we knew were there and checking in with family and friends so they would know we were safe.

We were staying at the Mandalay Bay and finally got into our room the next morning having missed our flight home. Seeing the venue from our hotel room had added to the joy of the weekend as we could see the tour buses coming and going. The horror in seeing the venue from our room after the shooting cannot be described in words. We also happened to be on the opposite end of the hotel from the shooter and I also have no words for being able to see his room from our room.

Testimony placed into record at request of Jill Bernston 2/28/18; Added attachment to minutes - KH.



Quite honestly my life was a fairy tale before this happened. I feel like I have the perfect set up to be able to handle a situation like this. I have the unconditional love and support of my husband who was there with me and understands what I am going through. We have the love and support of family and friends and we are both fortunate to have tremendous support from our work families. We managed to raise two amazing sons who are a great source of comfort and support, one of which is a fireman here in Carson City, the other is married and his wife is expecting our first grandchild in June, thank God we are here to be her grandparents.

Despite all that, this is a thousand times more difficult than I could have ever imagined. I have had a lot of time to think about what I want my story to be and I want it to be that I stood up and did something about it, that I advocated for change so this doesn't happen to anyone else. I have heard that guns don't kill people that people kill people. Cars don't kill people either yet we have imposed all these safety measures around cars to make them safer for people, like enforcing speed limits, mandating seat belts, and installing breathalyzers for people who've had DUI's. That is all I'm asking we do in this situation.

This problem must be addressed from several angles. I had a conversation with Caleb Cage and discussed the need to have stakeholder meetings that include law enforcement, mental health professionals, the Department of Education, survivors of gun violence and other interested stakeholders so that this problem can be addressed holistically. I apologize for not being as educated as I should be about this issue but for my own well-being I have had to limit my exposure to this subject matter.

For now, I am asking that we do three things:

- **Ban Bump Stocks and assault rifles.**
- **Implement a meaningful gun registry that would raise a red flag when someone buys 55 guns in one year's time. (55 is an example in this case, an appropriate threshold would need to be set.)**
- **This one is two fold: 1) Assure we have all the answers about how this was allowed to happen at Mandalay Bay. They would not allow my husband to charge a bottle of water to our room at the pool yet they let this man build a mass arsenal in his room, shoot at us, kill 58 people, seriously injuring hundreds more and forever changing the lives of everyone there. Knowing the answer to how this was allowed to happen will help us make educated decisions about implementing appropriate legislation for the gaming industry to provide for our protection. 2) Assure a forensic psychological profile is completed on the shooter in this case so we can learn from this situation and make informed decisions about other changes that need to be made.**

This is just the beginning but we have to start somewhere. Right now today while we are sitting here someone is planning the next mass shooting. We must act.

I'll end there and thank you, Governor, for your time and consideration and for the actions you are already taking regarding these issues. I am especially grateful for this time to personally thank Sheriff Lombardo and Chiefs Cassell, McDonald and Steinbeck thank you for your efforts in the wake of the tragedy and especially the men and women who serve us. I am praying for all of your healing from the secondary trauma you all witnessed and praying that you all have peace and comfort in knowing you did all you could do that night. Thank You.

***i. Directive:***

Nevada recently endured an unprecedented year of emergencies and disasters. Although jurisdictions around the state were well prepared, responded effectively, and quickly moved into recovery, 2017 brought a new awareness of the intense crises that Nevada has faced and may continue to face in the future. Given that Nevada has also transformed with respect to economy, population, and other significant measures, Nevada requires a new paradigm of resilience to align statewide homeland security and emergency management efforts.

This new paradigm should be adaptable, strategic, and developed in full collaboration with statewide partners. It will require a deliberate process for developing and vetting new policies and new investments. In order to ensure accountability to these principles and outcomes, as well as ensuring transparency to the public, this process shall be carried out throughout the remainder of calendar year 2018 and under the guidance and supervision of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security.

Although this directive calls for a new paradigm, it should not result in broad and immediate change. Rather, it should embrace existing processes and policies that currently exist in executive orders, statute, regulations, and current practices, and modify them throughout the course of 2018 through a strategic focus on resilience. Incorporating this strategic focus into existing processes and policies shall be carried out through the timeline below.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Nature of Requirement</b>
April 15, 2018	Report of the Cyber Security Committee	Committee vote
May 6, 2018	Report of the Resort Planning Task Force	Committee vote
June 30, 2018	Report of the Homeland Security Working Group	Executive Order 2015-32
June 30, 2018	Report: Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee	NAC 414A
July 1, 2018	Statewide Resilience Strategy	Executive Order (new)
August 1, 2018	Report: DEM Annual Update	Agency initiative
September 15, 2018	State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Update	NRS 414
September 15, 2018	State Response and Recovery Guide	Agency initiative
October 1, 2018	Comprehensive AAR of 1 October	Executive Order (new)
October 15, 2018	State Resilience and Preparedness Report	Executive Order (new)
November 15, 2018	Fusion Centers Joint Threat Assessment	Executive Order (new)
December 31, 2018	Report of the Homeland Security Working Group	Executive Order 2015-32
December 31, 2018	THIRA and SPR Report	Commission Requirement
February 15, 2019	Governor's Homeland Security Report	NRS 239C

**ii. Executive Order:**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF NEVADA'S STATEWIDE RESILIENCE STRATEGY**

**WHEREAS**, Nevada experienced unprecedented emergencies and disasters during calendar year 2017;

**WHEREAS**, these incidents resulted in disruption and tragedy throughout Nevada, however, they also displayed Nevada's commitment to recovery and to building a stronger Nevada based on lessons learned from these incidents;

**WHEREAS**, Nevada's 2016 strategic plan, "Generations to Come: Nevada's Strategic Planning Framework," called for Nevada's emergency management vision to align with nationally-established resilience models;

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group was created by an Executive Order issued on March 3, 2008, and amended by Executive Order 2011-31 in December 15, 2011, and again by Executive Order 2015-32 on November 16, 2016;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to these Executive Orders, the Chief of the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management and the Chair of the Las Vegas Urban Area serve as the Co-Chairs of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group;

**WHEREAS**, Nevada's lessons learned from its unprecedented year, its commitment to recovering fully, and its established policy development and implementation framework through the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group can be combined to build and implement a plan for building statewide resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 5, Section 1 of the Nevada Constitution provides: "The supreme executive of this State, shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada."

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the authority vested in me as the Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Nevada, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. The Co-Chairs of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group shall continue working to recover from the unprecedented events of 2017, expand the existing foundation for statewide preparedness, and align efforts for increased resilience ahead of the 2019 legislative and budget cycles. The Division of Emergency Management shall staff the processes outlined below under the direction of the Co-Chairs of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group and under the guidance and oversight of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security.

**Recommendations for the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security**

Deputy Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department

Chief Caleb Cage, Division of Emergency Management

2. *Effective immediately, the Co-Chairs of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group shall ensure that various grant sources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible in order to best recover from the emergencies and disasters in Nevada in 2017. This should include the following efforts:*
  - a. *Appointing a reduced number of members of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group for the 2018 Homeland Security Grant Program cycle, all of whom are voting members, in order to ensure focus on sustainment efforts, addressing immediate needs, and maintaining an efficient process. Unless they are representing agencies or regions that have not previously been appointed, appointees for the 2018 cycle will be members who have served on the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group previously, and all shall be notified of their appointment or reappointment by the Co-Chairs. Appointees may include representatives of the following jurisdictions, areas, or organizations:*
    - i. *DPS, Division of Emergency Management;*
    - ii. *Clark County Office of Emergency Management;*
    - iii. *Inter-Tribal Council;*
    - iv. *Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department;*
    - v. *City of Las Vegas;*
    - vi. *City of Henderson;*
    - vii. *City of North Las Vegas;*
    - viii. *Washoe County;*
    - ix. *Washoe County Sheriff's Office;*
    - x. *Northeastern Nevada;*
    - xi. *Southeastern Nevada;*
    - xii. *Western Nevada;*
    - xiii. *Central Nevada;*
    - xiv. *Office of Cyber Defense Coordination; and,*
    - xv. *Nevada Hospital Association.*
  - b. *The Co-Chairs shall develop a prioritized list of specific needs ahead of the 2018 Homeland Security Grant Program cycle, which is to be based on recommendations developed during the ongoing after action review processes for events in 2017. Additionally, the Co-Chairs shall develop a prioritized list of homeland security capacities and capabilities that currently exist and are essential for sustainment for funding for the 2018 grant cycle. The Nevada Homeland Security Working Group shall consider these priorities when developing their recommendations to the Finance Committee of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security.*
  - c. *The policies and procedures of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group as established and amended through Executive Orders shall otherwise remain in effect.*

3. *The Co-Chairs of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group shall build upon the existing foundation for statewide preparedness and the vision for statewide resilience by developing and updating plans for and implementing the following efforts:*
  - a. *The Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management shall update the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan as well as the Response and Recovery Guide with review and input from federal, state, tribal, local, private sector, and non-profit partners by September 15, 2018.*
  - b. *Directors of state-level Department shall provide updates regarding capabilities to the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management regarding services and resources available during emergencies.*
  - c. *The Co-Chairs shall develop and implement a training program for the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the Response and Recovery Guide for Directors and identified key leaders for Department-level agencies within state government to be completed by December 31, 2018.*
  - d. *The Co-Chairs shall develop and implement a training program for the State Recovery Framework and agency roles during activation as Recovery Support Functions for Directors and identified key leaders for Department-level agencies within state government to be completed by December 31, 2018.*
  - e. *Under the authority of NRS 414.300, the Co-Chairs shall develop regulations for information sharing protocols for HIPAA-protected information and Personally Identifiable Information between federal, state, tribal, local, private sector, and non-profit partners during emergencies. These regulations shall include training requirements for state and local agencies to ensure understanding of the information sharing protocols.*
  - f. *The Co-Chairs shall also establish a state-specific certification standard for emergency managers in the state.*
  
4. *The Co-Chairs of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group shall develop for approval by the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security a five-year resilience strategy to align statewide emergency management and homeland security initiatives through the following efforts:*
  - a. *Working with federal, state, tribal, local, private sector, and non-profit partners, the Co-Chairs of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group shall provide a statewide resilience strategy to the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security no later than July 1, 2018. The statewide resilience strategy shall include at a minimum the following items:*
    - i. *Proposals for streamlining the numerous commissions, boards, and committees that advise the Division of Emergency Management through the creation of a statewide resilience commission.*



**Recommendations for the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security**

Deputy Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department

Chief Caleb Cage, Division of Emergency Management

- ii. *Proposals for streamlining various grants processes that impact emergency management and homeland security.*
- iii. *Proposals for incentivizing local partners through grants and other preparedness opportunities to engage in local resilience models.*
- iv. *Proposals for a regional approach to resilience and preparedness, to include recommendations to fund a Regional Emergency Operations Center in the Las Vegas Urban Area.*
- v. *Proposals for partnership with institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education.*
- b. *The Co-Chairs shall provide the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security a final list of legislative recommendations for consideration and approval for the 2019 Legislative Session in the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group Report due June 30, 2018.*
- c. *The Co-Chairs shall provide a comprehensive After Action Report of the Las Vegas mass casualty event to the Homeland Security Commission by October 1, 2018.*
- d. *The Co-Chairs shall provide to the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security a Resilience and Preparedness Report by October 15, 2018.*
- e. *The Co-Chairs will work with both Fusion Centers within the state to develop a joint threat assessment by November 15, 2018.*
- f. *The Co-Chairs shall provide the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for both the state and the Las Vegas Urban Area, as well as the State Preparedness Report to the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security no later than December 31, 2018. These reports shall include specific reports by local, state, and tribal agencies, and shall coincide with the final report of the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year two thousand eighteen.*



## **AGENDA ITEM #5iii**

# **PRESENTATION BY THE NEVADA HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY IN NEVADA**

**Caleb Cage, Chief and Homeland Security Advisor (HSA)**

**Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security**

**John Steinbeck, Deputy Chief and Urban Area Administrator (UAA)**

**Las Vegas Urban Area - Clark County Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management and  
Homeland Security**



# AGENDA ITEM #5iii

## RECOMMENDATIONS

ALL IN OVER \$32 MILLION

- Statute changes to state's EAA and DRA and additional allocations
- Reestablish the Individual Assistance program
- Increase the state general fund allocation to DEM in order to allow more grant dollars to be available for local and tribal partners
- Reestablish the position of Deputy Chief within DEM
- Fund the state Search and Rescue program required in NRS 414
- Building out a Planning, Training, and Exercise program in southern Nevada
- Establish a Southern Nevada Regional Emergency Operations Center
- Establish deployable statewide Incident Management Assistance Teams
- Additional DEM staff to support the Homeland Security process
- Additional DEM staff to support the Recovery process



# AGENDA ITEM #5iii

## RECOMMENDED PRIORITIES

APPROX \$6.7 MILLION FOR BIENNIUM

- Increase state general fund to DEM to allow more grant dollars to be available for local and tribal partners \$4,000,000
- Reestablish the position of Deputy Chief within DEM \$ 300,000
- Fund the state Search and Rescue program required in NRS 414 \$ 145,000
- Building out a Planning, Training, and Exercise program in southern Nevada \$ 929,500
- Establish deployable statewide Incident Management Assistance Teams \$ 400,000
- Additional DEM staff to support the Homeland Security process \$ 400,000
- Additional DEM staff to support the Recovery process \$ 540,000



# AGENDA ITEM #5iii

## PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

APPROX \$1.9 MILLION FOR BIENNIUM

- ✓ Increase state general fund to DEM to allow more grant dollars to be available for local and tribal partners \$ 500,000
- ✓ Reestablish the position of Deputy Chief within DEM \$ 22,000
- ✓ Fund the state Search and Rescue program required in NRS 414 \$ 72,500
- ✓ Building out a Planning, Training, and Exercise program in southern Nevada \$ 673,500
- ✓ Establish deployable statewide Incident Management Assistance Teams \$ 400,000
- ✓ Additional DEM staff to support the Homeland Security process \$ 240,000
- ✓ Additional DEM staff to support the Recovery process \$ 0

**iv. Legislative Recommendations:**

*If approved in its current form, the proposed executive order states that “the Co-Chairs shall provide the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security a final list of legislative recommendations for consideration and approval for the 2019 Legislative Session in the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group Report due June 30, 2018.” This timeline will allow for maximum outreach to federal, state, tribal, local, private sector, and non-profit partners for input, as well as time for consideration and approval by the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security. Once approved by the Commission, the Co-Chairs will work to convert these recommendations into formal legislative policies, updating the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security throughout.*

*The Co-Chairs have developed an initial list of legislative recommendations to provide a foundation for this process, starting with the initial presentation in December of 2017 and continuing with the second presentation in January of 2018. These broad policy recommendations have been further refined throughout the development of the Directive, Executive Order, and Budgetary policies submitted during the February meeting. The recommendations below provide the most updated version of the legislative recommendations to date, which will continue to evolve ahead of the June 30, 2018 report.*

**Recommendation 1:** *Create funding override capabilities for the state’s Emergency Assistance Account (EAA) and Disaster Relief Account (DRA). This budgetary change would be further enhanced if statutes were changed to address the ways in which money can be transferred from the DRA to the EAA. Additionally, reestablish the Individual Assistance (IA) program at the state level as a category within the DRA.*

**Recommendation 2:** *Require DEM to provide an annual report to the Nevada Department of Education, the Public Utilities Commission, and the Gaming Control Board regarding the status of compliance with emergency response plans for entities under their jurisdiction or oversight.*

**Recommendation 3:** *Establish a deployable statewide Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT). This on-call team would serve in a reserve capacity, activated during emergencies and at the request of local, state, or tribal jurisdictions.*

**Recommendation 4:** *Establish a deployable Disaster Assistance Response Team through Nevada Volunteers/AmeriCorps.*

**Recommendation 5:** *Allow the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security to have one bill draft request for each legislative session. This would not only allow the Commission to have a distinct voice in the policy development process, but it would also ensure that state-level policy evolves as the landscape and environment evolves.*

**Recommendation 6:** *Establish statutory provisions for licensure of out-of-state, private medical practitioners during emergencies and disasters.*

***Recommendations for the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security***

Deputy Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department

Chief Caleb Cage, Division of Emergency Management

***Recommendation 7: Require DEM to create regulations for all DEM grants.***