



# Meeting Minutes

## Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

### Committee on Finance

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday September 7, 2022	
	<b>TIME</b>	10:00 a.m.	
	<b>METHOD</b>	Zoom/Teleconference	
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Sherrean Whipple	
<b>Voting Member Attendance</b>			
Name	Title/Organization	Present	
Joseph Lombardo - CHAIR	Sheriff, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department	X	
Greg Herrera - VICE CHAIR	Chief Deputy, Operations, Washoe County Sheriff's Office	ABS	
Mike Brown	State Government Affairs Director, R&R Partners	X	
Christopher Lake	Executive Director, Community Resilience, Nevada Hospital Association	X	
Carolyn Levering	Emergency Management Administrator, City of Las Vegas	ABS	
Erin Lynch	Chief, Nevada Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy	X	
Stan Smith	Vice President, Emergency Management, Boyd Gaming Corporation	X	
<b>Non-Voting Member Attendance</b>			
David Fogerson	Chief, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security	X	
<b>Level Staff / Support Attendance</b>			
Samantha Ladich	Senior Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Office of the Attorney General	X	
Sherrean Whipple	Nevada Division of Emergency Management	X	

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair, Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, called the meeting to order. Sherrean Whipple, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS) performed the roll call. Quorum was established for the meeting.

#### 2. Public Comment

Chair Joseph Lombardo opened the first period of public comment.

Chief David Fogerson noted that one member of the Committee on Finance, Greg Herrera out of Washoe County Sheriff's Office has recently retired and the Committee is working on getting a letter from either Mr. Herrera or from the sheriff confirming his removal from the Committee, at which time a new member will be sought to fill that role.

Chair Joseph Lombardo asked if there was a reason for the unforeseen delay.

Chief David Fogerson indicated his belief that this was simply a matter of confusion on the parts of all involved and it is now just waiting for the confirmation letter, which is scheduled to arrive later today.

Chair Joseph Lombardo asked what course of action needs to be taken to bring the replacement.

Chief David Fogerson noted that he needs to see if there are replacements available, ideally from Washoe County Sheriff's Office in order to be balanced on the Committee between north and south. Chief Fogerson indicated he would next submit that to the Governor's Boards and Commissions Office for approval.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Joseph Lombardo called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2022, Committee meeting. Mike Brown, State Government Affairs Director, motioned to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Request for Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Program De-Obligated Funds to be Awarded to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD)**

Suz Coyote, DEM/HS, explained that this is the request by LVMPD for a robot dog that was not fully fundable through the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) FFY22 grant funds for Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) UASI and as such, the request is for de-obligated funds from FFY19 HSGP. Ms. Coyote explained that this is essentially a robot dog equipped with cameras, speakers, lights, and a microphone and will be used primarily for SWAT operations to carry technical equipment into places that are too dangerous to send a person to search for a suspect in order to facilitate communication with a subject by crisis negotiation team, to de-escalate the situation, and to safely take the suspect into custody without endangering the lives of officers. Ms. Coyote explained that the platform is modular and can easily be adapted to additional missions such as search and rescue, cyber, and crowd control. Ms. Coyote indicated that LVMPD is also requesting for de-obligated funds wireless radio, a system that allows the operator to send commands to the drone and allows this platform to integrate seamlessly into the larger Silvis wireless network that they build in past grant projects. Ms. Coyote further indicated that LVMPD is requesting batteries for the robot dog. In total, Ms. Coyote informed the Committee that the total funding request is \$150,000 in these FFY19 de-obligated funds.

Chair Joseph Lombardo asked if this robot dog is fully funded now with de-obligation.

Suz Coyote noted her understanding is that it is fully funded between the FFY22 HSGP grant request and the FFY19 budget.

Chair Joseph Lombardo called for a motion to approve the obligation in item number 4. Stan Smith, Vice President, Emergency Management, Boyd Gaming Corporation, motioned to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Grant Status Report**

Suz Coyote, DEM/HS, noted that the meeting materials contain a report on existing HSGP grants for FFY 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 for the period ending June 20, 2022. Ms. Coyote explained that this is the complete report of the status of all these projects, a list of which projects

in those grant years have closed, and a budget summary of each, including funds expended and any de-obligated funds.

## **6. DEM/HS FEMA Audit Results for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022**

Jared Franco, DEM/HS, informed the Committee that DEM/HS undergoes yearly federal monitoring and state auditing because of the visibility, sensitive material, and duties it is tasked with accomplishing. Mr. Franco explained that DEM/HS is currently undergoing a state audit of the warehouse run and controlled by DEM/HS during the pandemic. Mr. Franco indicated that the audit has been ongoing since FFY21 and will be wrapping up following the next site visit to the Las Vegas warehouse, scheduled for a later time when the warehouse is more organized around the consolidation of the northern warehouse. Mr. Franco indicated his belief that there should be no issues coming from the audit. Mr. Franco next explained that in 2021, Nevada's contracted CPA firm began conducting an audit on DEM/HS's disaster grants, also known as public assistance, an audit that was closed out in July 2022 with the only finding needing corrective action being the reporting the grant dollar amount received to the Federal Sub-award Reporting System (FSRS) in a timely manner to ensure compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.

Mr. Franco next explained that in April of 2022, five personnel from FEMA Region IX staff were in the DEM/HS office for five days conducting an onsite financial monitoring review of numerous different grants, including: both 2016 floods; COVID disaster of 2019-2021; the Emergency Manager Program Grant (EMPG); 2019-2020 HSGP; and the 2020 nonprofit security grant program. Mr. Franco reported that there were no findings for this monitoring visit, and DEM/HS was praised by Region IX personnel for the amazing job of the grant staff. Mr. Franco next reported that from August 29 through September 7, the preparedness officer from FEMA headquarters who oversees Nevada's HSGP conducted program monitoring of 60 HSGP grants spanning from FFY17 through FFY20 to ensure compliance with code of federal regulations and program guidance. Mr. Franco noted that DEM/HS has not yet received an official findings letter but was able to confirm that the preparedness officer noted that he did not see anything needing corrective action and praised staff for their work.

Chief David Fogerson highlighted the fact that there are currently approximately \$95 million worth of grant funds moving through DEM/HS, which DEM/HS wishes to daylight, particularly to the Committee on Finance, for purposes of transparency. Chief Fogerson noted the importance of finding problems that need fixing early before they become overwhelming.

Chair Joseph Lombardo concurred with Chief Fogerson and thanked DEM/HS for their effort in remaining transparent.

## **7. Public Comment**

Chair Joseph Lombardo opened the second period of public comment.

There was no public comment.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair Joseph Lombardo call for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stan Smith, Vice President,

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of Boyd Gaming Corporation, motioned to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.

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