



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Wednesday, December 6, 2017	
	TIME	9:30 AM	
	LOCATION	Legislative Counsel Bureau Legislative Building – Room #3138 401 S. Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701	
	METHOD	Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Karen Burke	X
Joseph Lombardo	X	Caleb Cage	X
Chuck Allen	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X
Gregory Cassell	X	Aaron Ford	
Lisa Christensen		Chris Ipsen	X
Robert Fisher		William McCurdy	
Frank Gonzales	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	X
Mark Hutchison	X	Aaron Rouse	X
Ikram Khan	X		
Tom Lozich		Samantha Ladich – Sr. DAG	X
William McDonald		Karen Hall (Analyst/Staff)	X
Charles Moore	X		
Richard Perkins	X		
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X		
Troy Wade			
Bill Welch	X		

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. No commentary presented in either venue.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Commission meeting held September 7, 2017. Motion to approve was presented by Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison, and a second was provided by Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval recognized Secretary of State (SOS) Barbara Cegavske's attendance and his intention to move her presentation for Agenda Item #9 up to accommodate her schedule. The Governor spoke to the reverberations surrounding the October 1, 2017, Route 91 Harvest Festival mass shooting event in Las Vegas, and he expressed his profound gratitude for the actions of LVMPD and all responders on the handling of that event. The Governor emphasized the professionalism and dignity which responders, agencies, and the public exhibited throughout the response and aftermath of the incident. Additionally, the Governor offered prayer for those taken by the incident speaking to his visits with many that were affected. The Governor emphasized that the effects of this horrific incident are not over. The training that has been approved by this Commission, in addition to other established training events, was evident in how this incident was and is being handled. The Governor expressed that he hopes to never have to see this type of event happen again, but knows that the people affected are "Vegas Strong", and they are receiving help.

5. BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) PROJECTS AND THE UPCOMING 2018 HSGP PROCESS

Chief Caleb Cage, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS) briefed the Commission on the current HSGP status and upcoming 2018 process. For FFY 2015, the state has spent 81% of the grant funding awarded, and it will continue to spend that balance down through the end of the grant performance period. For FFY 2016, the state has spent 18% overall. Chief Cage indicated that many of the projects funded in FFY 2015 are being closed out, and those projects will soon access the FFY 2016 funding which will draw down the award balance. In FFY 2017, 0% of awarded funding has been spent, with funding awards having been released this fall. Chief Cage spoke to joint efforts throughout the state in conducting the 2017 Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Analysis (THIRA) and outreach conducted to complete the State Preparedness Report (SPR). Both the THIRA and SPR are due to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by December 31, 2017. Once these reports are submitted, the Commission will hear a presentation on the results and subsequently develop its top five core capabilities for the FFY 2018 HSGP cycle. HSGP project proposals will be received for both the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding streams. In a series of meetings, the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) will convene and review submitted statewide projects, subcommittee vetting will occur by the Cyber Security Committee (CSC) on cyber-related projects and the Nevada Public Safety Communications Committee (NPSCC) on

communications-related projects, and then back to HSWG for ranking consideration. Once ranked, HSGP project proposal recommendations are forwarded to the Commission's Finance Committee, and then to the Commission for final approval allowing DEM/HS to submit the FFY 2018 Federal Grant Application for consideration. The Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) runs a similar and parallel process during this time period to vet and rank-prioritize urban-area projects. The Governor thanked Chief Cage for the efforts required due to this process, and asked if there was concern with the current status of the grants as presented. Per Chief Cage, he does not have any current concerns with regard to the status of the grants as presented. The Governor inquired if the same process would be followed for 2018 as in previous years. Chief Cage indicated that there are recommendations which will be presented later in the meeting to potentially improve the process, but in general the process will remain similar to previous years.

6. BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF THE NEVADA OFFICE OF CYBER DEFENSE COORDINATION

Director Jim Wright, Nevada Department of Public Safety, briefed the Commission on the current status of position authority related to the newly created Office of Cyber Defense Coordination (OCDC). Position funding became available in October of 2017. Director Wright introduced Shaun Rahmeyer as the new Administrator for OCDC noting Mr. Rahmeyer's United States Air force veteran status in addition to his law enforcement and intelligence background.

Mr. Rahmeyer spoke to his current assignment and strategic plan goals. One staff member has been hired, and the recruitment process for additional personnel is underway. The qualifications required are unique, and the recruitment process may take some time. Efforts continue to establish office space in addition to policies and procedures. Mr. Rahmeyer indicated that the development of the OCDC strategic plan will be complete by the end of December 2017. Governor Sandoval inquired if any of the goals were ready to share with the Commission, and Mr. Rahmeyer indicated that the dynamic nature of cyber security will ensure that his goals and strategies proceed rapidly.

Lieutenant Governor Hutchison inquired on the challenges of recruiting for OCDC positions due to the specialized skillsets required. Mr. Rahmeyer indicated that in 2016, the unemployment rate for cyber security professionals was 0%, and due to this, recruiting is a challenge. Of special note, the Cyber Intelligence Analyst may pose the most challenging due to the unique skill of leveraging and exploiting cyber threat data. The Lieutenant Governor thanked Mr. Rahmeyer on his efforts in establishing the state's cybersecurity priorities.

Sheriff Lombardo requested that the OCDC strategic plan is provided to the Commission at its next meeting. The Sheriff spoke to the complexities related to the funding matrix and staying on schedule with goals. Mr. Rahmeyer indicated the plan will be available by the first of the year (2018). Sheriff Lombardo indicated his preference to see timelines associated with the strategic plan to address operational needs. Governor Sandoval agreed with that request, and asked that the Commission have the benefit of reviewing the OCDC plan. As Governor, he is

allotted only five priority bills, and the creation of the OCDC was one of the bills he chose to push through.

7. PRESENTATION ON THE CYBER SECURITY REPORT

Lieutenant Governor Hutchison provided an overview of the Initial Report of the Cyber Security Committee, thanking Chief Cage and his staff for their input on the report. Noting cybersecurity as the number one priority of the Commission, the Lieutenant Governor spoke to the work which needed to be accomplished and the importance of the objectives within the report emphasizing the committee's use of its collective expertise in vetting and prioritizing cyber security projects, and strategies moving forward related to policy and budget findings. The Governor complimented the Lieutenant Governor on his leadership, and that this initial report reflects the thought and effort that went into the document.

General (Ret.) Frank Gonzales spoke to his visit at the Pentagon last month noting that a highlight from that visit surrounded the Secretary of the Army's initiative to use reserve National Guard resources at the state level to offset the difficulty in recruiting skilled cybersecurity personnel. The Department of the Army is looking into bringing soldiers through direct commission from the private or public sector into the National Guard to help increase skilled cybersecurity resources within organizations nationally.

Chief Cage thanked the Lieutenant Governor, and recommended the Committee spend time looking at pages 16-17 of the report to see the recommendations to the Administrator of the OCDC. These recommendations will be refined in the final report, but they reflect the concern brought up earlier by Sheriff Lombardo on establishing accountability through funding the right cybersecurity projects, ensuring return on investment, and pursuing change strategically.

Mr. Rahmeyer extended his appreciation to the Committee and Chief Cage for the recommendations. They will be included in the final product. Mr. Rahmeyer also spoke to the use of leveraging the military adding that the Department of Defense has granted authority to the state National Guard reserve components as it relates to cybersecurity. This will be a tremendous force multiplier to leverage skillsets to assist the state.

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to approve the Initial Report of the Cyber Security Committee as presented. A motion was presented by Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants, and a second was provided by Gen (Ret.) Gonzales. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

8. UPDATE ON CURRENT DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS INCLUDING EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2017

Chief Cage, DEM/HS presented a brief overview of the 2016-2017 DEM Annual Report which denotes the activity of the division from July 2016, through June 2016. There were seven declared events statewide, and two of those events are still in recovery for the flooding that happened earlier in the year. Both of those events resulted in Presidential declarations.

Governor Sandoval spoke to the difficult year with the snow, floods, fires, and the Route 91 Harvest Festival event testing the capability of the state. The response and cooperation has been amazing. The Governor indicated his appreciation for knowing that Chief Cage and his staff were on the ground every time, and that effort means a lot to those in need.

Chief Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, spoke to the challenges his department faced throughout 2017 noting the extensive amount of fires, threatened structures, and the immense response support given to the Little Valley Fire incident. The coordination from the state and local level was tremendous in an effort to save citizens from burning homes and protecting fire fighters. Chief Moore indicated his gratitude for the response from federal, state, and local agencies.

Governor Sandoval also spoke to the flooding emergencies reiterating his own personal experience and gratitude in having a neighbor saved from the flooding in her home due to the efforts of many of the agencies Chief Moore spoke of earlier.

Sheriff Lombardo emphasized the balances associated with the Disaster Relief Account (DRA) and the Emergency Assistance Account (EAA) denoted in the report and the importance of those numbers as they relate to response and recovery. The Sheriff inquired if it was appropriate for the Commission to go before the Nevada State Legislature regarding recovery funding in the future as the DRA is in trouble. Chief Cage indicated that the DRA is administered by DEM/HS and funding is approved by the Legislature each time there is a request during a declared event. Local governments can get up to 50% reimbursement on uncovered costs. The process is time intensive, and there are a significant number of political subdivisions seeking reimbursement from that account. Current, the EAA is listed at a projected balance of \$40,000 given current expenditures, and the Board of Examiners has been able to get additional funding into this account. Chief Cage recommended for the allowance of drawdown for both accounts with overdraft capability to eliminate barriers to deploy resources during an emergency.

Governor Sandoval inquired if Sheriff Lombardo wanted an increased amount of funding in the account as a consideration in the next executive budget and legislative session. Chief Cage indicated there is value in statute allowing the EAA to receive DRA funding outside of the yearly cycle which is currently in statute. Should there be a path forward in directly funding, it would be beneficial, and drawdown capability is worthy of consideration. The Governor spoke to upcoming budget discussions in March 2018, and it is important for him to know about this now due to its importance.

9. BRIEFING FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S DECISION TO LIST ELECTION SYSTEMS AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Secretary of State (SOS), Barbara Cegavske briefed the Commission on actions her office has taken as a result of election systems now considered as critical infrastructure. The SOS provided an overview of the divisions within her office

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including emphasis the roles of the Elections Division which include the responsibility for the execution and enforcement of State and Federal election laws.

Wayne Thorley, Deputy of Elections, spoke to the historical background involved with the designation of election systems as critical infrastructure. Emphasizing that Nevada was indeed not one of the states targeted for election fraud, Mr. Thorley indicated the criticality of strengthening relationships with DHS and understanding the importance of cybersecurity. Physical and cyber infrastructure fall under the umbrella of critical infrastructure which enables communication sharing between DHS and law enforcement. Mr. Thorley discussed that the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) for the Election Infrastructure Subsector adopting the initial charter in October of 2017, and the SOS participation as an alternate member.

The Governor thanked both the SOS and Mr. Thorley speaking to the fundamentals of voter security and inquiring if there was any comment pertaining to Nevada's county voting machines. Mr. Thorley indicated there are 17 counties and 15 clerks, and spoke to 2017 legislation pertaining to Assembly Bill 519 related to the appropriation of grant funding to replace voting equipment. At this time, all counties are contracting with vendors and awaiting approval for purchase. Prior to primarily election next year, all counties will have new, federally-certified voting machines. Governor Sandoval indicated that historically, counties were responsible for such purchases, and he is in support of the grant funding applied to offset those costs. The SOS added that county commissioners also contributed monetary support as well, and the rural communities are appreciative of those efforts.

Sheriff Lombardo inquired on the designation of election systems. Mr. Thorley indicated that the designation was made in January of this year. Sheriff Lombardo expressed interest on whether there would be future investment justifications coordinated through the state as a result. Per Mr. Thorley, there is currently no appropriation for this, nor is he aware of any grant opportunities related to the designation; however Chief Cage has made the SOS's office aware of other grant funding available. Gonzalo Cordova, Protective Security Advisor for DHS, spoke to this issue, and he believes it should go through the established process. It will be up to the state to provide critical infrastructure information during the National Critical Infrastructure Prioritization Program (NCIPP) Data Call to identify such sites. Chief Cage indicated that the state won't know if there are any resources available until the Notice of Funding Opportunities come out for 2018, and there are ongoing conversations regarding eligibility under the HSGP.

Lieutenant Governor Hutchison inquired if Nevada had been one of the states targeted prior to the 2016 election, with Mr. Thorley indicating it had not. Mr. Thorley explained that what occurred in other states was scanning. In two states, malicious actors were able to gain access to voter registration systems, although there was no evidence of information tampering. Nevada remains vigilant in securing its systems. DHS communications have improved since the 2016 election in addition to considerable outreach to establish quality relationships. The Lieutenant Governor thanked the SOS's office, Director Wright, and Chief Cage for their efforts.

10. BRIEFING FROM THE HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS ON LESSONS LEARNED FROM NEVADA'S 2017 EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS INCLUDING THE OCTOBER 1 ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT IN LAS VEGAS

Chief Cage, DEM/HS, briefed the Commission on the initial lessons learned from the unprecedented 2017 disasters in Nevada. Emphasis was placed on the capture of lessons learned as a foundational basis for future discussion and response. A historical context overview was provided in addition to comparisons between State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016 through 2017. Of significance was the fact that Nevada had three major events including the January and February flooding disasters in addition to the Route 91 Harvest Festival Mass Shooting event (1 October). This is the first time Nevada has seen two consecutive Presidential Major Disaster Declarations (PMDD) followed by what is now categorized as the largest mass shooting in United States History. Chief Cage expressed his gratitude for the first responders in stabilizing that event in addition to complimenting the Clark County Fire Department, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and municipal organizations that worked together. Moving forward, these efforts will be seen as national best practices.

Deputy Chief Steinbeck thanked the Governor for his support and leadership, and spoke to the Commission in perspective of the emergency management aspect of the 1 October event. Victims and survivors are the number one priority during the recovery period. At the request of the Deputy Chief, a moment of silence was observed for the victims. On June 12th, 2016, Orlando was deemed the worst mass shooting event in the United States until 10:05 p.m. on October 1, 2017, when a shooter killed 58 citizens and terrorized thousands more in Las Vegas. Hundreds of personnel responded. Deputy Chief Steinbeck thanked Sheriff Lombardo and Chief Gregory Cassell, Clark County Fire Department, for their response effort in addition to many other heroic responders including volunteers. The responders were prepared to deal with mass casualty incidents through hours of planning, training, exercising, and equipment purchases enhanced by HSGP funding. Deputy Chief Steinbeck emphasized the importance of funding. It matters how the Commission prioritizes capability. Shooting events are low frequency but high-risk. Training has been continuous as have efforts to form plans, policies, and procedures. Nineteen Rescue Taskforces were established to rescue victims.

Response is vital, but recovery takes much longer. Deputy Chief Steinbeck spoke to reunification efforts and the establishment of the Family Assistance Center (FAC) which remained open through the end of October. Services included victim advocacy, counseling, financial needs, document services, social services, travel, and lodging, and working with Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in returning personal property to those affected. The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center was opened and will evolve to support ongoing services required. Many areas outside government also responded. Deputy Chief Steinbeck spoke to the Clark County Resiliency Framework created with the assistance of the State. Emphasis was placed on the goals within the Framework, with Goal #1 as the priority which includes the provision for immediate and long-term needs of the residents, visitors and responders. Further information was provided on established working groups and steering committees for ongoing recovery and available services.

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Chief Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, inquired on what techniques used to push information to those in harm's way or outside the danger zone. Deputy Chief Steinbeck spoke to the creation of the Joint Information Center (JIC) using television, radio, and social media to push information to the public and responders. Information verification was challenging with a crowd of 22,000 including vendors, and tactical decisions reflected that effort. Hospitals were contacted and Medical Surge area command was established. Information was difficult to get to responders due to phone lines being unavailable, and alternative forms of communication such as radio were used for updates.

Chief Cassell spoke to some of the technological issues associated with the event, and indicated that he had spoken to Senator Catherine Cortez Masto. Senator Masto initiated a letter to address the approval of a study on Long Term Evolution (LTE) needs. Chief Cassell thanked the Governor for his decision to opt in for the FirstNet interoperability project, in addition to extending thanks to Chief Cage, Deputy Chief Steinbeck, and State Coroner John Fudenberg on their efforts related to the 1 October event and the establishment of the FAC and Resiliency Center. The response was phenomenal. Additionally, Chief Cassell thanked the community for its support as well in addition to indicating that Deputy Chief Steinbeck will be an asset used to help establish similar centers nationally.

Rosemary Vassiliadis, Clark County Aviation, spoke to the fence line breach that occurred at McCarran International Airport as a result of the 1 October event. Because of emergency plans and exercises that this Commission has prioritized, lives were saved. Unified Command was set up immediately, and both air and ground operations responded quickly including fire substations. The plans and exercises give responding agencies a starting point to deal with horrific events. Ms. Vassiliadis emphasized her appreciation for LVMPD, CCFD, and all others that responded to this event. When the unknown occurs, responders that stick to the plan create order out of chaos. This was the case at McCarran International to ensure it was not a contributor to negative results.

Sheriff Lombardo spoke to the Homeland Security Working Group and HSGP funding mechanisms indicating investment justifications (IJ) are submitted on "what if" scenarios. The 1 October incident encompassed response from every emergency agency. Moving forward, the Sheriff emphasized the need to utilize After Action Reports (AAR) to develop and determine funding future IJs. AARs give a blueprint just like a strategic plan, and it will benefit the Commission to make decisions. He applauds those that contribute to the AAR.

Richard Perkins, the Perkins Group, spoke to communications and a previous presentation to the Commission by Secured Communications which was helpful during the event. Sheriff Lombardo indicated that the service provided by Secure Communications was a vital resource for LVMPD. He was not aware of any other public agency utilizing that system during the event, and indicated the system was robust and continued to work when LTE issues occurred. The Sheriff did not identify any gaps during the event.

Lieutenant Governor Hutchison commented that the upcoming grant cycle would be faced with prioritizing capability, and it may be helpful to identify issues affecting

capability for the Commission, and to apply experiences in identifying gaps. The Governor agreed on the premise, and requested a future agenda item to address this issue. Chief indicated that there will be strategic input into this process that will be ready for the next Commission meeting in January, 2018. The Lieutenant Governor requested clarification on long-term needs, with Deputy Chief Steinbeck indicating responders were proactively informed on those resources available to them in addition to supervisory training to identify issues associated with the event. Resources would be available not just once, but on an ongoing basis. This is pushed out through the private sector as well to make sure personnel issues are identified and incorporated into the resources available.

Governor Sandoval spoke to the flood events earlier in the year, and he recognized Reid Kaiser, Nevada Department of Transportation, for his agency's response and mitigation efforts ensuring Nevada roads were rebuilt and maintained throughout the unprecedented flooding.

Governor Sandoval requested that the Commission be presented immediate, intermediate, and long term recommendations for approval, and Chief Cage spoke to budgetary and policy decisions moving forward in addition to strategies which could be pushed forward for the next meeting. The Governor agreed, and requested this information be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Chief Steinbeck closed his comments by indicating victims and survivors are a priority, and recovery from this incident will be immense. Chief Steinbeck thanked everyone for their support including the non-profit sector's vital partnership during and after the event. Without that, ongoing efforts for recovery would not be possible.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Detective Roger Haskins, LVMPD ARMOR Taskforce thanked the Governor, Chief Cage, Chief Steinbeck, emergency managers, first responders, and receipt of grant funding for the effects of the effort put forth during the October 1, 2017, Route 91 Harvest Festival event. Detective Haskins emphasized the importance of the equipment and combined unit training provided by Homeland Security Grant Program, without which, the capability to respond would have been diminished. Detective Haskins also presented concern over what may lie in the future regarding funding such important initiatives.

12. ADJOURN

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was presented by Chief Cassell, and a second was provided by Chief Moore. All were in favor with no opposition. The Governor wished everyone happy holidays and a happy new year. Meeting adjourned.