



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Wednesday, November 29, 2023			
	TIME	1:00 PM			
	METHOD	Zoom/Teleconference Conference line #: (669) 219-2599 Meeting ID# 686 738 8625			
	RECORDER	Sherrean Whipple			
Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Governor Joe Lombardo - Chair	X	Mitchell Fox	X	Chief John Steinbeck	X
Sheriff Kevin McMahon – Vice-Chair	ABS	Chief Fernando Grey	ABS	George Togliatti	X
Col. Brett Compston	X	Dr. Ikram Khan	X	Rosemary Vassiliadis	X
Sheriff Darin Balaam	X	Chief Charles Moore	X	Patricia Wade	X
Spencer Evans	ABS	Harriett Parker	ABS	Bill Welch	X
Todd Fasulo	ABS	Richard Perkins	X		
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance					
Karen Burke	X	Christopher Ipsen	X	P.K. O'Neill	X
Gonzalo Cordova	X	David Fogerson	X	Aakin Patel	X
Legal and Support Staff Attendance					
Samantha Ladich	X	Sherrean Whipple	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Governor Joe Lombardo called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean Whipple, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Joe Lombardo opened the first period of public comment for discussion.

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Governor Joe Lombardo called for a motion to amend or amend and approve the draft minutes from the September 7, 2023, Nevada Commission on Homeland Security meeting.

Bill Welch stated that the only correction was that he was present at this meeting, and he was marked absent. Sherrean Whipple acknowledged the error and stated she would correct it.

Dr. Ikram Khan motioned to approve the minutes with the correction of Bill Welch's attendance. Patricia Wade, Wade Development, seconded the motion to approve the minutes with the correction.

No discussion was presented. All were in favor with no opposition, and the motion passed with the correction, unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION ON FORMULA ONE EVENT

Deputy Fire Chief Billy Samuels, Clark County Emergency Manager, and Diana Clarkson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Emergency Manager.

Diana Clarkson explained that despite all the events to which Las Vegas is home, Formula One was a new experience. Ms. Clarkson indicated that the event included a 3.8 mile track brought into the city through the biggest tourist corridor. Ms. Clarkson explained that this event involved a two-year collective planning effort that included all partner agencies creating subcommittees from a public safety standpoint that brought together different specialties, functions, and geographical areas. Ms. Clarkson indicated that each of those subcommittees met either weekly or biweekly, and then the group would meet as a whole monthly and quarterly for review, changes, or updates, which allowed for early and consistent information flow in the planning effort from a collaborative standpoint. Ms. Clarkson next discussed preparedness, noting that for large-scale special events, multi-agency emergency critical incident exercises are always held, and noted that a series of these exercises were done for Formula one so as to challenge multiple different concerns and ensure knowledge of all the different response plans from all of the different agencies. Ms. Clarkson explained that this allowed for the identification of gaps and concerns so as to make relevant changes prior to the date of the event. Ms. Clarkson next discussed the event planning team, noting that LVMPD has a dedicated event planning section with expertise in special-event deployments. Ms. Clarkson indicated that this team works closely with partner agencies, and leveraged all of the state, federal, and private sector assets to create a robust deployment plan for Formula One. Ms. Clarkson next indicated that the SEER (Special Event Assessment Rating) was re-adjudicated from a 3 to a 2 in the weeks leading up to the event, which provided Metro with a federal coordination team, as well as some instrumental federal assets that filled some of the gaps in the deployment plan. Ms. Clarkson next discussed the incident where a vehicle drove over a water valve cover that caused a delay in the race and some unanticipated crowd movement changes, noting that first responding agencies were quickly able to adapt to this change due to the robust deployment plan. Ms. Clarkson next acknowledged leadership and partnerships, explaining that multiple different command centers were activated for the event, allowing for having the appropriate leadership together to ensure seamless information sharing and dynamic decision making throughout the duration of event execution.

Governor Lombardo asked Ms. Clarkson if she was aware of the SEER ratings associated with the Austin and Miami events.

Diana Clarkson indicated that most all other Formula One races were SEER ratings 3s and 4s, and explained that Las Vegas was able to provide some supplemental information that helped to elevate its rating to 2 based on things like threat and attendee counts.

Governor Lombardo questioned who would be orchestrating the after action.

Diana Clarkson explained that LVMPD will be doing a law-enforcement specific after action, and indicated her belief that other agencies are also looking at their internal response plans. Ms. Clarkson indicated that LVMPD will be working on the collective effort.

Billy Samuels reiterated the fact that the 36 subcommittees that began two years ago was ultimately what culminated in the success of the event as each subcommittee broke down the responsibilities into manageable pieces for each agency's main expertise. Chief Samuels indicated that there were multiple command posts, including LVMPD, Switch, MAC, and Clark County IT Ops for cellular connectivity. Chief Samuels informed the Committee that the after action on the cellular side has already been completed as it was seamless and presented no issues. Chief Samuels discussed the water valve issue, noting that this was an F1 event for which Las Vegas paving was responsible and as such, they were the ones to provide the messaging. Chief Samuels also discussed the different functions in place, regarding things like finance, logs, operations, planning, and a medical coordinator. Chief Samuels discussed the tabletop exercises to which Ms. Clarkson had alluded, noting that messaging to the general public is always a focus of these exercises. Chief Samuels discussed the brief outs, indicating that things went very seamlessly among the different entities. Chief Samuels cautioned complacency regarding future events simply because this one went smoothly, and noted the importance of due diligence with the after action to continue with the safety of visitors and residents.

Governor Lombardo requested that Chief Samuels include the eventual ingress and egress avenues for the general public, as well as in a time of emergency in his after action, noting that ingress/egress on the public safety side should be a little more robust.

Chief Samuels assured the governor that he would do so.

5. REPORT ON THE STATEWIDE ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

David Fogerson, State Administrative Agent (SAA), informed the Committee that the NIMS discussion is an NRS requirement for every quarterly meeting. Chief Fogerson explained that one tribal nation indicated the previous day that they might be signed onto the mutual aid plan that the state has under NRS 414(a). Chief Fogerson further indicated that tribal nations have to opt into the NIMS, whereas all local and state agencies are required to opt out. Chief Fogerson next explained that DEM has been continuing on with training, and indicated that the following week, approximately 40 people from multiple jurisdictions will be coming to the Nevada Operations Center to take ICS 300, 400. Chief Fogerson informed the Board that a lot of position-specific classes have been held, and that DEM is currently working on signing off people's position task books in order to get them qualified.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE STATUS OF GEOPOLITICAL EVENTS

Patrick Liddy, Nevada Threat Analysis Center and Cary Underwood, Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center.

Patrick Liddy indicated that the US and Nevada currently remain at a heightened threat environment. Mr. Liddy explained that the NTAC and SNCTC, along with statewide partners, continue to work closely together to deter any direct threats to the state and noted that small groups motivated by a range of ideological beliefs and personal grievances continue to pose persistent threats to the homeland, and that both domestic violent extremists and foreign terrorist organizations continue to attempt to motivate supporters to conduct attacks in the US throughout violent extremist messaging and calls for violence online. Mr. Liddy listed some specific threats and targets, including: the 2024 general election; US critical infrastructure; faith-based communities and institutions; the LGBTQIA-plus communities; schools; racial and ethnic minorities; government facilities and personnel, including law enforcement.

Patrick Liddy next provided an overview of the situation in Israel and Palestine thus far. Mr. Liddy indicated that since 7 October, open source reports indicate that there are at least 1,200 Israelis deceased and 7,300 wounded and at least 13,000 Palestinians deceased and 33,000 wounded. Mr. Liddy indicated his belief that those number have increased in recent days. Mr. Liddy explained that on 24 November, Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire to release hostages on both sides, with Hamas releasing approximately 60 hostages, and Israel releasing approximately 150 hostages. Mr. Liddy informed the Committee that on 27 November, an agreement took place to extend the ceasefire for an additional two days, potentially ending on the date of today's meeting and that as of now, there are believed to be seven to nine Americans still being held hostage by Hamas. Mr. Liddy discussed how this has led to threats in the homeland and in the state, including: calls to violence from foreign terrorist organizations; civil unrest at protests and rallies; shootings that have a nexus to the conflicts; and mis, dis, and mal-information across social media. Mr. Liddy reported that since 7 October, foreign terrorist organizations have increased calls to attack the US and US interests, and that on 16 November, the Al-Qaeda affiliated magazine, the Wolves of Manhattan, released a statement praising recent attacks on Jewish facilities and encouraging further acts of violence in the West from lone actors in support of Palestine. Mr. Liddy indicated that FTOs continue to circulate publications and propaganda of this sort to inspire individuals and extremists to carry out attacks in their home communities, most of which are not directly influenced or directed by FTOs themselves, but rather inspire locals in the community for domestic violence extremism. Mr. Liddy reported that targets that have been fueled by this conflict include religious institutions, community members, public officials, critical infrastructure, and defense contractors, with the tactics including: protests and rallies; bomb, death, and terror threats; hoaxes; shootings; online harassment; doxing; and hate crimes. Mr. Liddy indicated that civil unrest has played a large part of the conflict in the states, specifically in large cities more centric to down south and up north. Mr. Liddy further indicated that the majority of these protests and rallies do remain extremely peaceful, but the possibility of violence is ever-present when two people are protesting complete opposite beliefs in a small setting or area. Mr. Liddy discussed universities and colleges as some of the most targeted areas for civil unrest and protest, such as those that took place at Tulane University, University of Florida, Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, and New

York University. Mr. Liddy next discussed recent shootings, including in Vermont and in Ohio.

Patrick Liddy next discussed the role of social media in the spread of dis, mis, and mal-information (MDM). Mr. Liddy explained that MDM is being disseminated by state-sponsored groups such as various countries, foreign and domestic extremist groups, conspiracy groups, and everyday citizens. Mr. Liddy indicated that there is an extreme amount of false information that is encouraging discontent in the US and in Nevada. Mr. Liddy discussed how this spread of hate and false, misleading information has influenced an increase in hate online and has evolved into offline activities. Mr. Liddy informed the Committee that a review 120 pieces of branded terrorist content indicated that there was more than 60 million views of terrorist content on Twitter alone. Mr. Liddy further indicated that the deep and dark web have also seen enormous spikes of anti-Semitic content. Mr. Liddy discussed the recent TikTok trend of Osama bin Laden's 2002 letter to America being recirculated and reaching viral levels of interaction on online platforms in relation to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict and anti-US sentiment. Mr. Liddy indicated that the post received over 800,000 views on TikTok and 2 million views on Twitter, and created additional posts criticizing it, along with a large number of sympathetic responses. Mr. Liddy explained that as of 6 November, the letter to America has amassed over 12 million views, and that social media sites saw an extremely large increase of antisemitic posts since 7 October, some as many as a 900-percent increase. Mr. Liddy indicated that social media continues to fuel the public and engage in arguments and fights online that directly affect offline activities, and provided examples of recent news stories, including a vehicle explosion in Niagara Falls media reported as an attempted terror attack, which in actuality was a mechanical and medical issue. Mr. Liddy concluded his presentation with a discussion of how cyber factors into the Israel-Hamas conflicts, including Israel and the US, which can continue to fuel US State sponsors like Iran, North Korea, China, Russia, and private groups to use conflict by any means to attack the US.

Cary Underwood reiterated the isolated examples of violence targeting Jewish and Muslim communities nationwide, noting that there is an atmosphere of fear and intimidation directed at certain communities, especially on academic campuses and other locations. Mr. Underwood explained that southern Nevada has seen a pretty steady pace of public gatherings, rallies, and both pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli protests. Mr. Underwood indicated that the pro-Palestinian gatherings have recently gotten more aggressive with more of an anti-government, anti-authority vibe to them, with some of the chants specifically referring to law enforcement as Nazis trained by the Israelis. Mr. Underwood further noted the presence of groups that are aligning themselves to the pro-Palestinian cause, but not necessarily the pro-Palestinian individuals, with the majority of these groups well-known in southern Nevada for being anti-government and anti-authority causes. Mr. Underwood explained that it is the members of these groups that tend to spur on the larger crowd at gatherings. Mr. Cary assured the Committee that this has not reached a level of significant disruption or violence, but that there have been arrests at the most recent gatherings. Mr. Underwood noted that in recent weeks, the groups seem to be leaving each other alone for the most part.

Mr. Underwood next discussed the general environment of fear in the community, noting that the reporting of suspicious activities to the counterterrorism center has increased, and that

the entire community is certainly reporting anything they might feel is concerning. Mr. Underwood explained that this is a win for the see something, say something program. Mr. Underwood indicated that although there was no major impact of disruption to the Formula One event related to any of these issues, there are still several large events upcoming, including: New Year's Eve; CES; and the Super Bowl. As such, Mr. Underwood indicated that the level of vigilance is not decreasing in any way, shape or form and rather, the reminder is to be more vigilant, particularly with the amount of propaganda, the volume of this propaganda, and the vitriolic nature of it.

Governor Lombardo requested that Mr. Underwood, on behalf of the Fusion Center, resend the demonstration protest policy to all the law enforcement agencies in the state to ensure that everyone is operating off the same policy.

Cary Underwood assured the governor that he would ensure that these get out to local partners as well as to NTAC to share statewide.

7. 2024 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROCESS (HSGP)

David Fogerson, SAA, explained that there is not yet information regarding dollar amounts or when the process opens or closes for the HSGP. Chief Fogerson informed the Committee that Chief Billy Samuels with the UASI and Chief Fogerson with the NRAC have been working through the grant process for next year and indicated that all grant projects the following year will be competitive so as to do a reset, of sorts, to ensure that new projects get a chance to fight against some older projects. Chief Fogerson explained that this means anyone with a project ought to present first either to UASI or to NRAC, after which it will go the Committee on Finance, and then to the Homeland Security Commission. Chief Fogerson indicated that each submitted project will be weighted as if it were a new application to ensure that the grant funds are going to the best places for the hazards and risks based upon today's threats.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Governor Joe Lombardo opened the second period of public comment for discussion.

Charles Moore informed the Commission that an evacuation software called Perimeter was used for the first time for a fire on October 24 that started in California and burned towards the town of Verdi. Chief Moore explained that the evacuation software was used to push critical information to people in harm's way, and through robust response, through the mutual aid partners, through the use of the software, and through law enforcement, the fire was able to be kept from burning at least 100 homes. Chief Moore indicated his thanks to the Homeland Security Commission for funding the software that worked so well in this situation.

There was no additional public comment.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Governor Joe Lombardo called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mitchell Fox, Nevada Broadcasters Association, motioned for adjournment.

All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.