Meeting Minutes
Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	**DATE**	Wednesday, July 15, 2026
	TIME	2:30 PM
	METHOD	Zoom/Teleconference Conference line #: (669) 219-2599 Meeting ID# 202 331 8963
	RECORDER	Loren Borst

Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	**Present**	**Member Name**	**Present**	**Member Name**	**Present**
Governor Joe Lombardo - Chair	X	Chief Fernando Grey	X	George Togliatti	X
Sheriff Kevin McMahill – Vice-Chair	X	Dr. Ikram Khan	X	James Chrisley	X
Sheriff Darin Balaam	ABS	Rick Edwards (John Lewis)	X	Patricia Wade	X
Col. Kyle Cerfoglio	ABS	Richard Perkins	X	Bill Welch	X
Todd Fasulo	X	Harriett Vegas	X		
Mitchell Fox	ABS	Billy Samuels	X		
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance					
Karen Burke	X	Christopher Ipsen	X	Bert Carroll	X
Special Agent, FBI (Mike Matthews?)	ABS	Brett Compston	X	Christopher Delzotto	ABS
John Steinbeck	X	P.K. O'Neill	X		
Legal and Support Staff Attendance					
Samantha Ladich	X	Loren Borst	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Joe Lombardo called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Loren Borst, Nevada Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Ikram Khan, President, Quality Care Consultations, motioned to approve the May 12, 2026, Commission meeting minutes. Patricia Wade, President, Wade Development, seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

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

4. STATEWIDE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) COMPLIANCE REPORT

Chief Brett Compston, OEM/HS, reported the NIMS Compliance across the state for Quarter 4, 2026, noting that there were 6,669 individual courses taken, a 4,400 increase from last period, predominately due to the reopening of DHS.

5. REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2026 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (SHSP) RECOMMENDATIONS

Chief Brett Compston, OEM/HS presented to the Commission as to the changes and to the program. All grants will compete each year, with no more automatic renewals. In addition to FEMA national priority areas, Nevada added investment areas, as well. The total State Homeland Security target allocation is $4,326,750.

There are five, national priority areas, requiring a 30% minimum spend for all of them. Two of these have specific spend requirements. One is supporting border crisis response and enforcement, at a 10% minimum, or $436,275; and enhancing election security, at a 3% minimum, or $130,882. Additionally, 35% must be dedicated to law enforcement terrorism prevention activities and 5% is allocated to OEM for management of grant projects. A total of 16 of 21 projects were recommended for funding, with all national, law enforcement, and Nevada-focused spending requirements being met.

Chief Compston emphasized that there is uncertainty regarding the actual amount sub-applicants will receive, due to FEMA's application of a withhold condition in the enhancing election security national priority area. If Nevada is unable to comply with the election requirements, 20% of the total grants will be withheld from payment.

The Homeland Security Finance Committee recommended approval of project rankings, as presented by NRAC this morning.

Sheriff Kevin McMahill, Las Vegas Metro Police Department (LVMPD), voiced his appreciation for the large amount of work done in such a short time frame, stating they did a great job.

Governor Lombardo asked Chief Compston to further explain the 20% penalty for failure to comply with the election process, specifically how it will be determined and if it falls under the Secretary of State.

Chief Compston explained five categories. There are two requirements specifically

related to the SAVE verification system for voters and poll workers, with Nevada currently not able to comply with those requirements, per the Secretary of State and Attorney General offices.

This year, the grants were approached with the thinking they were going to receive the full amount, as they didn't want to re-rank or readjust later, taking the risk up front.

Senator John Steinbeck, Nevada State Senate, voiced his thanks to Chief Compston and his team for an amazing job of getting this huge project done in such a short time frame. He asked if any capacity was lost from not being able to fund anything or vet something further, as well as any key areas thought to have gained capacity in.

Chief Compston stated he does not see any loss of capability, with good projects and good discussion. A ten-year assessment was used to evaluate Nevada-focused areas, not including projects that hadn't been invested into in the last five years. They wanted to posture the state to enable state evolution with the FEMA transitions and spread the funding the best way possible.

Senator Steinbeck asked about a project for a submersible pump, which Chief Compston deferred until UASI grants were discussed later in today's meeting.

Chief Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, asked if the State incurs the 20% penalty, how will that be applied to the approved projects.

Chief Compston stated it will be applied across the board, to all projects.

Governor Lombardo asked for a dollar figure of the 20%.

Chief Compston stated it was $872,000.

Governor Lombardo asked if that was effective on the UASI, as well.

Chief Compston stated the 20% is universal on SHSP and UASI.

Chief Samuels motioned to approve agenda item five, the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 SHSP recommendations. Patricia Wade, Wade Development, President, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2026 URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) RECOMMENDATIONS

Chief Brian O'Neal, Emergency Manager for Clark County and Urban Area Administrator for the UASI Program, provided information to the Commission regarding proposed funding for UASI allocations. The total target allocation was $7,671,239. There were five national priority areas requiring a 30% minimum spend. The two NPA categories with minimum spend requirements were supporting border crisis response and enforcement, for $767,125 (10%); and enhancing election security, for $230,137 (3%). Law enforcement terrorism prevention activities must have a 35% minimum spend, and 5% just be allocated for OEM grant management.

A total of 30 projects were recommended for funding, with 77% for law enforcement terrorism prevention activities. All NPAs, law enforcement, and Nevada-focused requirements were met. The Homeland Security Finance Committee recommended approval of the rankings, as presented by the Urban Area Working Group, in a four (4) to two (2) vote, which included a recommendation to the Commission to create a working group to coordinate drones as first responder within the UASI area.

There were eight projects that were not approved, one of which was the submersible pump, for which Chief O'Neal indicated he could answer this question now, if instructed so.

Governor Lombardo indicated Chief O'Neal could answer it now.

Chief O'Neal stated the submersible pump project was submitted by CCFD as a regional project that incorporated all area fire departments in Clark county to provide submersible pumps, generators, hose and attachments for times when the water supply was not available, due to disruptions in utility service, enabling draws from static bodies of water to suppress fires. It was a $120,000 project.

Governor Lombardo asked if this could be funded through the general fund.

Chief Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, stated it could be. But they would not have funded it, as it was going to be assigned to pumps for every battalion and they would not be funding it for LVFR for North Las Vegas. He also added the price isn't that high, but it's a new and innovative project. It was pulled early from the list but is just lower on the priority list.

Sheriff Kevin McMahill, LVMPD, voiced his concerns regarding funding of drone programs, and CERT, for several applicants. He indicated the main issue is these are very expensive pieces of equipment, and he is not convinced they belong in the UASI and SHSP funding environment, on a consistent basis, as they require significant amounts of ongoing costs. He asked for more robust discussion regarding this issue, as well as creating new subcommittees to work on these associated challenges.

Additionally, Sheriff McMahill felt they need to be coordinated through the Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center (SNCTC) in the south and a similar mechanism in the north, so they are utilized to their maximum effectiveness, moving forward.

Governor Lombardo asked if the idea was to address this in next cycle's funding mechanism.

Sheriff McMahill stated this year's grants were approved for the individual entities for their initial setup. However, he voiced concern about significant price variance. He then indicated a desire to utilize the State's ability to leverage their size for maximum purchasing power from the providers to get the best pricing. He again voiced his desire to have all Southern Nevada drone operations either centrally locate or work in coordination with the Drone Operations Center.

Governor Lombardo stated it was his understanding that these items will be funded if voted on and approved today. And then he asked if a task force would be created to address policies and procedures for purchasing, moving forward.

Sheriff McMahill stated that was his understanding but deferred to Chief O'Neal for more accurate representation.

Chief O'Neal stated the two drone proposals voted on were for the City of Henderson and the City of North Las Vegas, which will both operate out of the SNCTC Drone Operations Center. He also stated there is a currently a working group within the Clark County LEPC, consisting of numerous entities, working on coordination efforts.

Governor Lombardo then asked if the application needed to be modified before the vote.

Chief O'Neal indicated there were no modifications needed, as these are just recommendations for the funding level, with no bids yet, as those have to go through the contracting process.

Governor Lombardo then asked if an amendment can be done in today's vote that requires a concentrated effort.

Chief O'Neal felt it could be funded, contingent on participation in the working group and the LEPC, in that they have already fulfilled that obligation of further effort there.

Governor Lombardo asked, if they were doing it that way, wouldn't consolidated funding be needed, as he understood right now, it's across three different projects.

Chief O'Neal stated that was correct, as the Cities of Henderson and North Las Vegas both have their own projects they will be implementing and responsible for, but have committed to working collaboratively, with SNCTC and the Drone Operations Center, as well as both currently have representation within the Center.

Governor Lombardo stated that he wanted the cooperation language in the motion.

Sheriff McMahill again stated his concern as to UASI and SHSP being the right place for these drone operations programs to ask for funding, with the dwindling pot of funds and the current federal administration cutting funding much faster. Additionally, he indicated there are several other funding sources for such ventures that applicants can be searching for, rather than the UASI and SHSP. He felt it critically important to continue to have robust discussions, moving forward.

Governor Lombardo agreed with Sheriff McMahill and asked Chief Compston to add it as an agenda item for the next meeting. He felt Chief Compston could provide direction in project submittals next budget cycle. He asked for Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Samantha Ladich's opinion on this.

Ms. Ladich stated it could be discussed and Chief Compston could make some guardrails for the grant, but it should be a collective discussion at the next quarterly meeting.

Sheriff McMahill stated there are two community response teams -- one funded at the state level and the other at the UASI level. The state level program operates in Reno, Carson, and Washoe and has significant support from agency heads in the area, because of robust activity within those communities with support and safety. He indicated significant concern with CERT program in the south, specifically the City of Las Vegas program, where most of the funding is going, a total of $2.6 million in the last ten years.

Sheriff McMahill felt it hasn't really deployed in any meaningful way in Southern Nevada, and he questions funding it and the level of effectiveness it is having. He pointed out he had these same concerns last year, with a recommendation that last year be the end of funding it, but his recommendation did not go through. He feels the Commission needs to be looking at it, as many now have discussed the effectiveness of the program, as the pot of funds continue to diminish.

Sheriff McMahill stated that, aside from the training, they need to know about volunteer activations during the last five years, the number of volunteers requested and responded, actual duties performed, who received the assistance, whether assistance was operational, necessary, and the cost per trainee. He also felt that, as an organization, the Commission needs to define what the priorities and direction should be in continuing to give funding to the CERT. He felt that, before more funding is given, many questions needed to be answers and guardrails put in place.

Senator John Steinbeck, Majority Lead, Nevada State Senate, stated he has noticed that in the north, the CERT program is a more volunteer management and mobilization program, whereas the southern CERT program mostly focuses on preparation for their own emergencies or helping their own neighbors and having some area of expertise. He wondered if this year there is a commitment or requirement to do more volunteer deployment out of this program.

Chief O'Neal stated they have a working group that is working on a measurement tool to evaluate, qualitative and quantitatively, funding effectiveness through the Urban Area Working Group. They have also asked for funded programs to provide success synopses at quarterly meetings to evaluate its effectiveness before funding meetings.

Chief O'Neal stated both programs were competitively scored and came in above the funding cutoff line. He stated the programs run by the City of Las Vegas have promised to provide more regular activity updates to Sheriff McMahill to alleviate his concerns. For more specific CERT program metrics, he deferred to Carolyn Levering, North Las Vegas Emergency Manager.

Ms. Levering gave a brief history of the CERT program in Las Vegas, from when it was created until now, speaking about the areas served, what programs are offered, how funding has been utilized, what cities and counties have been assisted and supported. She then detailed different trainings given and what skills and knowledge they provide to participants. She stated that from these trainings, they recruit their volunteers, with their volunteer program very young. She stated this volunteer program is a force multiplier, with $130,000 for personnel and supplies in this year's ask, pointing out that with the number of volunteer hours recorded last year equaling over $400,000 in value of volunteer time.

Ms. Levering feels there is a real return on the investment, and although the volunteer program is very new, they have kept the program small. It was never the intent of the CERT volunteer program to be redundant in any way, with numerous individuals receiving trainings from their programs.

Chief Fernando Gray, Fire Chief, Las Vegas Rescue, stated he does support CERT teams, but asked if there was a methodology or way to bring the committee more metrics or knowledge about the things CERT is doing.

Ms. Levering stated this was possible, in the form of outputs versus outcomes. She indicated the measure of how many people from their training pool actually end up volunteering. When it comes to volunteering, they count how many community presentations are made, counting the number of hours it takes for this. She cited that, as one example, they received 70% more requests for education preparedness training this year, over last. She expects this program to continue to grow exponentially.

Senator Steinbeck thanked Ms. Levering for her ad hoc presentation. He then asked if she could speak of the deployments the team had this year and how many volunteers she currently has.

Ms. Levering stated they support all trained members that have affiliated themselves with volunteer programs, maintaining data on all registered volunteers coming through the City's system with fingerprinting, background checking, drug testing, etc. They also support rural Clark County volunteers. They provide training for areas like Moapa and Laughlin, on their behalf, but they manage their own volunteers. She elaborated on an example of the City of Mesquite and how they have found her program invaluable to their operations.

Ms. Levering stated their program is still small, as they do not want to duplicate or cross over other activities already in communities, but are just a force multiplier and a supplementary. They have 50 volunteers who are currently deployable. These 50 volunteers had to complete advanced training, including the extensive checks.

Richard Perkins, The Perkins Group, President, asked that, since this is a regional program, would it best be housed within the City of Las Vegas, as they have jurisdictional boundaries that constrain this program. He then asked if this program and type of services could be contrasted with other programs that serve regional needs. Lastly, he asked if the current

volunteers need recurrent training to keep them current in the efforts they are going to be deployed in.

Ms. Levering stated there is quarterly refresher training conducted, as well as advanced training opportunities, as they become available, as the program is in its infancy. They also conduct a full-scale, annual exercise. The next one is scheduled for November, extending an invitation to all Committee members. This gives volunteers an opportunity to practice skills learned over their careers and get a real-life feel for the exercise and operations. For the remainder of the year, many participate as actors in exercises for other agencies.

Mr. Perkins stated that, although he feels the CERT program is a valuable program for the community, he has significant concerns of its efficacy versus other regional programs in a quickly dwindling pot of cash. He felt it time for the Commission to have extensive discussions on whether to continue to fund the program, moving forward.

Governor Lombardo asked Mr. Perkins if he meant for the entire Commission to evaluate this or would it be better evaluated by one of the working groups.

Mr. Perkins stated that, although the Commission has ultimate responsibility, it would probably be better handled by a working group for these robust discussions.

Chief Samuels stated his agreement that this should be a topic handled by the Urban Area Working Group, citing the working group administered by Chief O'Neal, LVMPD.

Governor Lombardo stated Chief O'Neal had mentioned two working groups, needing a reminder of the names of these two.

Chief O'Neal stated they were the Urban Area Working Group and the UAS/Counter-UAS Working Group.

Governor Lombardo asked if the State Homeland Grant Program is part of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) or what was it part of.

Chief O'Neal stated the State Homeland Security Grant Program is part of the Homeland Security Grant Program, but with two components -- one funneled to the state level and one funneled to the Las Vegas Urban Area.

Governor Lombardo stated he knew this, but was asking about the working group that makes the financing decisions and was it just strictly through the finance committee.

Chief O'Neal confirmed this was correct.

Governor Lombardo asked if the working group met prior to project submittals to the finance committee.

Chief Compston stated it was the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC), which is established through NRS.

Governor Lombardo confirmed this was what he forgot. He then asked Chief Compston what, in his opinion, prior to asking for a motion, if they defer the CERT to the Urban Area Working Group, and that the drone program, push that also to the working group.

Chief Compston stated his recommendation is that they task the Southern Nevada UAS/ Counter-UAS working group to coordinate and synchronize the drone operations within Clark County, or the UASI, as suggested by Sheriff McMahill to make sure that the purchases are as efficient as possible and synergized. He also recommended that at the next meeting of this Commission, he will schedule a presentation, related to and facilitated discussion, for the future of joint operations across the State of Nevada.

Chief Compston recommended bringing forward the southern Nevada UAS working group, as well as NRAC, as well as experts to talk about the threats being seen and experienced and reference back to those. He stated he recently sent members a situation report on some recent events in Nevada, related to those threats. He feels that it is time to discuss these issues, across the board, as it is no longer about how the money is spent, but how to prepare for the inevitable future in the homeland security drone space.

Governor Lombardo asked Ms. Ladich about the motion for the recommendations for the working groups, or if it could be done outside of a motion for the UASI approval.

Ms. Ladich stated she felt this should be an agenda item that would be discussed by the entire committee at the next quarterly meeting and then decide what the future steps should be.

Governor Lombardo was not enamored of waiting another quarter, but asked if that direction could be provided by the actual working groups.

Ms. Ladich asked for the Governor to clarify his question.

Governor Lombardo asked if agenda item six today is separate, can the Commission provide direction to the working groups in moving forward with questions from today, with performance metrics and future evaluation of individual projects. He wanted to know if these two items could be done separately today.

Ms. Ladich agreed, stating the Governor could take action on the grant proposals and then give Chief Compston and Chief O'Neal direction to work with their respective subcommittees to move forward in that direction.

Governor Lombardo asked if that was Chief Compston's understanding.

Chief Compston confirmed this was his understanding. He also asked Ms. Ladich if he could provide guidance through something like Bulletin Two on expectations for the grant awardees to present data spoke about today.

Ms. Ladich, stated she thought so, but she would have to specifically see what it is Chief Compston is proposing, stating, as the SAA, Chief Compston has a lot of authority to navigate the grant.

Governor Lombardo stated that Chief Compston would handle those two, separate items, as well as the agenda for the next meeting, ensuring that whatever Chief Compston felt was appropriate for the next Commission meeting was on the agenda. He then asked for a motion on agenda item 6, as it stands and without any other amendments.

Chief Samuels then made a motion to accept the recommendations of the UASI Urban Area Working Group, as it stands, to move forward with the funding process. Bill Welch, President, Nevada Hospital Association, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Senator John Steinbeck, Nevada Senate, stated that he is grateful to be back as a member of the Commission, as he cares about this work a lot.

Chief Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, voiced his thanks and appreciation to NRAC, the Finance Commission, the UASI, and everyone involved in getting these projects ready for this grant cycle. He stated it was challenging, but gave kudos and appreciation to everyone involved.

There was no other public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Governor Joe Lombardo made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Ikran Khan, Quality Care Consultants, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 3:29pm.