



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance		DATE	Monday, December 16, 2024			
		TIME	1:00 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	Mitchell Fox	X	Chief John Steinbeck	X	
Sheriff Kevin McMahon – Vice-Chair	X	Chief Fernando Grey	X	George Togliatti	ABS	
Col. Kyle Cerfoglio	X	Dr. Ikram Khan	X	Rosemary Vassiliadis	X	
Sheriff Darin Balaam	X	Chief Charles Moore	ABS	Patricia Wade	X	
Spencer Evans	X	Harriett Vegas	X	Bill Welch	X	
Todd Fasulo	X	Richard Perkins	ABS			
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance						
Karen Burke	X	Christopher Ipsen	X			
Gonzalo Cordova	X	Brett Compston	X			
Skip Daly	X	P.K. O'Neill	X			
Legal and Support Staff Attendance						
Samantha Ladich	X	Loren Borst	X			

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice- Chair Kevin McMahon called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Loren Borst, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice- Chair Kevin McMahon opened the first period of public comment for discussion.

Brett Compston, Chief of DEM/HS announced that the Division has rolled out a new Boards and Commissions meeting schedule that will be implemented beginning in 2025. The Colonel indicated that NCHS will meet on the first Tuesday of the second month of every quarter with one caveat that this will likely be moved or adjusted in the second quarter as a result of the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Homeland Security Grant.

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Gonzalo Cordova, CISA-DHS, announced that he is retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Cordova indicated that he has been a member of the Commission since his appointment by Governor Kenny Guinn in 2005, and indicated that it has been his honor to serve in this Commission and serve the citizens of the state and the United States for so many years.

Vice Chair McMahonill thanked Mr. Cordova for his many years of service and congratulated him on an outstanding career.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice- Chair Kevin McMahonill called for a motion to approve the draft minutes from the June 14, 2024, Nevada Commission on Homeland Security meeting.

Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants, motioned to approve the minutes. Patricia Wade, 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

Vice- Chair Kevin McMahonill introduced Brett Compston, DEM/HS.

Chief Compston reported the NIMS Compliance across the state for quarter 4 as 6,310 total students engaged in furthering their education on NIMS. Chief Compston indicated that DEM will be updating its website that manages the training for the state of Nevada in 2025 and added that there will be a complete retraining at DEM in the Nevada EOC given the large amount of turnover in the last several years.

5. REPORT ON ELECTION

Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary for Elections, reviewed the challenges experienced leading up to, during, and after elections. Mr. Wlaschin explained that the analysis of the 2024 election cycle has only just begun, includes state, county, and city election officials, and reported that the assessment will take some time. Mr. Wlaschin further noted that the election cycle is not yet quite wrapped up pursuant to state and federal law, but indicated that there are some trends that have already started to emerge, which Mr. Wlaschin intended to present and noted that these particular trends are through the lens of Homeland Security. Mr. Wlaschin informed the Commission that the 2024 election cycle was absolutely a success in part because of the close partnerships and increased communications over the last 14-plus months. Mr. Wlaschin indicated that there were no major incidents, and that overall planning and preparations greatly exceeded previous election cycles, noting the preparation to address a wide spectrum of challenges from simple all the way up to multifaceted, multi-county challenges. Mr. Wlaschin explained his belief that making these

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preparations as a state created a sense of confidence in the election officials, of which Mr. Wlaschin believes the electorate was aware, which ultimately contributed to the assessment and sense of confidence in the electoral process. Mr. Wlaschin added that the artifacts that were created will be useful in helping to ensure a high level of readiness for future election cycles.

Mr. Wlaschin next discussed key themes, beginning with the collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies, noting that the primary vehicle for that level of collaboration was through the Elections Integrity Task Force, which continues to expand from year to year. Mr. Wlaschin explained that the process and discussions relating to the Elections Integrity Task Force began back in 2023 with a series of virtual discussions and continued throughout the election cycle. Mr. Wlaschin next indicated that involvement from leadership at all agencies encouraged the prioritization of those discussions in attendance with the Elections Integrity Task Force, which in turn led to solid development of a foundational level of understanding across the agencies and stakeholders of the timing of the full election cycle. Mr. Wlaschin added that level of awareness meant that people knew to contact post office inspectors if something arose during certain windows of time to be flagged as potential elections crimes. Mr. Wlaschin praised OCIO and the federal partners for their help with cybersecurity as well as the implementation of the new statewide top-down voter registration and election management solution.

Mr. Wlaschin next discussed physical security and its role as a long-term challenge to election officials and voting systems and indicated that DEM/HS offers a great number of physical security and cyber security assessments that were used leading up to the general election. Mr. Wlaschin indicated that contingency planning is something that has been identified as a solid foundation due to DEM and many of the county emergency managers but noted that there are a number of required contingency plans that county and city election officials need to develop for the state level. Mr. Wlaschin noted that discussions around this topic have already taken place, and that some additional resources have been identified to help in assisting in the development of some of those plans.

Mr. Wlaschin discussed the ability of the counties in an off year to take advantage of the time in order to plan appropriately and do some detailed analysis of things like polling locations and other contingency plans, as well as to potentially conduct some low-level tabletop exercises so as to validate those plans. Mr. Wlaschin next discussed voter education outreach, noting that this is as an area that also ties into overall posture when it comes to security as a lack of significant voter education and outreach can create knowledge gaps and opportunities for mis and disinformation. Mr. Wlaschin indicated that because of funding from the legislature, resources could be allocated to this area, and initial reports are stating that voter confidence is higher than ever as a result. Mr. Wlaschin discussed the importance of voters seeing through websites, social media, or otherwise information that highlights the different audits, the testing of systems, the chain of custody, and other things that will absolutely lead to a long-term growth and sustainment of voter confidence in the electoral process in the state.

Dr. Ikram Khan, asked if there was a visibly lesser threat to staff during this election cycle than in the past.

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Mr. Wlaschin said that compared to the 2020 election cycle, it does seem that the threat against election officials has been reduced, and noted that the sense from election officials is one of less frustration.

Dr. Khan questioned what actions have been taken toward prevention of further episodes against election staff.

Mark Wlaschin explained that there are a number of different things, including SB406, which has since been codified to NRS 293, making it a crime to threaten, harass, or dox election officials

Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department, asked if there were any strain on resources due to the length of time needed in the state to bring in mail-in ballots and make final determinations.

Mark Wlaschin indicated that there will be discussions during this upcoming legislative session on this topic, specifically deadlines and times, and explained that there was not necessarily an overt burden keeping from meeting the existing timelines.

6. Report ON FORMULA ONE

Chief Billy Samuels, Clark County Emergency Manager, and Reggie Radar, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department focused on lessons learned during the event to ensure future events are properly resourced and responders are appropriately prepared.

Chief Samuels informed the Committee that the planning for F1 began immediately following the 2023 race. Chief Samuels indicated that as stated in the last meeting, Clark County conducted the debrief and began preparing for 2025. Chief Samuels noted that the Las Vegas Grand Prix (LVGP) made considerable staffing changes this year, which improved the preparedness of the efforts. The Chief indicated that one of the recommendations was to start practices 1 and 3, which were respectively on Thursday and Friday nights, earlier, allowing the city to demobilize its people sooner so as to be well rested the following evening, Saturday. Chief Samuels explained that the physical footprint and rules remained the same, with the exception of the size of the bridge that travels east-west on Flamingo over Koval. The Chief further noted that with this race being a SEAR 3, a federal coordinator was not provided, but nonetheless, federal support and participation was exceptional. Chief Samuels discussed the two requests made to the Union Pacific Railroad: to limit the time rail cars will be traveling through the valley; and to have no rail car stay or hold close to the venue. The Chief noted that on Friday, November 22, there was a rail car fire, which was quickly identified as non-electric, as well as a representative from the National Weather Service, who built a plume model based on current and future weather patterns. The Chief explained that overall, the event went off with minimal to no distractions or issues, but added that this is not a reason to become complacent. Chief Samuels concluded by thanking the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Governor's office for the approval of the Nevada National Guard at the event and at trauma centers.

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Reggie Rader noted that from the perspective of law enforcement, there were no significant events, the environment was safe for all who attended, and only 11 minor arrests were made. Mr. Rader explained that the only major issues on the first days were traffic related, and the traffic plan was augmented to push people further out to the higher-volume intersections and delaying the time that the roadways would be shut down. Mr. Rader concluded his report with a discussion of the SEAR rating, noting that a higher level would have been desired, but showed his appreciation for the state, local, and federal partners who all showed up to help create a seamless event.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Governor Joe Lombardo opened the second period of public comment for discussion. Governor Lombardo thanked Gonzalo Cordova for his 20 years of service and wished him the best in his retirement.

Chief Steinbeck echoed the governor's sentiment.

There was no additional public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Kevin McMahon motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Ikram Khan, President, Quality Care Consultants, motioned. Bill Welch, President/CEP, Nevada Hospital Association

All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.