

2023

Security Committee Agenda Follow-up Northern Command

BENEFITS OF LOCAL COMMAND
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In exploring the costs and benefits associated with a statewide consolidation model as recommended by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) in March 2018, the following is provided to you for reference:

First, there would be a need to evaluate another tier of administration at the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) system administration level to oversee the current Northern and Southern Command Police Chiefs. There would be questions regarding the need for another level of bureaucracy at the system office.

Resources would be required to be allocated by NSHE for the proposed Commissioner of Police/Public Safety's salary, operating budget, and office space. Additionally, this position would require a Deputy Commissioner and support staff, which would require additional salaries and office space. Estimated budget costs would include the above-referenced salaries, benefits, and expenses based on the current executive salary structure and estimated expenses for travel and equipment. These salaries would be, at minimum, \$300,000 for the Commissioner's salary, \$175,000 for Deputy Commissioner, and \$75,000 for support staff (X2), for a total of \$850,000 in salaries for this proposed administrative salary structure.

The degree of authority and responsibility over police and public safety would require development between the chancellor and all respective campus presidents. Our current Northern and Southern Command structure allows campus presidents to have direct contact with their police chief, not another layer of bureaucracy.

The level of attention to system-wide issues and time commitments must balance time and attention to department matters. This is currently challenging with the geographic range of campuses from Lake Tahoe to Elko in the Northern Command and likely also challenging within the Southern Command.

Immediate resources would have to be allocated for this proposed position. Direct funding would need to be created for system-wide training programs to replace current regional training programs encompassing programs such as Tiburon, Lexipol, Axon Body Cameras, and many other affected programs and software requirements specific to the regional commands.

Campuses would likely be wary about the loss of local control since the campus chiefs and officers are currently appointed by and under the direct authority of the respective campus presidents.

The centralized hiring of police and security personnel would have to consider individual employee preferences for working in the northern or southern parts of the state and potential associated costs for employee relocation expenses, if applicable.

Costs associated with consolidation versus maintaining separate Northern and Southern Commands:

Vehicles-Both regional commands use the state bid system to purchase vehicles. There would be no proposed savings for vehicle purchases.

Body Cameras-Consolidation would require obtaining new equipment compatible with both commands. Currently, Northern uses Axon, and Southern uses Reveal. Contracts associated with the respective equipment would need to be bought out before expiration, if possible, and new contracts would need to be developed.

Firearms-Neither regional command currently purchases many firearms to use this as a valid data point.

Report writing software-Northern Command uses Tiburon to align with the regional public safety partners, allowing system and information sharing with other departments and courts. The Southern Command uses another program.

Policies and procedures- Policies and procedures for Northern Command differ from that of Southern Command, which are based on current local procedures with institutions and regional partners.

Local support-Both Northern and Southern Commands have developed a local rapport with regional public safety agencies that a consolidated system could not replace. The rapid response to the Argenta Hall explosion emergency by numerous local partner agencies can attest to this. After consulting with the other regional Chiefs of Police and Sheriff regarding the proposed statewide consolidation of police commands for NSHE, none could see a benefit in monetary savings or services provided to our community.

Branding-There would be extensive costs associated with the acquisition and re-branding of sworn and non-sworn uniforms, patches, vehicles, body armor, and other associated equipment.

Dispatch-Southern Command currently uses its self-sufficient dispatch center. In contrast, the Northern Command is part of the Regional Dispatch Center, which allows for mutual communication between our department and local partner agencies. Upon exploring the cost of a local agency that maintains its dispatch center, the estimated annual operating cost for a dispatch center is \$3,000,000, with an estimated additional cost of \$10,000-\$20,000 for associated training and travel. Northern Command's annual dispatch bill has ranged between \$245,000-\$285,000. Logistically and geographically, maintaining one dispatch center statewide would not be financially feasible.

Emergency operations- Current police staffing levels are significantly challenging. There is not an excess of personnel to provide coverage to the home institution and to relocate supplemental forces of another institution in need. Regular operations and/or routine emergencies at other institutions do not cease if an emergency occurs at another NSHE location.

Local governments are the first line of defense against emergencies and disasters and are primarily responsible for managing response and recovery. NSHE has no resources to respond to any emergency or disaster organically. It is critical for each institution to build relationships, participate in training and drills, and have interoperability with all local agencies that campuses are located in, including law enforcement.

A statewide NSHE law enforcement model would not be efficient as there are many differences in resources, capabilities, communications, demographics, and geography in the northern and southern parts of the state. Attempting to become compatible and well-versed in all areas of Nevada would require a sizeable financial commitment to have interoperable communication systems, extensive cross-training, increased travel costs, and proficiency certification to maintain readiness. Maintaining regional plans for emergency staffing and law enforcement coverage creates partnerships with the local community, builds familiarity with campuses and surrounding areas, and routinely checks equipment interoperability. Staffing challenges are minimized as patrol areas can be shifted/increased to cover local area gaps versus removing a person from a geographic area of response to relocate elsewhere.

Logistically (lodging, 24-7 food, vehicles, access keys, gas cards, radios, report systems, computers, office space, etc) campuses are not set up to support extra law enforcement personnel without incurring additional costs, including extensive administrative support and planning. Local law enforcement would not need these services as they already reside there. Tactically having law enforcement operate in unfamiliar geographic areas with different communication systems could also be an officer safety issue.