

Las Vegas Urban Area Working Group

CLARK COUNTY FIRE
ADMINISTRATION 575 E. FLAMINGO
RD, 2ND FLOOR, MACC LAS VEGAS,
NEVADA 89119

2025 Q1 Meeting DRAFT Minutes Wednesday, February 18, 2026 11:00 AM

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Brian O'Neal, Carlito Rayos, Carolyn Levering, Ben Erickson, Diana Clarkson, Greg Cheser, Misty Robinson.

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Steven DePue, Gary Stevenson, Jeremy Hynds, Andria Webster, Spencer Lewis.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kenny Holding, Ana Chavez, Jayson Andrus, Toni Barnes, Harry DuBray, Bryan Ostaszewski.

I. Call to Order

Brian O'Neal, Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:01 on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

II. Roll Call

Quorum Present.

III. Public Comments

No comments.

IV. Comments from The Chair

The Chair thanked the group for attending our meeting.

V. Emergency Alert & Mass Notification Project

Carolyn Levering, Emergency Manager with the City of Las Vegas, provided an update on the mass notification system, previously funded through Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grants. In November, the vendor CodeRED notified users that unencrypted data may have been removed from the system and potentially released online, though they have still not confirmed the scope of the incident. Communication from the vendor was limited, and key system features were unavailable. Local stakeholders reviewed alternative products and selected

Regroup as the new system. Despite strict city purchasing and IT requirements, Regroup was implemented within about three weeks, allowing the system to be operational before New Year's Eve. Regroup agreed to match the previous pricing and signed a one-year contract. The city has already paid CodeRED for the upcoming year and is currently pursuing legal action for breach of contract. Training for stakeholders is ongoing, and the new system includes additional features, including a mobile app, that were not previously available.

VI. * Review and approve 08/06/2025 & 11/12/2025 Meeting Minutes

Carolyn Levering motion to approve, second, Ben Erickson, no further discussion, **motion carried.**

VII. * Attendance & Membership

The Chair reported updates to the roster and membership. Due to recent retirements in Clark County, Chief Rayos will serve as the new Vice Chair, replacing Chief Touchstone. Clark County's voting member will be Chief Holding (primary), with Chief Depew serving as alternate. All agencies were asked to submit any updates to their voting members or alternates to ensure the roster remains accurate and active

VIII. Bylaws Review

The Chair reminded the group to review the current bylaws and submit any proposed changes before May 1st. to be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

IX. NRAC Update

The Chair discussed proposed changes being considered by the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) regarding the Homeland Security Grant Program. One proposed change would allow the state to establish priority areas that could either reinforce national priority areas or create standalone state priorities that would guide how grant funding is allocated. Previously, the state used a three-year strategic plan that provided recommendations, but the proposed change would make funding tied to these priorities a requirement rather than guidance. A second proposed change would eliminate the "sustain and enhance" and "new" project categories, making all projects new and competitive each year. This would require programs to re-justify funding annually, rather than continuing year to year.

Carolyn Levering raised concerns about who will be responsible for establishing the state priority areas and emphasized the importance of ensuring broad input in the priority-setting process so that funding decisions reflect the needs of the community.

Diana Clarkson asked for clarification on the proposal for removal of the sustain, enhance and new project categories. While supportive of making projects competitive, this could affect the ongoing programs that rely on sustained

funding and impact our capabilities in Southern Nevada, such as the Fusion Center.

The Chair stated that more information is needed before determining exactly how the removal of project categories would work. If all projects become new competitive proposals each year, sustained programs may need to be broken out into their various funding allocations. Programs such as the Fusion Center highlight the importance of advocating for urban area priorities, as state-level priorities may focus on needs in other parts of Nevada that differ from those in the Southern Nevada urban area. It was asked whether the proposed changes from the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) were already in place. The Chair clarified that the process for delivering guidance through NRAC has been approved, but the specific details have not yet been finalized. Chief Rayos asked whether the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) group would have the opportunity to provide recommendations, particularly regarding the evaluation rubric for projects that have historically received funding and support regional capabilities. The Chair indicated that bringing recommendations and priorities forward to the state would be important, ensuring that local and urban area priorities are considered alongside state priorities when funding decisions are made.

X. * Strategic Plan Working Group Update

The Chair provided an update on the Strategic Plan Working Group, which was formed to review previously funded programs and develop a strategic plan to guide future funding priorities. The group's objectives include evaluating the success of past projects, creating an evaluation tool to measure program outcomes, and using that information to prioritize future spending based on program effectiveness and emerging threats within the urban area. The working group has been informally established, with Diana Clarkson serving as chair. While progress has been limited so far, the development of the strategic plan remains a priority for the group to help ensure Southern Nevada's priorities are clearly represented in Homeland Security grant funding decisions.

Diana Clarkson explained that the goal of the working group is to highlight key case studies and data demonstrating how grant funding is being used and its impact on the community. The group hopes to identify consistent metrics or statistics that can clearly show how funds support regional capabilities. The intent is to visualize and document the effectiveness of grant-funded programs. However, if funding priorities require projects to compete each year, the group may need to adjust its approach since sustained efforts may change.

The Group discussed the challenges of evaluating projects if all grant proposals must compete as new projects each year, noting that even successful and proven programs could lose funding under that model; emphasizing the importance of documenting past outcomes and measurable impacts when presenting projects for funding consideration. It was suggested that presentations during the grant voting process should highlight historical performance and community impact,

such as data demonstrating the value of positions or programs funded through the grant (e.g., Fusion Center analysts). Members also discussed the potential benefit of developing evaluation metrics or a scoring tool to help fairly, rank projects. Concerns were raised that removing sustained funding categories could unintentionally place effective, widely supported programs at risk, even if the intent is to phase out legacy projects that no longer have support. Members acknowledged that broader state-level funding discussions may also be influenced by frustration from other jurisdictions regarding the urban area receiving a large portion of funding. The group agreed that continued discussion and development of evaluation tools and strategic priorities will be important to effectively advocate for programs that demonstrate value and support regional risk reduction. No formal action was taken.

XI. Public Comments

None.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Carolyn Levering, seconded by Ben Erickson, no further discussion, **motion carried.**

Next Scheduled UAWG meeting: May 13, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. hybrid or in-person meeting, via Microsoft Teams or in-person at the Clark County MACC, 2nd floor Clark County Fire Administration, 575 E Flamingo Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89119.