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ELKO POLICE DEPARTMENT



CLAIR A. MORRIS
Chief of Police

MICHAEL SMITH
Captain of Operations/Support

February 13, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Several weeks ago the Elko Police Department was notified that due to budget cuts, the State was going to eliminate Nevada Division of Investigation (NDI) in rural Nevada. For the past several years we have operated a multi agency Narcotics Task Force which is comprised of officers from the Elko Police Department, Elko County Sheriff's Department and NDI. The rural unit in Elko County has been housed in the State building and was supervised by a Lieutenant with NDI.

Being in rural Nevada, we do not have the luxury of a large contingency of law enforcement. We presently operate a multi agency major crimes task force, Juvenile Crimes Task Force and of course the Narcotics Task Force. We have found it necessary to combine those resources that include manpower and equipment to accomplish whatever tasks are presented.

We feel that we are unique in the fact that we have a very strong relationship with all the law enforcement agencies in northern Nevada. This particular task force serves not only the Elko community but Wells, Carlin, Jackpot and West Wendover. We have become very efficient by combining and utilizing our resources. The safety and survival of our rural communities are dependent on the combined efforts of these assets.

I won't stand here and bore you with a lot of numbers and statistics. The bottom line is the Narcotics Task Force is one of the most productive task forces in the State of Nevada and while we are all faced with budget restraints, it makes little sense to cut programs that have proven themselves such an important necessity to the rural areas. Each and every year while going through the budget process, I am forced to make decisions intended to reduce costs that have the least impact on the services provided to the community. It only stands to reason to cut a productive task force would be counterproductive and would diminish the service to the community.

I would hope that the Governor and Director Kirkland would reconsider the staffing of the rural NDI offices, specifically the Elko NDI Office and continue with this productive asset to our rural area.

Respectfully submitted,

Clair A. Morris
Chief of Police

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS
DATE: 2/21/03 ROOM: 2134 EXHIBIT E
SUBMITTED BY: Elko Police Dept

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