

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Eighty-First Session  
March 1, 2021**

The Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair Edgar Flores at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021, Online. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair  
Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Vice Chair  
Assemblywoman Natha C. Anderson  
Assemblywoman Annie Black  
Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May  
Assemblywoman Venicia Considine  
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman  
Assemblywoman Bea Duran  
Assemblyman John Ellison  
Assemblywoman Susie Martinez  
Assemblyman Andy Matthews  
Assemblyman Richard McArthur  
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst  
Judith Bishop, Committee Manager  
Lindsey Howell, Committee Secretary  
Cheryl Williams, Committee Assistant



**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Cameron Wagner, President, Washoe County Sheriff's Deputies Association  
Jason Guinasso, Attorney, Peace Officers' Research Association of Nevada  
Eric Spratley, Executive Director, Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association  
Steven Grammas, President, Las Vegas Police Protective Association  
Kimberly Fergus, Private Citizen, Clark County, Nevada  
Leinati Hackley, Social Media Director, More Than A Hashtag LV, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Linda Buckardt, Private Citizen, Henderson, Nevada  
Annemarie Grant, Private Citizen, Quincy, Massachusetts  
Adrian Lowry, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada  
Tonja Brown, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada  
Brendan Becker, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Desiree Smith, Founder, More Than A Hashtag LV, Las Vegas, Nevada

**Chair Flores:**

[The meeting was called to order. Committee protocol was explained.] Please let the record reflect that all members are present; we have a quorum. This morning, we are hearing Assembly Bill 127, presented by our very own Assemblywoman Dickman.

**Assembly Bill 127: Revises provisions relating to the confidentiality of certain personal information of peace officers and retired peace officers. (BDR 20-662)**

**Assemblywoman Jill Dickman, Assembly District No. 31:**

I represent Assembly District 31, which is about half of Sparks and the north valleys of Reno. I am here to present Assembly Bill 127, which provides for the confidentiality of certain personal information of peace officers and retired peace officers.

Assembly Bill 127 adds any peace officer or retired peace officer to the list of individuals who can request, through a court order, that the personal information of the person contained in the records held in the county recorder's office be kept confidential in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 247.540. Currently, the law allows for peace officers or retired peace officers to request confidentiality in the assessor's office, and this bill brings parity to the statutes governing the recorder. This bill will provide an additional level of security to individuals who have chosen to dedicate their lives to public safety and who, by the very nature of their work, encounter folks who, by the nature of their decisions, may seek retaliation against active or retired peace officers or their families. We need to make sure that we are protecting the Nevadans who protect us.

Taking a look at the bill, it is pretty short. There is just one section. In section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (e), any peace officer or retired peace officer is added to the list of existing persons who may request that the personal information contained in the records of a county recorder be kept confidential.

The only other change is the addition of the definition of peace officer, which is borrowed from NRS 250.140. The definition includes any person who resides in this state upon whom some or all the powers of a peace officer are conferred and whose primary duties are to enforce the law. That includes National Park Service rangers, agents employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service, United States Department of Homeland Security, or United States Department of the Treasury.

With that, I would like to turn it over to Cameron Wagner with the Washoe County Sheriff's Deputies Association and Jason Guinasso, Legal Counsel for Law Enforcement Associations, to provide additional testimony.

**Cameron Wagner, President, Washoe County Sheriff's Deputies Association:**

I represent the deputies of Washoe County Sheriff's Deputies Association, as well as 1,400 members of the Peace Officers' Research Association of Nevada (PORAN). The reason why this bill is important is to provide protections not only for the officers who are out protecting the lives of our citizens and the safety of our communities, but also to protect their families and loved ones who reside with them. These protections are also afforded under the assessor's office as it currently stands. This bill will bolster those protections to law enforcement families and law enforcement officers themselves.

Peace officers are under attack in this nation right now. Protecting their families and loved ones is vital. I want to give you two examples of two different incidents that happened with my deputies alone.

In 2016, one of our deputies was involved in a canine pursuit. This deputy was later stalked on Facebook by two different anti-law enforcement groups. These anti-law enforcement groups not only posted pictures of his family, but also of him. They got his address; we do not know if they got the address through the recorder's office or through other means. We had to go up against Facebook and have the post removed so that he and his family were safe.

In 2014, we had a similar incident where a deputy and his family, including his wife and young children, were pictured on an anti-law enforcement group's page. We had to make a request to remove the post on Facebook to have this deputy's information removed.

**Jason Guinasso, Attorney, Peace Officers' Research Association of Nevada:**

As you may know, PORAN represents 14 Nevada law enforcement associations and more than 1,400 law enforcement personnel across the state.

As you heard from Assemblywoman Dickman and from Mr. Wagner, this bill is about safety, it is a bill about privacy, and it is a bill about anti-harassment. It is to provide peace officers and their families with the same protections as justices or judges in this state, court-appointed masters, clerks of a court, district attorneys, social workers, county managers, city inspectors, code enforcement officers, and the families of those listed.

What do all these professionals I have mentioned have in common with peace officers and their families? Each of these professionals serves the public. In delivering services to the public, certain members of the public become angry, hostile, and sometimes even abusive. These public servants and their families are often put at increased risk of harm for no other reason than that they are simply doing their jobs.

To be clear, this bill does not lessen the accountability and transparency of peace officers, as some of my social justice friends and other advocates will erroneously testify to in opposition to this bill. In fact, PORAN supports efforts to enact evidence-based police reform in the state of Nevada that will result in the transparency and accountability that many in the public are asking for.

This bill, if enacted, would simply allow peace officers and their families to keep records maintained by the county recorder's offices of the state confidential. The records that would be kept confidential would include deeds to their homes, easements, mortgages, mechanic's liens, releases, and plats among other property-related and personally identifiable documents.

Mr. Chair, some of your colleagues may ask, Why is it important to keep such information confidential? The simple answer to that question is so that peace officers and their families are protected from people coming to their homes to harass them and/or threaten them with violence.

Notably, I think it is important to emphasize what has been mentioned once before: Existing law already provides this same protection to peace officers and their families with respect to records maintained at county assessor's offices in our state. For reference, you can look at NRS 250.130 and NRS 250.140. Such documents that are allowed to be kept confidential on behalf of peace officers include their property tax information, which includes addresses and maps of property.

Really, this bill is simply cleaning up a loophole to protect the real property and related personal information of peace officers and their families.

We would urge you and the Committee to support it with a do pass vote at your next work session.

**Chair Flores:**

Assemblywoman Dickman, do you have any closing comments?

**Assemblywoman Dickman:**

We are open to questions at this point.

**Chair Flores:**

At this time, we will go to questions regarding Assembly Bill 127. We will start with Assemblyman Ellison.

**Assemblyman Ellison:**

It was stated just now that the district attorney's office employees, county managers, and so on are protected. Was that statement true? Could you restate which ones have their confidentiality protected under existing law?

**Assemblywoman Dickman:**

I have a list here [[Exhibit C](#)]. Currently, those protected include any justice or judge in this state; any senior justice or senior judge in this state; any court-appointed master; any clerk of the court, court administrator, or court executive officer; any district attorney or attorney employed by the district attorney; any state or county public defender who as part of his or her normal job responsibilities defends persons for crimes that are punishable as category A felonies or domestic violence; any person, including without limitation, a social worker, employed by this state or a political subdivision of this state who as part of his or her normal job responsibilities interacts with the public and performs tasks related to child welfare services or child protective services or tasks that expose the person to comparable dangers; county managers; any inspector, officer or investigator employed by this state or a political subdivision of this state who possesses specialized training in code enforcement, and who as part of his or her normal job responsibilities, interacts with the public and whose primary duties are the performance of tasks related to code enforcement; the spouse, domestic partner, or minor child of all those listed; and any nonprofit entity in this state that maintains a confidential location for the purpose of providing shelter to victims of domestic violence. There is a long list of people.

**Assemblyman Ellison:**

I think it is important to show who is protected and who is not.

**Chair Flores:**

Do we have any additional questions? [There were none.] I think the presentation was pretty straightforward and everybody understands the intent here. At this time, I would like to open it to testimony in support of Assembly Bill 127.

**Eric Spratley, Executive Director, Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association:**

We wholeheartedly support this bill and hope you do too.

**Steven Grammas, President, Las Vegas Police Protective Association:**

The Las Vegas Police Protective Association represents over 3,000 commissioned officers. I am also a proud member of the Public Safety Alliance of Nevada. We appreciate our legislative body looking out for the safety and privacy of our current law enforcement officers, as well as our retired officers. Thank you to the entire legislative body for your tireless work during these tough times.

**Kimberly Fergus, Private Citizen, Clark County, Nevada:**

I reside in Clark County, and I am calling in as a concerned citizen in support of this bill. To me, it is a no-brainer and I hope it is bipartisan. Vote for yes, do the right thing, and just put it into law.

**Leinati Hackley, Social Media Director, More Than A Hashtag LV, Las Vegas, Nevada:**

More Than A Hashtag is actually the group that has been pushing for accountability and transparency from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) by organizing direct actions outside of these so-called peace officers' houses. We are actually in opposition of this bill. Since these officers have been on administrative leave, we have demanded the release of these videos. We are now demanding the release of the body cameras from the officers on the stairs of the Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse and the arrest of all five officers involved in Jorge Gomez's death: John Squeo, Ryan Fryman, Vernon Ferguson, Dan Emerton, and Andrew Locher.

The only way the public demand seems to be listened to is when we show up at these houses. Mind you, we have been peaceful and nonviolent, as everyone is well aware. Now we are trying to prevent this bill from passing through the Legislature. When a Black or Brown individual is killed, his or her criminal record is public for everybody to see. However, you want to seal and hide the officers' addresses to prevent and avoid accountability. This is one of the few ways that we are taken seriously, when we have made it known that these neighborhoods have a murderer in the midst of the residents' lives.

This bill is just another way to stop the public from seeking the truth and forcing accountability. We may not have CNN broadcasting our actions, but we have your attention and that is all that matters. We urge that all the legislators vote in opposition of this bill. You will be voting for the people, by the people. If I murdered someone, all my information would be public. Why is it any different for someone just because they have a badge that protects them? Hold them accountable, and then maybe we would not have to look for their addresses to show up at their doorstep. It is funny how quickly you rolled out this absurd bill but could not push the transparency for LVMPD when Jorge Gomez was murdered. Shame on all of you for sponsoring this bill and anybody who supports it.

**Chair Flores:**

Please let the record reflect that the caller was in opposition. Know that we are presently hearing testimony in support of Assembly Bill 127. We will be getting promptly to opposition, but I would like to continue hearing the testimony of those in support of Assembly Bill 127.

**Linda Buckardt, Private Citizen, Henderson, Nevada:**

I stand in support of this bill. Nobody should withdraw evidence in any case; nobody should be harassed—peace officers or anyone else, for that matter. There are some cities that have defunded police, like Chicago, Minneapolis, Portland, et cetera, and have seen a surge in crime. Well, I see this bill in the same ballpark. It is of the upmost importance to protect Nevadans. Please support this bill and pass it.

**Chair Flores:**

Is there anyone else wishing to speak in support of Assembly Bill 127? [There was no one.] At this time, I would like to invite those wishing to speak in opposition to Assembly Bill 127.

**Annemarie Grant, Private Citizen, Quincy, Massachusetts:**

I am the sister of Thomas Purdy, who was murdered by Reno police, hogtied for 40 minutes, and then asphyxiated to death while hogtied by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. I urge you all not to fall for the testimony that was provided, which I will call propaganda. They spoke of anti-law enforcement pages that are against police, when in reality, the cases they speak of are about accountability and transparency. Calling out bad police is not anti-law enforcement. It is about wanting accountability when somebody has the ability to kill without consequence.

The police are already protected enough in your state and federally with qualified immunity—they can kill without consequence, so I do not feel the need for any greater protection than the average person. You talk about them being harassed; please cite an example when a local law enforcement officer has been threatened at their home. The events that have taken place at law enforcement homes currently are peaceful and are to provide for action that is not taking place in terms of accountability for the families of those who have been killed by police.

I urge you not to move this to a work session and to promote bills that actually promote accountability from law enforcement. I was at an event with families that had lost someone to the police; we were there speaking, and law enforcement actually stood there and harassed those families. They stood across the street laughing. It is the other way around, how it actually works when law enforcement are involved. The public needs protection from them.

**Adrian Lowry, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada:**

Police officers are given substantial authority via violence against citizens of our state. This authority requires that citizens have measures of accountability. In very many cases of high-profile abuses of this power, it was found that officers were reprimanded for similar abuses in this community or other locales at previous times. This bill would deny accountability in situations like this.

Another common issue is the relationship of the officer to the community. People want to know that the officer lives in the community that he is charged with serving and protecting. Citizens should not be denied this information. In this moment, people in our communities are demanding more accountability, not less accountability. Do not approve this bill. Support accountability and vote against this bill. We need more accountability.

**Tonja Brown, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada:**

I represent Advocates for the Inmates and the Innocent. We would like to echo all the comments made by those in opposition. We do not support this bill. I would also like to touch on something that has not been brought up, and that is the world of social media. You have officers and retired officers using social media going in and using their true names and also using fictitious names to harm those private citizens—not just those who have criminal records, but those who do not have criminal records. It comes to the point where these people should be held accountable, especially with social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and other sites like that. These officers will spew their hate toward individuals. They will

state things that are not true—they do not know the facts of the case. They will not only take it to social media, but they will now take it to the Legislature and testify as though it is true, when in fact, it is not true. There are instances where some of the things that have been said on social media have led to people reaching out for attorneys to take action against these individuals, and to hide their assets would be wrong.

I am not saying that all cops are bad. In fact, most cops are very good cops, but we have had a few bad cops over the years. That is just how it is. To deny someone access to looking at the properties these officers have obtained over the years—properties that far exceed their financial means as an officer—is questionable. There are things like that. We are definitely not in support of this bill and, again, there are people who are appealing and trying to exonerate one's name.

**Chair Flores:**

For those wishing to speak in opposition, please keep your comments to two minutes. I know there is a lot we want to say, but if someone has already said a comment, you can say that you echo the remarks of the previous caller and then go into whatever you would like to elaborate on. I just want to give everyone an opportunity and be as fair as I can.

**Brendan Becker, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:**

I am a concerned citizen speaking in opposition to this bill. I want to echo the past statements of the previous callers. I believe that the police throughout the state of Nevada need to be held accountable, especially the police in Clark County. I have seen various accounts of harassment from both the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Henderson Police Department. I truly believe that there needs to be more accountability toward the police. Also, I do hope that there is justice for the death of Jorge Gomez one day, the same way that there was not any justice for Keith Childress Jr., who was murdered by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on December 31, 2015.

**Desiree Smith, Founder, More Than A Hashtag LV, Las Vegas, Nevada:**

I beg the question: What or who are you protecting? The answer is murderers. What bill protects citizens when we are gunned down by those sworn to serve and protect? One of those citizens was Jorge Gomez, who was gunned down 19 times by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Where is the bill to protect impacted families from the police harassing them? Whether this bill passes or not, we will continue to hold law enforcement accountable since our local government is failing to do so.

This bill is created to silence the public, and we are in opposition to being silenced by our own government. Protect your citizens, not murderers. Justice for Jorge Gomez, justice for them all.

**Chair Flores:**

Is there anyone else wishing to speak in opposition? [There was no one.] Is there anyone wishing to speak in the neutral position? [There was no one.] Assemblywoman Dickman, do you have any closing remarks?



**Assemblywoman Dickman:**

It seems like some of the callers might be a little confused. This bill does not prevent bad apples from being investigated or being held accountable. This is simply about parity in the law, aligning the recorder's office with the assessor's office. I just want to say that those who protect and serve us should not have to worry about the well-being of their children while they are protecting ours.

[Additional exhibits include a letter in support of A.B. 127 submitted by Matthew Kaplan, President of the Nevada Police Union, Exhibit D, and a letter in support of A.B. 127 submitted by retired Reno Police Officer Ronald P. Dreher, Exhibit E.]

**Chair Flores:**

At this time, I would like to close out the hearing on Assembly Bill 127. I am sure that the Committee members and community will continue to work together. I think this is a question of trying to protect those men and women who serve our state every day. We know that they have a very difficult job. At the same time, we have community members who are concerned about those who serve the community not necessarily having the option of hiding some of their records. I know we often have this conversation ourselves, as elected officials, so I understand the other perspective as well. I am sure the conversation will continue. At this time, I would like to open it to public comment.

**Desiree Smith, Founder, More Than A Hashtag LV, Las Vegas, Nevada:**

I guess you guys are not understanding why we are in opposition. You are saying that you guys are confused in terms of the police hiding their records because they are scared for their families. What about the families that have already lost a loved one? What about Jorge Gomez's family? What about Keith Childress Jr.'s family?

**Chair Flores:**

I appreciate your sentiment, and I do believe the members are aware of your perspective. However, we have closed out the hearing on Assembly Bill 127. I do not want to limit you; this is public comment, and I want you to be able to speak. But we are no longer debating Assembly Bill 127. I assure you that the members understand your perspective, which is that you do not believe that the police officers are being held accountable. You have taken it upon yourself, along with other community members, to shed light on some of these issues because you see that they are not necessarily being addressed by law enforcement themselves. You do not believe that the Legislature is holding officers accountable. We understand the importance for you to have access to this data, and the work that you all do.

**Desiree Smith:**

I, personally, feel like you guys are not understanding because Assemblywoman Dickman said she was confused. I am clarifying and reiterating what we have said. I feel like you guys do not understand this until it is one of your children.

**Chair Flores:**

I do not want to prolong the hearing. Otherwise, what will happen is that we will have 14 other people call in and continue debating. The bill hearing is closed, but if you want to talk just generally about law enforcement, the work you do, or anything like that, that is fine. But please refrain from referring to the bill itself. I just want to be fair.

**Desiree Smith:**

Right now, we are pushing for the arrests of the five officers involved in Jorge Gomez's murder. They are John Squeo, Ryan Fryman, Dan Emerton, Vernon Ferguson, and Andrew Locher. Those are the five officers that were involved in Jorge's killing. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department has refused to work with us on this. Very recently, we released the video showing that Jorge Gomez did not point a gun at the officer, yet I do not see any of our local government speaking on this—the transparency of law enforcement is an issue that pertains to all of us. When it comes to the Jorge Gomez case, like I said, we are pushing for the arrests of these five officers. In terms of transparency, we are also pushing for the release of the body cameras of the officers that were on the stairs who began the interaction with Jorge Gomez and shot him with a low-lethal round. That caused him to run, and that caused his murder to take place.

That is what our organization is doing. We are demanding our local government speak up about it, do something about it, and get our law enforcement to actually work with the public and provide some type of solution to their never-ending problem, which is murdering. As I said, Jorge Gomez is not the only person who has been murdered. Keith Childress Jr. has been murdered, as well as Sharmel Edwards, Stanley Gibson, Tashii Brown, Rafael Olivas, Thomas Smith—there are so many names that I could sit here and list. None of the local government has spoken up about it or done anything to push transparency and accountability for our local police department. That is what I am here to do, and that is what our group is here to do—to force our local police department and our local government to stop being quiet and start doing something about this before I, or anybody else in Las Vegas or the state, is killed by people who are sworn to protect and serve us.

**Annemarie Grant, Private Citizen, Quincy, Massachusetts:**

I just want to say that I think it is inappropriate for you to stop people during general public comment. Today, I would like to speak about Justin Morgan Thompson, who was 35 years old when he was asphyxiated to death by Washoe County Deputies Kenneth Cameron, Randy Hill, Joel Hospodar, Peter Michel, Brad Mustafa, Kim Peek, Nicholas Tone, Trevor Solano, and Paul Hubbell, who also asphyxiated my brother, Thomas Purdy, to death less than a year earlier.

Justin Thompson had only marijuana in his system. Let me give you some of the conversation between the deputies and Justin:

Justin asked, "Why are you doing this?"

The deputy said Justin was being an a-hole. "This is all on you. You asked for this. Believe me, by your actions, you asked for this. This is where we are at, and we are not going to deescalate. Maybe you should rethink your decisions." The deputies had a discussion about excited delirium.

The same male nurse from NaphCare came in and asked ridiculous questions: Do you wear contacts? Do you have allergies? et cetera, to a man who was clearly in need of medical attention.

Then, six deputies were on top of Justin the entire time. The sergeant yelled at Justin as the nurse fired rapid-fire questions at Justin. Justin begged for water.

The female deputy said not to grab her effing hands.

Justin tells him he cannot breathe. The nurse asks if Justin feels threatened. With six deputies on top of him, Justin replies, "What do you think?"

The female deputy swears at Justin again. Justin tells them he could not breathe.

The nurse clears Justin to be put in a cell.

Justin asks if they could please let off a bit on his back. "No." Justin yelled for help.

The deputy said, "Nobody is going to help you. We are the help, and as I stated before, we are not going to step down until you are in a cell." Why? "We do not trust you."

Justin is threatened with a taser. Deputies are repeatedly led by him with him on his stomach.

A deputy with a taser kicks Justin. "What is it going to take for you to stop being stupid? Do you not get it? We own you right now, and we are going to continue to own you. You are not going to—you better figure it out. My arm, yeah, you just lost that arm. I own this arm. This is my new arm, and every time you try to squirm I am going to turn it up a notch. We are going to throw you in a cell, and you can sit there and be stupid by yourself."

Justin's breathing is clearly labored, and he is struggling. For almost an hour, Justin was face-down with six deputies on top of him at the Washoe County jail, being smothered to death.

It is time to stop protecting bad police officers. We do not need any more bills that protect them. They already have qualified immunity; they can kill without consequence—literally, people who ask for help, like my brother. Please do not support any bill that does not promote transparency and accountability and provides any type of further protection to police officers.

**Chair Flores:**

We are sorry to hear that you had to go through that pain.

**Kimberly Fergus, Private Citizen, Clark County, Nevada:**

Just listening to all the testimonies this morning, I hear a lot of anger. I cannot believe what our country and state is up against. However, when you are pulled over by police and are told to do something, you do it. It is called respect. If you were not doing something wrong, you would simply do it.

I am 61 years old, and I grew up in the '70s. We ran from the police, but we never looked up their residence. I am just disturbed that this is even coming up. Our police officers should be protected. A few weeks ago, they were heroes. Now, people want to know where they live and what they do—there is too much information out there. I wish we all could come together.

**Leinati Hackley, Social Media Director, More Than A Hashtag LV, Las Vegas, Nevada:**

Just to clarify something for the last woman who spoke, this does not necessarily have anything to do with being pulled over. You do not have the opportunity to speak your First Amendment right and attend protests if you are shot in the back 19 times. There is nothing you can do to comply when you are running away, scared for your life. This has happened on a regular basis—not just with Jorge Gomez—with Black and Brown individuals not only in Las Vegas, but across the country. When it comes to complying, when is it time for the officers to comply? When is it time to hold them accountable for the actions they follow through with? Please, do not come on with the expectation that we need to comply. This is what we do on a daily basis. We would be held accountable if we were to do something the exact same way—if we murdered somebody by shooting them 19 times in the back. Until the officers are held accountable, you cannot expect us to comply.

**Chair Flores:**

I want to remind members of the public that we are doing public comment because I want you to have an opportunity to be heard. However, we are not entertaining a debate between folk who have different ideas. If you have general statements about law enforcement, or whatever it may be, I want you to be comfortable calling us. This is your house; you should be able to call. But there is no need for us to entertain debate between callers. This is a time for you to be heard, and talk about whatever issue you would like to, but I am trying to avoid this turning into a back-and-forth. State your position, make sure your voice is heard, and let the next caller speak.

Is there any more public comment? [There was none.] To the public: I do encourage you to take the opportunity to look at our meetings ahead of time. You can always visit the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System website, which shows you which hearings are coming up. I say this to make it clear that you have an opportunity to let community members know what issues we are discussing, and you can build coalitions for opposition or whichever position you may be in. Again, this is your house, and you have every right to do that. But when we close bill hearings and presentations, we have to move on. It is not a way

to censor anyone from speaking; however, it would prolong debate that would spill into public comment, and that would be a continuation of a hearing we have already had. You can always have friends and family continue to call in and bring up issues for two minutes each; you have every single right to do that. But for the sake of clarity, fairness, and managing this Committee, we have to close out hearings and finish the dialogue at that time. I want to make it abundantly clear that we have no desire to censor people, but that is the only way we can maintain some type of decorum and control over the hearings.

Members, I want to remind you that tomorrow, we are meeting at 9 a.m. Please give yourself an opportunity to review Assembly Bill 143 and Assembly Bill 153. With that, I appreciate the dialogue from the community today. I appreciate both sides speaking passionately about their positions; it is important. This meeting is adjourned [at 10:51 a.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Lindsey Howell  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXHIBITS**

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is two lists of positions covered under NRS 250.140 and NRS 247.540, submitted by Assemblywoman Jill Dickman, Assembly District No. 31.

[Exhibit D](#) is a letter to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs dated March 1, 2021, submitted by Matthew Kaplan, President, Nevada Police Union, in support of Assembly Bill 127.

[Exhibit E](#) is a letter to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs dated February 28, 2021, submitted by Ronald P. Dreher, retired Reno Police Officer, in support of Assembly Bill 127.