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**2020-2021
PUBLIC
SAFETY
RESOLUTIONS**

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RESOLUTION 2020-29

CONCERNING AMENDING THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT

Whereas, the New Mexico Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), NMSA §29-11A-1 et seq., requires offenders convicted of certain sexual offenses in New Mexico to register with the sheriff of the county where the offender resides; and

Whereas, the New Mexico SORNA is not fully compliant with federal law (Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109-248); and

Whereas, legislation to bring our state into federal compliance has been introduced over the past several years, including House Bill 179 (Rep. Herrell) in 2012, but has failed to pass; and

Whereas, the legislation needed for compliance includes the incorporation of a more comprehensive group of sex offenders and offenses for which registration is required, tighter and more extensive registration requirements, and expansion of the amount of information available to the public; and

Whereas, New Mexico has been losing critical federal funding because of its non-compliance with the federal law; and

Whereas, an additional consequence of our state's non-compliance is that New Mexico has become an attractive relocation destination for sex offenders from other states who wish to avoid registering as sex offenders in their new communities; and

Whereas, SORNA does not include provisions for sex offender risk assessment that could provide local law enforcement agencies with a scientifically based method for identifying those offenders who are most likely to reoffend; and

Whereas, the addition of support or legislative mandate for scientifically based risk assessment will allow law enforcement agencies to devote limited resources to monitoring the behaviors of those offenders who have proven to provide the most significant risk to the community.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League supports amendment of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act to bring New Mexico into full compliance with federal law; and

Be It Further Resolved that the amendments to SORNA also address the subject of sex offender risk assessment.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RESOLUTION 2020-30
CONCERNING EMS FUNDING

Whereas, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is the only health care that is universally available to all of New Mexico's residents and visitors regardless of ability to pay, particularly in rural communities; and

Whereas, pre-hospital treatment and transport by volunteer and paid emergency medical responders are the two most crucial components of emergency medical care; and

Whereas, the citizens demand and deserve an increasing level of care, however funding for training and necessary equipment is not available; and

Whereas, future access to this essential care will be dependent on adequate funding to ensure the best pre-hospital care is delivered through the providing of training, equipment, resources, medical direction, technical assistance, and quality improvement; and

Whereas, the current funding levels are inadequate and will prevent the future growth of EMS, and the decrease in providers and services will result in an increase in morbidity and mortality; and

Whereas, Fire and EMS services in New Mexico must have solid financial resources if they are to continue providing critical first response services in a consistent and reliable manner; and

Whereas, the majority of EMS first response services in New Mexico are provided by fire-based departments; and

Whereas, the New Mexico Municipal League (NMML) and the New Mexico Fire Chiefs Association (NMFCA) participated in and are members of a committee established by the New Mexico Counties (NMC) to develop specific policy recommendations and study issues related to sustainable EMS Services; and

Whereas, the NMML and the NMC endorsed priority legislation in 2014 and 2015 for the creation of a study to evaluate the needs of EMS and identify an appropriate state-level recurring revenue stream dedicated to EMS; similar to that used for the Fire Protection Fund without diminishing or impairing the existing Fire Protection Fund.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the NMML supports an appropriation by the New Mexico State Legislature to the State Fire Marshal to conduct a statewide EMS assessment, in coordination with Department of Health EMS Bureau, using monies currently reverted from the Fire Protection Fund, to the State General Fund; and

Be It Further Resolved that recommendations from the EMS assessment will be used by the NMC EMS Committee, to develop additional policy recommendations for the New Mexico State Legislature regarding appropriate funding levels and mechanisms for recurring funding for EMS services in New Mexico.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RESOLUTION 2020-31

CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CRISIS INTERVENTION FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

Whereas, one of the greatest challenges first responders face in New Mexico and across the nation is how to effectively respond to people who have mental health disorders or who are in crisis; and

Whereas, HJM 17 (2011) made recommendations to reduce the number of individuals with mental health disorders who require law enforcement intervention; and

Whereas, New Mexico Law Enforcement agencies, Fire Personnel, EMS, and their supporting agencies are the first responders when dealing with a person who suffers from mental illness or is in crisis and such response requires adequate resources, knowledge, and equipment if such a response is to be compassionate, effective and in the best interests of the individual; and

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the State Legislature to provide adequate resources devoted to dealing with the issue of mental illness in New Mexico. This responsibility extends to all social service agencies and advocacy groups whose mission is to assist citizens suffering from mental illness, thereby reducing the need for Law Enforcement Personnel to respond to individuals in mental health crisis; and

Whereas, New Mexico Law Enforcement personnel are frequently drawn into numerous contacts with citizens suffering from mental illness or who are in crisis, and options for placement and treatment of these citizens are not readily available; and

Whereas, the risk of physical confrontation between the citizen suffering from mental illness or crisis and responding Law Enforcement personnel is high and such confrontations may result in serious injury or death to the citizen, bystanders or to the responding Law Enforcement personnel; and

Whereas, New Mexico Law Enforcement Personnel currently receive basic training on how to assess and handle those suffering from Mental illness as part of the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy training curriculum pursuant to HB 93; and

Whereas, one of the paramount challenges facing New Mexico Law Enforcement agencies is the lack of adequate support resources for effectively handling and de-escalating potentially deadly situations involving a person or persons in crisis, the first responder and the general public. Having these support options readily available is critical when first responders arrive on-scene to prevent further tragedy. The critical missing link is the availability of Crisis Intervention Teams comprised of specifically trained Law Enforcement Personnel and Mental Health Professionals who will engage in the crisis intervention process on scene as a team; and

Whereas, New Mexico Law Enforcement recognizes and has identified the lack of available resources and professionals specifically trained in crisis intervention and dealing with the mentally ill, and has determined this to be a state wide issue which is not regionalized to a single urban, suburban or rural area. Law Enforcement agencies across the state face the same challenges in not having the readily available resource of an

available Crisis Intervention Team to assist in de-escalating potentially deadly situations and bring about a safe resolution; and

Whereas, New Mexico Law Enforcement seeks to establish a collaborative partnership with Mental Health professionals, and develop regionally based Crisis Intervention Teams throughout New Mexico that can offer immediate assistance either telephonically, or in person, thereby incorporating a level of expertise and intervention which would provide an additional resource for de-escalating a potentially deadly situation and obtaining the proper emergency assistance needed for the person or persons in crisis; and

Whereas, New Mexico Law Enforcement proposes to partner with Mental Health Professionals statewide in developing regionalized teams to effectively handle potentially volatile situations involving those who suffer from mental illness and are in crisis. This partnership in creating Regional Crisis Intervention Teams will serve as an essential tool for first responders in de-escalating potentially deadly situations, and would make sure those who are in crisis get the appropriate medical care, that especially in rural areas, is often not available pursuant to Section 43-1-10 NMSA 1978; and

Whereas, existing Crisis Intervention Teams that exist in New Mexico's larger law enforcement agencies are available to use as a model and resource for the proposed regional Crisis Intervention Teams.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League seek legislation to provide funding and legislative statutory support for mental health resources, and mandated Regional Crisis Intervention Teams that would be established and utilized to further support the Law Enforcement and First Responder mission of protecting and assisting a person or persons in crisis, protecting the remainder of the New Mexico community from the potential negative effects of contacts with those in crisis, and furthering collaborative efforts that would mitigate the amount and severity of negative contacts with those in crisis, thus avoiding further tragic loss of life.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RESOLUTION 2020-32

CONCERNING CERTIFICATION OF POLICE OFFICERS

Whereas, all certified police officers in the State of New Mexico must meet State mandated levels of proficiency and all certified police officers receive the same basic training through an accredited New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy training program, and all Municipal Police Officers must receive certification through the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy; and

Whereas, currently, if a criminal act occurs in a certified police officers presence outside of his Territorial Jurisdiction, that officer has no official legal police authority to intervene.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League and the New Mexico Association of Chiefs of Police support legislation to clarify that any officer certified as a Police Officer by the State of New Mexico and is commissioned by an authorized appointing authority shall be recognized as a Police Officer within the State of New Mexico, and shall have the authority to enforce state statutes throughout the State.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RESOLUTION 2020-33

CONCERNING ENHANCING SAFETY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Whereas, the Public Employee's Retirement Act (PERA) requires retired police officers to suspend their retirement cost of living adjustments if they are employed by a school whose employees are included under the Educational Retiree's Act (ERA) making it difficult to hire retired law enforcement officers; and

Whereas, current state statutes have making a bomb threat a Felony, but currently state statutes for making a school shooting threat, involving school campuses, or affecting students and school staff are classified as misdemeanors. This includes threats using social media; and

Whereas, firearms possession is not regulated by state law for individuals with mental health issues, history of violence, or other demonstrated instability creating situations where currently individuals in crisis lawfully have access to firearms. Those individuals are not under any restriction from purchasing firearms in the unstable, crisis condition they are in; and

Whereas, School districts have not been funded to upgrade and/or install any security measures they deem necessary to protect their students and staff including but not limited to technology to enhance school security with card access, surveillance cameras, perimeter fencing, staff/student/visitor ID systems, intrusion alarm systems, security/police on-site personnel, etc.; and

Whereas, statutes to mitigate bullying have not been effectively enforced.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League supports legislation to:

- amend the PERA conditions for retirement to allow retired law enforcement to be employed in public schools without penalty to their PERA benefits;
- fund technology to enhance school safety;
- further increase penalties regarding school shooting threats to a felony;
- support new bullying legislation to include monitoring and follow-up on threats made by social media; and
- provide training through a School Safety Omnibus bill to respond to Active Shooters.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RESOLUTION 2020-34

CONCERNING POLICE BODY CAMERAS AND PUBLIC RECORDS IMPLICATIONS

Whereas, trust between law-enforcement agencies and the public is vital for the delivery of high-quality public safety services; and

Whereas, the use of body-worn cameras can help law-enforcement agencies strengthen performance, accountability, and transparency; and

Whereas, in other jurisdictions, the use of body-worn cameras has improved the documentation of evidence for investigations and court proceedings and reduced the number of use of force incidents and complaints against officers; and

Whereas, Police Officers collect body-worn camera footage in a number of sensitive locations in performance of their duties, such as private residences, during sensitive non-criminal citizen encounters, at graphic crime scenes and in locations such as hospitals and emergency rooms; and

Whereas, the Inspection of Public Records Act was written well before the introduction of body-worn cameras and consequently did not contemplate the attendant privacy implications surrounding the use of body-worn cameras; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 8 from the First Special Session of the 54th Legislature created two new causes of action under the New Mexico Tort Claims Act, both of which require peace officers to collect and law enforcement agencies to store body-worn camera footage, and neither of which contemplated the public records implications of such a requirement.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved the New Mexico Municipal League and the New Mexico Association of Chiefs of Police, strongly encouraged the development and adoption of guidelines and restrictions regarding Inspection of Public Records Act requests and the release of certain body-worn camera footage that addresses the following:

- (1) Limit Public access to and release of data from body-worn camera footage in regards to privacy consideration concerning body-worn cameras.
- (2) Inspection, redaction, and production of footage including: reasonable time-line for production and reasonable cost recovery for production and redaction of footage.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RESOLUTION 2020-35

CONCERNING THE FIRE FUND

Whereas, the current practice of the New Mexico State Legislature is to use potentially unconstitutional notwithstanding language to divert funds from the Fire Protection Fund; and

Whereas, the current practice will be opposed by all beneficiaries of the Fire Protection Fund; and

Whereas, the Fire Protection Grant Fund shall only be used to support administrative services directly benefiting beneficiaries of the Fire Protection Fund; and

Whereas, the Fire Protection Fund shall only revert to the Fire Protection Fund; and

Whereas, the current statute ensures that increases to insurance excise tax goes in to the distribution to fire departments.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League supports legislation that will ensure that funding is appropriated in the best interest of the Fire Protection Fund and it's beneficiaries.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RESOLUTION 2020-36

CONCERNING DEFINING RESERVE OFFICERS WITHIN NEW MEXICO

Whereas, numerous dedicated citizens currently serve as reserve officers within the State of New Mexico. Reserve officers are volunteers that are of great benefit to law enforcement agencies in the State of New Mexico. Reserve officers assist regular law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties by providing an additional officer on many critical calls for service. Reserve officers are supervised at all times during the performance of these duties by full time salaried peace officers. Reserve officers do not issue citations, complete criminal complaints, or sign warrants or affidavits. Reserve officers may write supplemental reports. The volunteer service of reserve officers is of critical importance to small agencies in rural areas that are budgetarily constrained from hiring additional full time officers. These dedicated volunteers provide a critical service as qualified back up to regular peace officers in these rural areas; and

Whereas, the State of New Mexico does not currently define the position of "Reserve Officer" within New Mexico State Statutes.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League supports legislation to:

- 1) Define a "Reserve Officer" in the State of New Mexico as a person authorized by a city, city and county, town, county, or state institution of higher education within this state to act as a reserve police officer, reserve deputy sheriff, or reserve town marshal for certain specific and limited periods of time while the person is authorized to be on duty and acting at the express direction or under the direct supervision of a full time salaried law enforcement officer. A reserve officer is a peace officer while engaged in the performance of his or her duties whose authority shall be limited to the authority granted by his or her authorizing agency.
- 2) Define "Direct Supervision" as an assignment given by a full time salaried peace officer to a reserve officer, which assignment is carried out in the personal presence of, or in direct radio or telephone contact with, and under the immediate control of, the full time salaried peace officer.
- 3) Define "Express Direction" as a task-specific assignment given by a full time salaried peace officer to a reserve officer. The full time salaried peace officer need not be present while the reserve officer carries out the assignment.
- 4) A reserve officer shall be required to complete at least 40 hours of in-service training during each 24 month period of service with a political subdivision. The first training course shall commence no later than 12 months after appointment as a reserve officer with a New Mexico law enforcement agency.

- 5) A reserve officer may be compensated for his or her time during a declared emergency or during a time of special need. In all other circumstances, a reserve officer shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed at the discretion of the city, city and county, town, county, or state institution of higher education benefitting from the services of the reserve officer for any authorized out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the course of his or her duties. The city, city and county, town, county, or state institution of higher education shall pay the cost of workers' compensation benefits for injuries incurred by a reserve officer while on duty and while acting within the scope of his or her assigned duties. A reserve officer is an authorized volunteer.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RESOLUTION 2020-37

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A POLICE REFORM COMMITTEE

Whereas, police leaders, elected officials and community members should work together to develop and implement solutions regarding concerns over policing practices and operations. It is imperative that these efforts reflect a balanced strategic approach to combating crime and prioritizing community safety; and

Whereas, emotions are running high and politically expedient measures are being taken and unfortunately implementation of policy or other short sided measures are being hastily implemented without input and do not accomplish community and police engagement; and

Whereas, the Governor and the State of New Mexico should engage in a balanced approach so as not to negatively impact the quality of life for all citizens of our great State by soliciting input from all stakeholders, including Police Chiefs and Sheriffs, in all matters effecting implemented changes; and

Whereas, comprehensive police reform will be a challenge and all parties should be engaged, including law enforcement leadership, to collectively establish effective, transparent and lasting institutional change.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that a request be made to the Governor to appoint and convene a committee of police executives, elected officials, community members, and other stakeholders to identify and set the goals for police reform. As another legislative session quickly approaches, many “reform” bills are already being drafted and presented, and there should be comprehensive discussions to accomplish well-reasoned approaches to achieve effective police reform. Currently, we see a series of disconnected ideas that have not been analyzed and discussed that may in fact, either not accomplish or work against, the goals of true police reform. Law enforcement is bound by public service duty to keep all communities safe. Because of that commitment, the ultimate outcome shall be to implement change together. With the Governor’s appointment, this committee will engage in future, ongoing discussions to ascertain ideas that shall result in effective, transparent and accountable police reform across New Mexico.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.