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Description automatically generatedNorth Valleys Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board held on December 9th, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. North Valleys Library (1075 N Hills Blvd. Reno, NV 89506)**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

PRESENT – Teresa Aquila, Aaron Jennings (Online), Roger Edwards, Wanida Black

ABSENT –

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF** November 12, 2024

Roger motioned to approve the minutes for the November 12th CAB meeting and Wanida Black seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**Pat Davison suggested improving communication between the Community Advisory Boards (CABs) and the planning department as part of efforts to enhance the CABs' operations. This idea arose from recent projects discussed at the Planning Commission, specifically the Osage Road and White Owl projects. Pat noted that while the Hub Report was helpful for projects without submitted development applications, it did not reflect submitted applications. Therefore, Pat proposed that the county share a monthly list of all submitted development applications with the CABs to ensure timely updates for their meetings. Pat also mentioned attending a Spanish Springs CAB presentation on water supply, which was well-received, and clarified neutrality on the two mentioned projects.
2. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES**    
     
   Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District  
   Division Chief Joe Schum provided a public safety update, highlighting recent statistics and safety tips. November’s average call volume for the North Valleys was 203, slightly lower than the average of 217, with 2 fires, 134 medical calls, and motor vehicle crashes accounting for the majority of incidents. He shared winter safety reminders, including checking burn permits due to anticipated wind conditions, safely managing Christmas tree disposal with *Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful*, and preventing chimney fires by getting chimneys swept. Operational updates included six new recruits currently in the academy, set to graduate in January, and the groundbreaking of Fire Station 37’s expansion in Hidden Valley to improve firefighter living and working conditions. Additionally, Joe introduced a new automatic aid agreement with the Reno Fire Department, involving dual dispatching to better serve border areas with shared call volumes. This trial will feed into the development of a new regional CAD system, aiming to streamline and improve service delivery by the time it launches next year.  
     
   Teresa Aquila questioned Joe Shum about the new CAD system trial with Reno and Truckee Meadows dispatch centers, asking if they are testing the system in specific areas rather than implementing it fully. Joe explained that the new CAD system isn't live yet; they are currently transferring calls between dispatch centers to allow closer units to respond more quickly. This involves dual responses from two fire trucks, with crews coordinating via radio to ensure the closest unit handles the call to reduce wear on equipment and improve response times. Joe noted early success in the first three weeks, including improved outcomes in cardiac arrests and fire responses.

Roger Edwards questioned Joe Schum about the historical challenges surrounding mutual aid agreements, particularly concerns over funding and payment disputes. He asked what resolved these issues and how mutual aid has progressed to its current form. Joe explained that while there were past financial disputes, they have moved beyond those concerns and are now focused on providing the best possible service to the public. He noted that the current trial with Reno Fire and Truckee Meadows dispatch centers is aimed at measuring response patterns and identifying gaps, as they transition to a new regional CAD system. Joe emphasized that the trial builds on years of collaboration with Sparks since 2012/13 and is now expanding with Reno to improve service coordination.

Teresa Aquila asked Joe Schum about the future plans for the Silver Lake Station, given its location within Reno city boundaries and its proximity to the county near Red Rock. She inquired if there were plans to move the station or maintain its current role, noting the area's potential for future development. Joe explained that they are monitoring pre-approved developments and call volumes to determine future needs. He mentioned that the Silver Lake Station is currently a volunteer station assisting with brush fires and water-related incidents. However, he noted that if development increases and call volumes justify it, the station could potentially transition into a "career station,".   
  
Roger Edwards asked for clarification on what a career station is, and Joe Schum informed him that it is a station which would be staffed 24/7. He elaborated that Silver Lake Station is a volunteer station which focuses on brush fires and similar incidents. They don’t do medical aids or motor vehicle crashes.   
  
Washoe County Sheriff’s Department  
Lieutenant Armando Avina provided a public safety update focusing on crime trends and law enforcement activities in the North Valleys area. He highlighted an increase in vandalism and theft, particularly in newly developed residential areas where items like microwaves, ovens, and refrigerators are being stolen before homes are fully closed out. This has been identified as the most notable issue in the area. Dispatch calls from residents have decreased, with 786 calls in the third quarter compared to a three-year average of 806. However, initiated calls by law enforcement (e.g., traffic stops and business checks) have risen significantly, with 879 in the third quarter compared to a three-year average of 683. The rise in initiated calls indicates stronger law enforcement presence and community engagement. Citizens are encouraged to continue using online reporting for suspicious activities, which feeds into follow-up investigations. Law enforcement officers are conducting regular training in the area, contributing to increased patrols and activity. Despite minor issues like speeding and cell phone use, crime remains low, and the North Valleys area continues to trend as a safe and pleasant place to live and work. Lieutenant Avina expressed optimism about the area’s safety, citing effective patrol work and community cooperation while noting that the balance between citizen reports and proactive law enforcement is maintaining public safety.

Roger Edwards commented on traffic concerns, particularly heavy congestion at O'Brien Pass due to freeway construction. He mentioned that traffic is currently very dense and suggested the use of radar enforcement trailers to monitor the area. Avina informed Edwards that nighttime enforcement recently appointed a new motor sergeant and will share these community concerns. He also highlighted seasonal challenges like icy conditions at O'Brien's and Anderson's Pass during snow, emphasizing ongoing traffic and safety issues related to these areas.

1. **WINTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESPONSE -**

Kelly Echeverria, the Emergency Management Administrator, presented on winter weather preparedness, emphasizing its importance for community safety. She began by outlining common winter hazards, including extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds, which can lead to power outages, dangerous driving conditions, and health risks like hypothermia, frostbite, and carbon monoxide poisoning. Her presentation focused on three key steps to preparedness: preparation in advance, knowing how to survive during adverse conditions, and recognizing/responding to emergencies. Echeverria stressed the importance of understanding local weather risks and community support, such as checking on neighbors. She recommended preparing homes by ensuring insulation, testing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and winterizing vehicles by maintaining wiper systems and brakes. She also suggested signing up for local alert systems and monitoring weather reports. Winter kits for homes and vehicles should include supplies such as jumper cables, warm clothing, flashlights, non-perishable food, and water. For during winter events, Echeverria advised staying off dangerous roads, using generators safely outside, preparing for power outages, and monitoring for signs of hypothermia or frostbite. She shared first aid actions, including warming the core in hypothermia cases and recognizing frostbite signs. Additionally, she brought attention to the region’s only urban avalanche areas near Lake Tahoe and recommended checking the Sierra Avalanche Center’s reports before venturing into backcountry areas.   
  
Kelly Echeverria’s presentation shifted focus to response coordination, and community preparedness. She began by emphasizing that emergency management operates as a response agency, with processes typically initiated when a threat or incident is identified by law enforcement or fire services. Once an evacuation alert request is received, her office activates the *Emergency Shelter Council*, which consists of agencies like the Red Cross, Washoe County Regional Animal Services, and other key partners. The council helps determine evacuation locations and coordinates the response. The alert system has become much faster and more efficient by implementing group chats and libraries as temporary evacuation points. Alerts are short, direct, and contain vital information, such as the nature of the threat, evacuation areas, and evacuation locations. To enhance this system, they’ve adopted RAVE Smart 9-1-1, replacing the older Code Red system. This new system allows residents to choose their preferred notification method and provides additional time for evacuation by notifying those outside designated polygons or affected zones. Notifications are sent through various channels, including emergency alert systems, wireless emergency alerts, email, social media, text, and landline reverse dialing. Another critical tool mentioned is Perimeter Map, which allows preplanning and real-time coordination by tracking evacuations, road closures, shelters, and other key emergency data. Emergency responders and emergency management teams utilize this platform for operational planning, while the public can access updates via **perimetermap.com**. Echeverria also highlighted mass care as part of emergency management efforts, including temporary shelters, medical aid, feeding services, and resources for pets. Two pet trailers have been secured to ensure that animals can stay with their owners during evacuation efforts. She concluded by describing the role of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the central hub coordinating all response efforts. The EOC hosts subject matter experts and agency partners from the region, ensuring resource distribution and coordination with first responders. Finally, collaboration and partnerships were emphasized as vital to the community's ability to respond to and recover from emergencies. The tools, alert systems, and programs presented reflect a focus on technological upgrades, faster communication, and strategic partnerships to enhance community resilience.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB –**

Sally Johnston informed the CAB of two upcoming events. One on December 16th for the Sky Tavern Trails in District 1 and the other for a Zoom meeting for Article 610 Update with Washoe County CSD’s planning and building division.

1. **BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION –**

No announcements, requests, or discussions were made.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT -**County Manager Eric Brown acknowledged the efforts and leadership of Chief Moore in advancing the automatic aid program, which has faced delays despite Moore’s persistence. Brown emphasized that the delays weren’t due to financial constraints but rather collaboration challenges with Reno Fire. Moore is set to retire in January after years of dedicated service, and his leadership has been instrumental in these efforts. Additionally, Brown provided an update on the upcoming computer-aided dispatch system, which is expected to launch in September, though it may happen sooner. This system will improve data collection, cost analysis, and planning for emergency medical services (EMS) and fire response, enhancing capabilities in ways not previously possible. The project remains on schedule and within budget.

Edwards asked Manager Brown how they solved the retirement issue and Brown answered that they have been doing it for 10 years.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 P.M.