

# East Gateway Coalition of Associations Meeting

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting Held

April 20, 2017

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Coalition President Michael Brasher. Introductions by officers and audience members followed.

Capt. Josh Campos, of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department, said he has received lots of inquiries about New Mexico's Sex Offender Laws. He invited and introduced BCSO Sex Offender Unit Detective Glenn Metzger to explain these laws.

Detective Metzger said there are three different laws, depending on the date of the offense: One for conviction, incarceration or probation/parole on or after July 1, 1995; another for a person in the same categories on or after July 1, 2005, and a third for the same on or after July 1, 2013. Registration lengths, time to report changes and other restrictions vary slightly depending on which law the offender falls under. He distributed a chart with a matrix of each of them.

Detective Metzger went on to explain that six detectives cover all of Bernalillo County. He currently tracks over 200 sex offender cases. Cases with a ten-year annual registration requirement are not postable on website, but in general, the NM Dept. of Public Safety website ([www.NMSexoffender.com](http://www.NMSexoffender.com)) is a resource where you can specify a radius around your house to determine where sex offenders live. They check on registered sex offenders twice a year to verify their information and ensure that they are still living where they are registered to live. He explained Sex Offender Registration Requirements and answered questions from the audience.

Capt. Josh Campos updated the audience on crime trends in his area, east of Tramway. He spoke of an uptick on mail theft. He recommended investing in a post office box to protect your mail. Cluster boxes are being hit the hardest. Mail carriers have taken a special class on how to spot and handle mail theft, such as watching for cars following them on their routes. If you are expecting a parcel, make sure it is delivered to a person. These are crimes of opportunity. 87% of property crimes are on unsecured property. Secure property in the trunk. Take garage door remotes in with you when you leave the vehicle. Churches have been hit by thieves who break into cars, take the registration and garage door opener, and go to the home to burglarize it.

Active Shooter Response – he has trained over 70 deputies and is working to train the public as well on how to handle an active shooter situation. Look for emergency exits at every location – restaurant, store, etc. – that you visit. He said he is available to do a threat assessment of neighborhoods. BCSO is the only law enforcement department in the State of New Mexico, and one of just a few in the country, with an Active Shooter Response Program. He has trained 700 fire department officers in this as well. First,

officers go in and neutralize the threat. The next wave is the paramedics. They are working on a curriculum to share with other agencies.

Commissioner Wayne Johnson expressed his appreciation for our law enforcement agencies and shared his admiration of their work. He spoke of problems in the criminal justice system and the talk of a causal link of a reduced jail population driving up crime in Albuquerque. He said he felt this couldn't be farther from the truth. 20% of criminals are committing 80% of our crimes. Our new District Attorney is concentrating on these repeat offenders. Judges are not looking at true risk assessment matrices. It's not a jail issue; it's a justice system issue. Our jail (Metropolitan Detention Center) was never intended to be a final destination – it holds people for trial and keeps everyone safe and usually is for durations of no more than a year. It is not a treatment facility. Prison (Department of Corrections) is the longer-term solution to letting them back out on the street. We need judges who are sentencing people appropriately for the crimes they have committed. Discussion followed on behavioral health programs and efforts.

A suggestion was made to have a speaker from ABCGC on substance abuse programs for future meeting.

Paul Gessing, from the Rio Grande Foundation, a nonprofit policy research organization here in Albuquerque, shared information on recent tax increases. A 3/16 of a cent gross receipts tax was just passed by the County Commission to increase our GRT to 7.5% per dollar. This is a 29% increase since 2000. It is a regressive tax, in that lower income people end up paying a larger percentage of their salaries than do higher income people. The upcoming special session may have some discussion on tax reform which could influence gross receipts taxes, including the increase recently passed.

Vehicle Seizures: Civil Asset Forfeiture is a Fourth Amendment constitutional issue. Right now, the government can seize property without a conviction, whether or not the property is owned by the suspect or by another party. New Mexico passed groundbreaking protection in 2015 for its citizens by disallowing it without a conviction. Albuquerque has a DWI seizure program that allows them to seize vehicles without a conviction – we average 1,000 per year. He cited a recent case in which a mother loaned his son a car which was seized in a DWI case; she did not know about his prior conviction. Still going through the courts. It is SB-202.

Jim Dines, District 20 Representative, gave a Legislative update. He said special interest groups are making our policies; this is nothing new to Santa Fe. If we are really going to move ahead in NM, we need a more global approach. He doesn't accept any free meals or PAC money. He proposed a resolution for an Ethics Commission, which has passed and become a Constitutional Amendment. 90% of people polled believe perceived ethics or lack thereof is contributing to lack of economic growth. We are now recognizing by constitution the need for ethics oversight.

Lobbyists: He is not against lobbyists; they have a function. He just doesn't want them to pay for what could be perceived as more time with him. A lot of money is up in Santa Fe being paid to lobbyists by special interest groups.

Dawn Marie Emillio, Policy Analyst from Don Harris' office, spoke briefly about the City budget and invited people's input. She also gave the following project updates:

- Southern Blvd. street lighting will begin May 1 and finish August 18.
- Pickleball courts at Manzano Mesa are scheduled to be completed by first week of May. Parking concerns by nearby neighbors are being looked at, as well as at the possibility of relocating the recycling containers which take up a large part of the parking lot by the courts.
- Juan Tabo Hills Fire Station in Volterra is in the design phase; a park is also being designed for next door to the fire station. Is intended to take some of the burden off fire stations' EMTs. It will be an alternative response station so they don't have to take fire trucks out on paramedic calls.
- Singing Arrow Community Center – a hearing has been scheduled and the project is currently on hold depending on the outcome.

Michael pointed out that citywide, some concerns are being expressed about sector plans being overridden by other plans, as evidenced by the Singing Arrow Community Center plan. Dawn Marie said she will relay these concerns to the Councilor.

Michael also expressed concern about the move of Office of Neighborhood Coordination to the City Council offices. He feels there needs to be a firewall between the two. He would like the East Gateway and West Side coalitions to be able to sit down with them to discuss the issue.

A resident, Judy Young, from the Singing Arrow neighborhood, expressed concern about not having any input on what is happening with the proposed new community center. She explained it has been overwhelming for her neighborhood, which is in major crisis right now. People who are being directly affected by the project are not being given any input. Dawn Marie acknowledged her concern and invited her and her neighbors to call her any time. Dawn Marie said they will not move forward on the plans without a dispute resolution process. Judy requested that better information come from Don Harris' office in the future.

Michael Brasher thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

The next meeting of the East Gateway Coalition will be on **Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Owen, Secretary