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**COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS**  
*COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS*

**Forks Community Meeting**

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

Forks Community Center, 91 Maple Ave, Forks, WA 98331

*The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.*

**Roll Call**

Commissioners present: Lillian Ortiz-Self, Manuel Reta, Ty Cordova, Cynthia de Victoria, Ana Ruiz Peralta, Ana Maria Martinez, Anita Ahumada, Sharonne Navas

Staff present: Uriel Iniguez, Marena Lear

**Introductions & Acknowledgements**

Chair Ortiz-Self thanked the community for coming and for being willing to participate in a collaborative dialogue.

Commissioner Reta thanked the community, Representative Luis Moscoso, and Sheriff Rick Bart, and expressed the importance of discussing these issues.

Chair Ortiz-Self reminded the attendees that the commission was there to facilitate a dialogue and foster collaboration, and assured all present that the safety of every member present was of the utmost importance.

Community member Manuela Velasquez shared the following:

In the last two and a half years the community has been very impacted emotionally by the operations of Border Patrol in Forks. We have many challenges and we're here to come up with solutions. We're also here to educate people that don't know what's going on. I hope we can continue this dialogue and find solutions.

**Agenda Review**

Chair Ortiz-Self outlined the agenda for the meeting, which began with a presentation on the Commission and the Latino community of this area, followed by 5-minute presentations from the panelists. This was followed by public comment, wherein community members are asked to direct their



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comments to the Commission, whose members will then pose those questions to the panel. The meeting was scheduled to adjourn at 8:30pm.

**Panelists Present (some changes to the original agenda)**

Bryon Monohon, Forks Mayor

Sergeant Brian King, Clallam County Sheriff's Office

Susan Trettevik, Department of Natural Resources

Amanda Allard, Washington State Human Rights Commission

Captain Robert Johnson and Sergeant Galen Hester, Washington State Patrol

**CHA Official Business**

Commissioner Navas made a motion to make the following change in the previous meeting minutes:

In the public comment section, change the word *gun* to *BB gun*. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Reta. Motion was passed, minutes approved.

**Presentation by Director Uriel Iniguez and Commissioner Manuel Reta**

Commissioner Introductions. Each Commissioner shared their name, their region, and their areas of expertise.

**Panel Comments**

*Question posed by the Commission to each panelist:* How does your department ensure equitable access to services for all constituents?

- Captain Robert Johnson and Sergeant Galen Hester, Washington State Patrol:

I'd like to thank the Commission and the Forks community for having us here today. I am the district commander in the district that encompasses this area and our district headquarters is in Bremerton. Our district is made up of the 7 counties from the Canadian border to the Oregon border. I am responsible for the oversight of all the State Patrol personnel that are assigned to these counties, which include Clallam and Jefferson.

It's surprising that people don't understand our responsibilities. Our Chief is appointed by the Governor. We're made up of five bureaus. The one that most people see is the traffic law enforcement bureau.



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But we do a lot of other things, including the fire protection bureau. Some of the duties of this bureau include checking rest homes and hospitals for safety. We also have a number of detectives assigned to different things such as narcotics task forces, general investigations. Our agency also coordinates the missing or exploited children's task force. All 7 crime laboratories in the state are controlled by WSP, as is the security for the state ferry system, and for the capitol campus in Olympia. I work for the Field Operations bureau, the largest bureau within the patrol. It is comprised of 700 line traffic troopers. We're broken up into 8 geographical districts. This is district 8. In Port Angeles we have 16 troopers assigned to Clallam and Jefferson counties, directly supervised by 2 sergeants. The Field Operations Bureau is in charge of traffic law enforcement and investigation of collisions outside of all incorporated areas and on all interstate freeways. Law enforcement at times can be few and far between – our city police officers, deputies, and troopers need to work together because there aren't enough officers. We've had some tragic incidents recently with officers being killed in the line of duty.

The way in which we ensure equitable and safe access to services is to carry out our duty to help motorists and make proactive enforcement efforts with the goal of reducing collisions. Our agency has a goal of Target 0 – reduce all fatal, disable and injury collisions by the year 2030. When I started law enforcement 34 years ago, over 1200 people a year were dying, but last year the number was 453. Think of the difference in 30 years – there are more cars and more drivers now. That is our primary focus – if you need help, we want to be there for you.

- Forks City Mayor, Bryon Monohon:

I don't get to chance to speak on a personal basis, as opposed to as the Mayor, very often. I just want to say that we need immigration reform in this country now. We have carried large chunks of our economy and our agriculture on the backs of hardworking Latinos since the turn of the century, and this is not acceptable. It needs to be fixed in Congress. We are a small city with limited amounts of resources. There is a 10 million dollar Border Patrol compound in Port Angeles with 50 agents. The fact is that if someone calls 9-1-1 and the name goes out over the airways, Border Patrol is there. They are a federal agency, and the fact is that our department is not in a position to provide equitable access to services with this Border Patrol situation.

- Sergeant Brian King:

On behalf of the Clallam County Sheriff's department, I'd like to thank everyone for inviting me here today. Sheriff Benedict elected me to be here because of my position on the West End, and my daily contacts with the Hispanic community. As the face of our department out here, I felt it very reasonable and very important for me to be here today.



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Immigration and the presence of Border Patrol here have really affected our department and how we look at our daily policing practices. When the community started to express concerns about our work with the Border Patrol and their safety and ability to report crimes, it was important for us to make the Hispanic community feel that they were safe and that they could trust us with immigration issues set aside. We met on numerous occasions with the Forks Human Rights Group and they expressed their concerns to us. We have been able to truly reach out and make sure that the Hispanic community feels comfortable, by looking at what our practices are, how we approach our interpreting services, and our outreach. It's really important to us that the community feels that they can trust us and report crimes to us.

There are some examples that highlight our efforts. Number one is our presence here. It's a privilege for me to be here, and it's important for me to be able to take back information about this meeting to the department. There is another deputy here tonight interested in learning about the issues in this community. We're all invested members of this community and we want to understand the issues. We want to make sure that when we're out there enforcing the criminal law (burglary, arson, sex crimes, etc.) Anything that affects all the people, we want to make sure that we're providing equitable services. We want to make sure that immigration status is not our concern, but public safety. The sheriff's department does consistent training on unbiased policing practices. As an accredited agency with the WA State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, we've adapted a number of policies specific to limited English proficiency people and unbiased policing practices, and we ensure that our deputies are following those practices. And when we don't, we want to hear back from our community.

- Amanda Allard, Washington State Human Rights Commission:

Thank you for inviting our agency, I'm proud to be here representing the Human Rights Commission. I'm a civil rights investigator. Our agency's purpose is to enforce RCW 4960, the law against discrimination in employment, places of public accommodation, insurance, and credit. What I do is investigate discrimination complaints based on, for example, national origin or race. As an investigator I have police powers, I can subpoena testimonies, documentation, whatever I need for my investigation. I've seen lots of discrimination against people of color. It makes me excited when I see gatherings of people who want to eliminate discrimination and fight for the rights of all the people that are living here. Feel free to contact our agency if you feel you have been discriminated against or know anyone who has, or just want some information on the law against discrimination.

- Susan Trettevik, Department of Natural Resources:

We have 6 regions in the state. This region includes Clallam county, Jefferson county, and the north part of Grays Harbor county. There are two sides to our agency: the regulatory side, which regulates forest



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practices and activities on state and private land, and does wildfire suppression and prevention, as well as inmate crews that do work in fire, out of the Olympic Corrections Center. Then there is the land management side, which manages forest lands and conservation lands. I understand that some of the concern today is around our enforcement of activities in the woods.

I will first address the extent to which we carry out our various programs with individuals who are not law enforcement officials. In our Forest Practices program, we give out permits. Foresters work with landowners to make sure that they do corrective action and citations, etc. Our recreation staff works to make sure the recreation community follows all the rules and doesn't damage the environment. We have state land people who lay out sales and do compliance on those sales. We like to keep as much of it in that arena as possible. However, we do have a law enforcement unit based in Olympia, and our Chief is Larry Raedel. We now have two law enforcement personnel assigned to our region, one based out of North Grays Harbor and one based out of Port Angeles. They respond to illegal activities, such as theft, vandalism, and so forth, as well as emphasis patrols for special forest products and permits. Now they will begin doing emphasis patrols related to our discovery pass.

I have reached the point where I need to say that I have not been directly connected with this issue enough to fully and appropriately answer the question. I know many individuals in the community but I have not reached out as the region manager to come in and meet with me. That's what I would like to do today. There are 3 specific areas, and one is just our program services. We make the assumption that people have equal access to those, but I don't know every way in which people use those services and the problems they might encounter. I invite people to come and talk to me. I brought contact information for myself as well as my state lands assistant. The second area is law enforcement – I would appreciate opportunities to talk about our law enforcement. We do call for back up on our law enforcement. All the different law enforcement groups are working together. I would appreciate the opportunity to learn more and see how we can improve on what we're doing. I can be a voice back to our Chief, Larry Raedel. The third area is employment – we are looking at expanding our recruitment practices. I would like to thank Commissioner Reta for pointing out that we can distribute notices through the Commission. I invite anyone to contact me after the meeting to look at ways we can continue this conversation.

- Chair Lillian Ortiz-Self:

Thank you to our panel members. At this time we will go into public comments. When the Vice Chair Ty Cordova will call your name, please make your way to the front. We are all aware of what is going on with Border Patrol. We are not here to control the actions of Border Patrol. Given the climate of this



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community, our conversation needs to be around how the community can collaborate with law enforcement.

**Public Comment**

- Rosalinda Guillen:

I am the Executive Director of Community to Community in Bellingham. We work on these same kinds of issues. Our community has been besieged by a growing militaristic culture. There are a number of grassroots organizations that are working together to collaborate with law enforcement and build relationships with the Border Patrol. We would like to see the Commissioners collaborate with this grassroots coalition. Many times small grassroots organizations are not visible in the media or the public comment, and they are overlooked in favor of the big flashy organizations. There is a role that the commission can play with understanding the relationships with small organizations. Small organizations in the Latino community would like to work with CHA so that you have a broader reach and better represent Latinos across the state. I'd like to have a conversation on how we can bring back the authority of CHA to act on civil rights issues.

- Toni Sebastian:

I am with the Department of Children's Administration, DSHS. The bill ESSB 2264 was just passed, which requires us to offer contracts to provide the types of services that our families need, versus providing services that are available. We now have the opportunity to talk to the community and ask then - What is it you think the families that we work with really need? Not just in services but in concrete support. The bill allows us to provide concrete supports, paying for things like rent, beds, food, clothing. If these are things that impact the child's ability to be safe, or have a lowered risk of abuse or neglect, we are able to provide them. We brought some information, and we'd be very interested to hear from the commission about this issue.

- Commissioner Anita Ahumada:

I request that the interpreter take as much time as he needs in order to interpret correctly, with pauses in between statements.

- Manuela Velasquez:

(Question directed to the panel) How do you see the emotional effect on our Hispanic community from Border Patrol activities? I'm a preschool teacher, and I have seen a lot of pain and suffering in families when the parents are detained and deported. I am happy to see that many of you (CHA) are in



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education. There is nothing in our schools that can help our children with the trauma when their parents are deported. They are left alone and there is a lot of damage left to these children. They don't get counseling. You as educators know what I mean when I say these children need services. Now I know that I can connect with some of you to get the services our children need and deserve when they are impacted by the separation of their families.

- Lesley Hoare:

(Question directed to the panel) Considering the statement made in the Peninsula Daily News that Border Patrol does not ask questions about immigration status until after someone's arrested, how can your agencies work to make sure that this happens? Is there anything that could help other agencies as well? This seems to be a challenge.

- Marta Morelos:

(Question directed to Sergeant King) I'm here on behalf of the Forks Human Rights Group and as a community member. How does the new program Secure Communities affect your work? I believe that it is important that they are able to answer that for us but also for themselves.

- Lucretia Stansbury:

(Question directed to Sergeant King) I am a member of Forks Human Rights Group and a community member in Forks. I've lived here for 6 years and have noticed an extreme change from Olympia; it's a lot different here. My question is what is your agency's policy when a Border Patrol agent shows up on the scene without being called?

- Lara Cinderhoff:

The Border Patrol problem is not just a Latino problem, but for everyone. On November 29th 2011, I was chased by Border Patrol, here in Quilleute Prairie, three behind me, trying to run me off the road. I know how to drive. Local guys know me, Brian King knows me, and we're neighbors. Border Patrol doesn't know who I am. They're not neighbors, they're not from around here, and they're Tin Star cowboys. They're lurking in my neighborhood not in uniform and without government plates. I tried to write an article and my computer gets shut down, and I start getting followed around in town. This is a tight little community. Border Patrol agents are the outsiders here. This is hurting all of us, and we need to do something, work together.

- Donna Moon:



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(Question directed to the panel) I'm an elementary teacher in Forks school district. My question is that I have a lot of former students who are in high school now and that are undocumented. They're scared to death, and they want to know what their options are. What they can do? How to get a green card? How to get a job? I'd appreciate any information about that situation.

- Jim Buckley:

I live in Port Townsend. We were galvanized and shocked when Border Patrol started stopping traffic on 101, the road on our way to church, and our Latino friends stopped coming to church. I run a website called BPFree.org and we are happy to be supportive and spread the word. We're very lucky that our Police Chief and Sheriff have both said that they see the Border Patrol as an occupying force.

- Lois Danks:

(Questions directed to the panel) I'm the Coordinator of the "Stop the Checkpoints" group in Port Angeles and we help people from across the peninsula. We have 200 people on our e-mail list and we've been in operation about 4 years. We've been publicizing and protesting against the highway checkpoints and the new Border Patrol station being built, and we've rallied in support of the people taken to the detention center, some of whom we were able to get released and taken back home. We have regular meetings and forums on things such as immigration reform and secure communities. I'm really glad the commission's here and I'm proud of the Forks people who have had the courage to stand up and bring lawsuits to slow down some of what's happening with the Border Patrol. I agree with the Mayor from Forks that the lawsuits and the protests may do something to keep things in check or slow things down for a while, but what we really have to do is something on a national basis to change the immigration system. I wanted to ask about secure communities and our law enforcement. Will our law enforcement honor ICE detainers and keep people in jail after they would normally be released? If I asked them to hold somebody so that they could come and check them out for immigration, they can hold them for up to 48 hours extra. What will our jails do about that? Interpreters – legal interpreters are supposed to pass a test and get a credential to be able to interpret. In a legal situation, it seems that the Border Patrol should be calling our licensed interpreters instead of calling someone with beginning Spanish.

- Libby Palmer:

(Question directed to the panel) I'd like to thank CHA for coming. I'd never heard of you before. It makes me feel good to know what your function is and to know that you exist. I'm from Port Townsend, the other part of Jefferson County. We became vitally concerned about the Border Patrol situation here in Forks. We're like two sister communities despite the two hour separation. I hope that the Clallam Sheriff coordinates with the Jefferson Sheriff. Constant communication is important. The Forks Human Rights





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network has enabled us to come and provide support. CHA's charge is to know what is going on here. My question is – what can we do, even with the terrible immigration system we have now, what can we do in our communities to help immigrants? To say that immigration is a federal issue is making it too remote. We have to start doing it ourselves. How can we start building true grassroots citizen education so that we can help each other?

- Elizabeth Burns:

(Question directed to the panel) I'm a teacher at Forks elementary. I'd like to share my professional perspective. I find it really hard to do my job because of "No Child Left Behind," a federal law that states that every student has to make academic improvement and progress every year in his or her education. I find that it is impossible to do that right now. I heard that you have a link to the governor's office and the legislators, and I'd like you to share the message that the affective level of children's suffering negatively impacts their ability to learn. As a teacher, I know that in order for a student to learn, they need to feel safe. If they don't have a parent at home because a parent was taken from them in a very frightening way, that child doesn't feel safe and therefore can't learn. It's a ripple effect across the school. As a result, children can't focus, they live in a stressful environment, they are afraid. So how can I do my job and comply with "No Child Left Behind"? Maybe if we see it from this political perspective, maybe we'll get farther. The children are the victims. The children become the community. That needs to be understood. It's hard for outsiders to understand that depth but we see it in schools.

- Lisa Heaton:

I would like to thank CHA for organizing this event here in Forks. I am a Spanish language Communications Manager for the Department of Labor & Industries. Working for a state agency, I understand how important it is to talk to people face to face and learn what is happening with the people that we serve in this state. Especially for the commissioners that are new, I want you to know about our services, two services especially – the worker's compensation system, for people who have accidents on the job (we don't ask about citizenship status), and the safety or health violation complaint system. It is important for people who have accidents at their workplace to file a claim. Also, if people see a safety or health violation in their work, and they report it and an employer takes retaliation against the worker that is a form of safety and health discrimination. We have complaint forms that can be filed anonymously for that and we have wage complaints if someone thinks they are not being paid their minimum wage or the salary that they have agreed to with an employer. I want to make sure people know about our call center. 80% of our calls are related to claims, insurance, or worker's compensation. Our phone number is 1-800-547-8367. We have English and Spanish speaking staff



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Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm. We also have many web pages in Spanish. I just wanted to let you know what some of our services are. If you have any questions please feel free to call us.

- Louise Moorehead:

I'm from Seattle. I'm here because I was curious, and also because as an interpreter I serve a community which is different from this community; my language is not Spanish. The community I serve has their own issues with immigration as well. I heard about this through the Washington State Coalition for Language Access (WASCLA). WA State abounds in qualified, certified, trained, and competent interpreters. We don't show up when we're not asked – we are available, but we need to be requested. You can have in-person or telephonic interpretation. The Washington courts system examines and certifies many interpreters in many languages. The training is very rigorous. There are many ways to get interpreters. WASCLA is very concerned about meaningful language access. I heard of children being used as interpreters by teachers in medical situations. I know the trauma that occurs in a child that is put in a position of responsibility that we cannot expect them to assume. We're here and trained and ready to work.

- Amy Macintyre:

(To the Commission) Thank you for traveling out here. It's an opportunity to hear from a state agency. I live here in Forks and I've been here since 1996. I'm a certified DSHS interpreter. I wear many hats in the community. I'm a mother of a Latino child and I'm a bilingual crime assistance advocate. I want to reiterate the concerns for Latinos not wanting to come forward to report crime. A lot of people, instead of reporting crime, will just deal with it and that means a lot of things. I also participate in an Early Childhood education council. We have several immigrant children and I would just like to reiterate that the trauma is real and it is very long standing. It is not something they get over very easily and it is not something that they are trained or old enough to understand. Children should be our priority because they become us, our community.

- Luis Moscoso:

I'm representative of the 1<sup>st</sup> legislative district. I want to thank CHA. Thank you for inviting me to come and observe. I also want to thank the panel. I met a friend of mine Rick Bart, a former Snohomish county sheriff. He was instrumental in supporting my efforts to start a human rights commission there four years ago. Though his term has ended he really did help provide a base for me to start working. I would like to help him out in his work. This is democracy in action. Out all of the committees in Olympia the one that has become most important to me is the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee. I've been talking about why we haven't been paying attention to these issues. I think



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legislators get it, but they haven't paid attention to it. There are laws that we need to consider that should be proactive and positive. The question of how we're going to deal with immigration reform – we can't wait for the federal government.

- John Barrett:

We should be talking about *indios* and *mestizos*, the people that do not even speak Spanish have a particular linguistic problem. We need to think about their needs.

**Break** (10 minutes)

**Questions from CHA to the Panel**

- Chair Ortiz-Self to law enforcement:

How do you serve your non English speaking community members?

- Sergeant Brian King:

Each investigation is different. Often we need immediate interpretation, and that can be neighboring families, people in the community. There's a common belief that we consistently rely on BP to provide those services, but it's our goal to exhaust all our other options first. There are people in this room that we've used to help us conduct the investigation. There are instances where the investigations are so complex that we need to call in extra law enforcement help.

- Mayor Bryon Monohon:

There are a lot of different situations that law enforcement deals with. We have to use whatever resources are immediately available to us. Sometimes, if we have to wait for a translator to show up, we lose essential time. Many of our challenges involve BP just showing up at every situation, and they run the gamut. There are moments when they are helpful, and there are moments when we have to shoo them away. We use a language line and have contracts with interpreters.

- Captain Robert Johnson:

Each district may have a different way of working with interpreters. In this district, we have different resources for interpretation, including language lines and interpreter contracts, or people in our own



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agency that speak the language that we need, or jail staff. We do not request the Border Patrol to interpret for us.

- Sgt. Galen Hester:

Sometimes people will see my troopers stop a car and they see a BP car pull up behind me. We don't use them as interpreters. Sometimes they can't get a hold of interpreters, and then I have to come up with something. Sometimes I've even had to go to Olympic Medical Center to find an interpreter. When I go to court, I will have to defend it with the judge. Just because BP pulls up behind trooper cars, that does not mean we are using them as interpreters, or that we asked them to come – this is just common practice with law enforcement. They are making themselves available for back up.

- Chair Ortiz-Self:

What percentage of time do you use BP for your interpretation services? Either because they just show up, or you can't find someone else, or for any other reason.

- Sgt. Brian King:

The most recent incident was a homicide in Forks. This was an intense situation that required us to use all our resources. In the past 2 years, that would be the only time I have used them personally. The deputies in our department report to me if and when we use BP services, including responses to calls. In the past 2 years it has been less than 5 times.

- Mayor Brian Monohon:

My staff has reported that it happens between 2 and 3 times a month.

- Sgt. Hester:

It's extremely rare; I've never asked the Border Patrol to interpret for us. They don't show up on a routine basis, it depends on the location. I like their assistance, it's nice to have the backup; they bring good equipment that we don't have. As far as interpreting, we don't really use them.

- Commissioner DeVictoria

When someone is arrested, at what point is Border Patrol contacted?

- Sgt. Brian King:



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At the sheriff's office, we don't inquire about immigration status at the arrest level. If they've already been brought into jail and during the booking process there's a suspicion that the individual is here illegally, we call ICE.

- Mayor Monohon:

At this point, we aren't even calling because Border Patrol and ICE watch when someone goes to jail – it gets posted on the website. Usually someone's not in jail for more than a few hours before BP shows up.

- Captain Robert Johnson:

Officers cannot enforce immigration laws. We book prisoners into the county jail and from there, prisoners are taken into the custody of the sheriff, and we have no further contact with them.

- Mayor Monohon:

RCW 10.70.140 does state that correctional facilities are required to notify what the person's nationality is and "if it shall appear that such person is an alien, to immediately notify the United States immigration officer in charge of the district in which such penitentiary, reformatory, jail or other institution is located, of the date of and the reasons for such alien commitment, the length of time for which committed, the country of which the person is a citizen, and the date on which and the port at which the person last entered the United States."

We did do that for many years, but the attorney's note was that during the years that this was carried out, only one country ever responded.

- Commissioner Navas:

How does Secure Communities affect your work? If it is voluntary, do your respective agencies plan to participate?

- Sgt. Brian King:

It does not affect us at all on an operational level. I can't comment on what the sheriff's office foresees as to future concerns with Secure Communities.

- Mayor Monohon:

We have not made a decision at this time.

- Captain Robert Johnson:



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This does not pertain to our agency – it would pertain to the sheriff of that particular jail.

- Commissioner Peralta:

What changes will you make in your agencies after what you have heard from the community tonight?

- Sgt. Brian King:

What I perceive to be the biggest concern from this meeting is how we are utilizing interpreters. Investigations are different. There will be instances where we cannot get around using Border Patrol. There have been recent decisions made that I'm sure everyone in this room is aware of which really affect the way we use Border Patrol. We rarely use them at the sheriff's department level for interpreting services. It's only depending on the type of investigation or when we've exhausted all other options, and when there's an immediate public safety issue. Any time we have the time to reach out and find certified interpreters, we do it. We know how the community feels about the issue. We truly want to maintain that trust, and it's important for us that the community sees this.

- Mayor Monohon:

Members of the Forks Human Rights group have done an excellent job of documenting what life has been like in this community over the past 10 years. They are very heartfelt, they are very honest, and I respect their words. This is a difficult situation; we are caught between different priorities from different levels. We are open to any suggestions from the community.

- Captain Robert Johnson:

While acknowledging the gravity of the issue, I am confident that the current policies and procedures that we do not enforce immigration laws, and that we do not rely on the Border Patrol for interpretation, are well known by our troopers. Any policy changes will have to be made at the highest level of state government. Our agency takes concerns seriously, and we encourage anyone to bring forward any allegations they might have so it can be fully investigated.

- Chair Ortiz-Self:

Is there any written policy your agency has regarding what you or your staff should do if BP shows up unannounced while you are doing an investigation?

- Susan Trettevik:



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I'm not aware of one at this time. There's a sense that we cannot interfere with their activities. I will commit to finding out more about that. I will be bringing back what I've heard today my agency.

- Amanda Allard, HRC:

I'm not aware of any current policy regarding interaction with Border Patrol.

- Sgt. Brian King:

We don't have a policy but a practice. There are situations where the presence of Border Patrol inhibits our ability to conduct investigations, especially when dealing with the Hispanic community and their mistrust. There's been a true professional understanding between the Sheriff's office and the Border Patrol. When they show up to a scene, and we let them know that their presence is not going to facilitate our success, they respect that. There have been several high profile incidents where they've truly respected our position when we have told them that we cannot effectively provide a public safety service due to their presence. It's important for us to break down that fear that becomes a fear of the uniform, because it creates a barrier for us. Sometimes we have to say that we're not BP, and even promise that BP will not be coming in. There are also times when we call ahead and tell BP, please don't be in this area at this time because your presence may hinder us.

- Mayor Monohon:

We don't have a policy in place at this time and I believe that the establishment of one would be hotly debated and very controversial.

- Captain Johnson:

We don't have a policy that pertains to that issue.

- Commissioner Ana Maria Martinez:

The effects of action to children and families are very real. Can you describe what your agencies are doing to minimize that traumatic experience when children are present? Is there any training that you do? What is your protocol?

- Sergeant Brian King:

At our level that rarely is something we become directly involved in. I can't recall an instance of taking part in a family being separated. The sheriff's department is not a policing authority over immigration. However, we do see the effects from it in the contacts we have with the public and the fear from



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individuals that BP could be coming, and what the families express to us. From a more personal level, because my wife is a high school teacher, she tells me her stories about the effects on her students.

- Mayor Monohon:

Both my wife and I are mental health professionals. The trauma is seen in the school districts, in the mental health networks, in the hospitals, etc. At this time the community and some agencies are handling it on a case by case basis; some people get service, some don't. Some people are able to bounce back, some aren't. It's very real, but there is no unified approach to it.

- Captain Robert Johnson:

The majority of our contact is with the motoring public. It's rare that we are called upon to deal with criminal activity. I don't have any examples of how we may have dealt with family members.

- Sgt. Galen Hester:

We take the minimum amount of enforcement necessary to get compliance. If we have kids in the car, we try to talk to them and explain what's going on. That's part of our diversity training that we have to do once a year. I hope the leaders will talk to the Latino community so that they don't confuse us with other law enforcement or BP. We all have strengths and weaknesses, but if we can't communicate, we won't make progress. My troopers come to Forks High School for career days, and they talk to whoever wants to talk to them. We'd love to have more diversity, more minorities in our agencies. We keep track of the ethnicities of every person. WSU does studies to prove that we're not profiling. We ask that the commission and leaders in the community educate the community on what our role is.

- Susan Trettevik, DNR:

Children are not involved in most of the interactions that we have. Occasionally there are incidents in recreation campgrounds where we have to call CPS. I know it does have a ripple effect. I have two children in school who are adopted from China, and there have been times when they have come home and asked "Mom, can they take us away from you?" So I know it does ripple out.

- Commissioner Reta:

A situation of a van being chased by Border Patrol was mentioned earlier. If those kinds of issues are brought up to the sheriff and WSP, they need to be addressed. There is a fear in the community, they feel very unsafe. I would like to ask if you have seen a decline in calls from the Latino community due to the presence of Border Patrol.





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- Sgt. Brian King:

It's difficult to find a correlation to Border Patrol and see if there's a greater fear of calling, or a decrease in the number of Hispanic families here in the community. I haven't seen a difference in the call volume, but it seems that we are having less contact. Many people are leaving. If it's a mistrust issue, we need to continue the dialogue, and attempt to understand from our level what it takes to overtake those barriers and ensure that the Hispanic population feels comfortable with the Sheriff's department. We need to sit down and have those meetings and communicate. I'm very open to sit down and talk and see what we can do and see that communication is kept open and that people feel safe to call us.

- Mayor Brian Monohon:

I don't have anything to add.

- Captain Robert Johnson:

I think that's one of the few statistics we don't track, and I'm not sure that would be pertinent. 90% of the calls for service that we get are for collisions or disabled vehicles.

- Susan Trettevik, DNR:

We've had a sense that there are people leaving from our permit sales. 4 years ago we were bringing in twice what we're bringing in now. There's nothing to indicate that it is due to something in the market.

- Commissioner Cordova:

(To the Human Rights Commission) Do you have documentation for people who refuse to report crimes against themselves due to fear of Border Patrol involvement? And if so, how often?

- Amanda Allard, HRC:

We see it all the time that people are afraid to file discrimination complaints. People are afraid to speak out. We're here to investigate and make sure that people aren't being discriminated against – we don't care about immigration status. I will refer people to our Spanish speaking investigator, Kenia Rios.

- Kenia Rios, HRC:

A lot of Hispanic callers are afraid of filing their complaints because they don't have legal status, and they depend on their jobs. Females are afraid to say they're being sexually harassed because they might lose their jobs, and many times they're single moms. We can't take anonymous complaints, but we



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receive approximately 2 or 3 calls of this type daily. Many times individuals are threatened with deportation by their employers.

- Chair Ortiz-Self:

I would like to thank the panel members and the community. Commissioner Reta will talk about following up.

- Commissioner Reta:

I ask you to please call us. You can vote on some of these issues and make an impact. I thank each one of you that came out today. As Americans we have an interest in this community. Whenever you need to talk face to face, please call. We'll make necessary the necessary contacts for you.

- Chair Ortiz-Self:

Tomorrow we have a study session and we plan on following up on the things that were brought up tonight. Two of the main issues are around education and the trauma to children. If your questions were not addressed, be aware that we will be having more conversations. Mayor, you mentioned different areas where you see trauma. It sounds like there could be a forum on how to fulfill the needs of those children. There are various agencies that can come together. There are a lot of people working independently on these issues, and they could be brought to the table. We're here to help facilitate. If you need some help to put something together, let us know. We ask the panel to be willing to come to the table and continue these conversations.

Thank you for being here, and have a good evening.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.**