



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT BOARD MEETING DATE:

DATE: Thursday, March 12, 2026

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Michael Large, Chief Deputy District Attorney
mlarge@da.washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Nate Edward, Assistant District Attorney
nedwards@da.washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County for the Washoe County Sheriff to designate an acting Chief of Police for the City of Reno and authorize the Washoe County Sheriff to designate members of WCSO staff to serve in other capacities.

District Attorney. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Staff is requesting that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Recommendation to approve Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County for the Washoe County Sheriff to designate an acting Chief of Police for the City of Reno and authorize the Washoe County Sheriff to designate members of WCSO staff to serve in other capacities.

This report outlines the proposed interlocal agreement, which is designed to enhance operational flexibility and continuity of law enforcement leadership within the City of Reno by allowing the Washoe County Sheriff to appoint an acting Chief of Police and assign qualified Sheriff's Office personnel to serve in additional or alternative roles as needed.

The agreement is structured to ensure compliance with applicable Nevada Revised Statutes governing interlocal cooperation and public safety administration, and it reflects a collaborative approach to regional law enforcement challenges. The purpose of this action is to formalize a framework that supports effective public safety service delivery, leadership succession planning, and resource sharing between the City of Reno and Washoe County.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities, Stewardship of Our Community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None. While the Board has previously approved a range of interlocal agreements with the City of Reno and other regional partners—such as those for forensic laboratory services, dispatch, and public safety collaborations—none have addressed the temporary designation of law enforcement leadership or cross-agency staff assignments as contemplated in the current recommendation. This item represents the first instance in which the Board is being asked to consider formalizing such an arrangement under the authority provided by NRS 277.180.

BACKGROUND

The framework for interlocal cooperation between Washoe County and the City of Reno is established under Nevada Revised Statutes, specifically NRS 277.180, which authorizes public agencies to enter into agreements for the joint exercise of powers and the sharing of governmental services, including law enforcement functions.

The City of Reno requested that in light of internal issues involving senior staff at RPD that the Washoe County Sheriff designate an acting Chief of Police for the City of Reno and authorize the Washoe County Sheriff to designate members of WCSO staff to serve in other capacities on a temporary basis. Reno Municipal Code Sec. 1090 gives the City Manager the power to appoint the Chief of Police, subject to ratification by the City Council.

Pursuant to NRS 248.090, the Washoe County Sheriff has the power to “keep and preserve the peace in their respective counties, and quiet and suppress all affrays, riots and insurrections, for which purpose, and for the service of process in civil or criminal cases, and in apprehending or securing any person for felony, or breach of the peace, they may call upon the power of their county to aid in such arrest or in preserving the peace.” This broad authority, gives the Washoe County Sheriff to legally serve in the role requested by the City of Reno.

Pursuant to NRS 277.180(3)(f), the Washoe County Sheriff can enter into interlocal agreements for joint and cooperative use of law enforcement agencies. However, because it is foreseeable that the public agency may spend more than \$25,000, pursuant to NRS 277.180(2)(a) it is appropriate that both the boards of the City of Reno and Washoe County ratify the agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact will depend on the specific terms negotiated regarding compensation, reimbursement, and resource allocation for personnel designated by the Washoe County Sheriff to serve as acting Chief of Police or in other capacities within the City of Reno. The agreement provides that the City of Reno will reimburse Washoe County for services rendered by Washoe County personnel on an hourly basis that are appointed by the Washoe County Sheriff.

Additionally, the City shall remain solely responsible for compliance any labor issues arising under the agreement and defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Sheriff and WCSO-designated personnel from any claim, grievance, administrative action, or liability arising out of or related to City employment matters, personnel actions, discipline processes, or alleged violations of NRS Chapters 288 or 289 or any collective bargaining agreement.

No additional budget amendments are anticipated at this time, as the agreement is structured to utilize existing budget authority and established cost recovery mechanisms. Any future adjustments required to address changes in service levels, personnel assignments, or reimbursement rates will be brought forward for Board consideration in accordance with County financial policies and statutory requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board authorize approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County for the Washoe County Sheriff to designate an acting Chief of Police for the City of Reno and authorize the Washoe County Sheriff to designate members of WCSO staff to serve in other capacities.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County for the Washoe County Sheriff to designate an acting Chief of Police for the City of Reno and authorize the Washoe County Sheriff to designate members of WCSO staff to serve in other capacities, pursuant to NRS 277.180.”