



I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATORAN GUAHAN | 37TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

# Office of Senator Frank F. Blas Jr.

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January 18, 2023

Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
I Maga’Hagan Guåhan  
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governors Complex  
Adelup, Guam 96910

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero,

*Buenas yan Hafa Adai!* A story aired on December 27, 2022 by a local news organization reported your intent to stand up a security council that will include members of all local law enforcement agencies on Guam. In the news story, you stated that, “The Security Council is not operating any criminal justice or any of the statutory areas, but it really is to coordinate and make sure that anytime that any threat happens, our local people through our local law enforcement agencies through that collaboration have all sorts of contingencies mapped out. It’s really an effort to be prepared.” You were further reported as saying that you will be signing an executive order in the coming weeks to establish the Security Council. You also stated that the idea to create the Security Council came as a recommendation from the National Security Council of the White House.

As such, can you please explain what this Security Council will do that the Mariana Regional Fusion Center that is already established in your Office of Homeland Security/Civil Defense is not doing already?

The Mariana Regional Fusion Center is one of 79 fusion centers in the United States and is operated by local law enforcement and partner agencies in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The fusion center serves as a command center for gathering, analyzing and disseminating intelligence and other public safety information on matters including but not limited to border protection, cyber-attacks, violent activity, drug trafficking, and terrorism. Furthermore, the operation of the fusion center is funded by a continuing grant from DHS and recently received a grant to enhance its cyber-security efforts.

Governor, as a former Homeland Security Advisor, I understand the complexity of protecting the homeland (more particularly our island) from internal and external forces, which is why there is a difference between homeland security and homeland defense. The structure and purpose of the White House’s National Security Council is far more expansive than any state or territorial government would have responsibility for or have control of. And if the concept and mission of a state fusion center is consistent with why they were originally established, there exists no reason to create a redundant organization. With this, I highly

encourage you to reconsider your decision to stand up a Security Council and work with the fusion center that you already have.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I stand ready to assist you in enhancing our island's protection and state of readiness.

Respectfully,



FRANK F. BLAS, Jr.  
Senator

Ccc: All Senators, 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
All Media