

NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE  
WASHINGTON, DC  
March 1-5, 2014

I attended the NACO Legislative conference as a member of the NACO Board of Directors representing the MCCA.

I am a member of the NACO Justice & Public Safety Steering Committee. We heard from the following speakers:

1. Karol Mason, Asst. U.S. Attorney General, Office of Programs, Dept. of Justice.

She oversees the Federal programs that assist State's and counties with criminal justice issues. She emphasized that her department wants to focus on treatment, supervision, and housing for inmates instead of building more prisons. She wants more community corrections. Inmate re-entry into the community is a high priority of the A.G. Must work with jails to reduce recidivism. The Second Chance Act supports funding for adult and juvenile re-entry programs. Need to make better Bail decisions, use risk assessment tools. A strong public defender system is critical to justice. Can't arrest our way out of the problem. \$280 Million awarded under the Byrne Jag grant, learning what does work and what DOESN'T.

2. Tim Manning. Dep. Admin. FEMA.

Trying to make FEMA "Survivor Centric"; conform to the survivor's needs, not FEMA's needs. Learn from prior events. Post Sandy changes: small projects (-\$68,000) consist of 80% of all projects, but only 12% of dollars. They have increased the small projects to -\$120,000. Working on a National Preparedness System: Use common language among the agencies involved; a concern that the grants are "state centric". Also, they are allowing reimbursement of "straight time" for debris removal, so that counties can have their own people do the work and be paid for it. Combine mitigation with recovery. Mitigation involves "buy outs" to remove properties from the flood zones.

++ Biggert-Waters Reforms.

A. flood mapping issues, trying to correct. B. Balance homeowner issues with actuarial issues. Discussed having FEMA work with Counties on the mapping issues so that burden is not on the homeowner to determine if they are in a flood zone. Major flood ins. Premium increases coming.

3. Phil McNamara, Asst. Secty of Homeland Security.

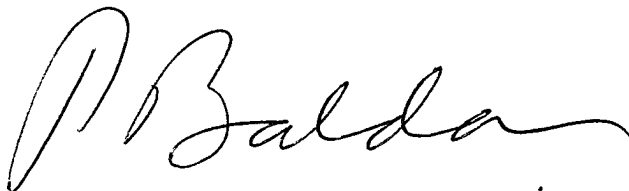
Formerly worked in Worcester, Mass for Sheriff Dept. Main Issues: Border Security and Cyber Security.

a. Prioritize deportation cases with their limited resources. Need immigration reform, 11.5 mill. Undocumented workers, need a path to citizenship.

I am a member of the Membership Committee and we met to discuss the status of NACo membership retention. NACo has 2315 member counties, which is 75% of the nation's counties. The retention rate is 97%, which is excellent. I would like to thank Hancock County for joining NACo. We have 3 counties that do not belong to our national organization: Aroostook, Franklin and Piscataquis. I am asking those commissioners representing said counties to join and strengthen our position with NACo. I will be happy to speak to any board that requests it on this issue.

I also attended the Northeast County Caucus business meeting. The Northeast Region includes Delaware, District of Columbia; Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The following officers were elected: Christian Leinbach, Comm. Berks County, PA, as the Executive Committee Representative; Toni Pappas, Hillsborough County, NH as President; myself as Vice-President.

I visited all 4 Maine Congressional Offices with Rosemary Kulow, Peter Creighton and Bill Ferguson, a consultant for Cumberland County.

  
2/11/2014