SEAGO

SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization
Serving our member governments and their constituents since 1972

SEAGO Member Entities

Cochise County
Benson
Bisbee
Douglas
Huachuca City
Sierra Vista
Tombstone
Willcox
Graham County
Pima
Safford
San Carlos Apache Tribe
Thatcher
Greenlee County
Clifton
Duncan
Santa Cruz County
Nogales
Patagonia

SEAGO Main Office

Administration
CDBG
Economic Dev.
Housing
Transportation

1403 W. Hwy 92
Bisbee, AZ 85603
520-432-5301
520-432-5858 Fax

Area Agency on Aging Office

300 Collins Road
Bisbee, AZ 85603
520-432-2528
520-432-9168 Fax

www.seago.org

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE STAFFING AT THE NOGALES PORTS OF ENTRY, THE DOUGLAS PORT OF ENTRY, AND ALL ARIZONA PORTS OF ENTRY

WHEREAS, the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one of the world's largest law enforcement organizations and is charged with keeping terrorists, weapons, illicit drugs, an unlawful immigrants out of the United States while facilitating lawful international travel and trade; and

WHEREAS, CBP takes a comprehensive approach to border management and control, combining customs, immigration, border security and import and export protection into one coordinated and supportive activity; and

WHEREAS, the CBP approach to enhancing security, increasing economic stability, and promoting economic growth in southeastern Arizona is important to the residents of the SEAGO Region; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's principal ports of entry rank in the top five based on the need for increased staffing as more than $40 billion worth of trade and close to 50 million people flow through the Arizona border every year; and

WHEREAS, fully staffing of CBP personnel positions at the Nogales and Douglas ports of entry will allow increased commercial traffic and tourism and will result in increased economic growth and stability for southeastern Arizona, the State of Arizona, and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the cross border traffic at Nogales and Douglas will continue to grow for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, the Tucson Field Office of CBP is estimated to be approximately 20% understaffed as of 2015, leading to overworked port staff that quickly reach the maximum permitted overtime allotments, further resulting in CBP being forced to give part of its overtime budget back due to insufficient staff to utilize it; and

WHEREAS, recruitment efforts by CBP have fallen short of expectations due to a low number of applicants and failure of the unduly arduous polygraph testing, which failure prevents applicants from applying with any other federal agency; and

WHEREAS, many military veterans, returning from multiple tours of duty from the War on Terrorism, are dissuaded from applying for CBP positions because of the polygraph and hiring standard imposed by the Department of Homeland Security.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SEAGO EXECUTIVE BOARD that:

1. In order to enhance security, economic growth and stability for the residents of southeastern Arizona and the entire State of Arizona, the Executive Board of SouthEastern Arizona Government Organization urges the United States Department of Homeland Security to act immediately to increase the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Nogales, and Douglas, and the entire State of Arizona, and to fill the 2,000 positions that were allocated by the US Congress in 2014.

2. In order to facilitate the equitable recruitment and hiring process of CBP officers, the Executive Board of SouthEastern Arizona Government Organization urges the Office of Internal Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security to advocate for an equivalent polygraph and hiring standard to those of other federal enforcement agencies and the United States military services that vet each and every applicant.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 16th day of November 2016.

Gerald "Sam" Lindsey, Chair
Executive Board

Randy Heiss, Executive Director
SouthEastern Arizona
Governments Organization