

LA28 Testimony for Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Border Management, Federal Workforce and Regulatory Affairs

Intro

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Fetterman and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.

My name is Reynold Hoover, I am the Chief Executive Officer at LA28, the non-profit, independent organization responsible for organizing the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Prior to that I served for over 35 years in the Army and Army National Guard retiring after my last assignment as the Deputy Commander of US Northern Command as a Lieutenant General.

In the summer of 2028, the United States will host the world's most elite athletes as it welcomes Paralympians and Olympians to compete on the biggest stage in sports. While LA28 is responsible for organizing the Games, it is the role of Federal, State and local governments to provide Games security. Thank you for allowing me to discuss this crucial role with the Committee today.

Road to 2028

Our road to 2028 started in 2013, when Los Angeles began to organize the bid for the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Two years later, in 2015, Los Angeles was selected as the lead city for the United States and, in September of 2017, Los Angeles was selected to host the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games by a unanimous vote of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

This unanimous decision came in large part due to the strong federal commitments that were secured across multiple bipartisan Presidential Administrations. Presidents Trump, Biden and Obama sent very strong commitment guarantees to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), demonstrating the whole-of-government approach that is needed to ensure a safe and secure Games for athletes, personnel, and spectators alike. In his second term, President Trump continues to demonstrate his previous commitments and strong support for the Games, preparing the United States to raise the Olympic Torch for a truly American Games.

We have had a long runway since 2017 and have used the time to set the tone, build mutual understanding, and align on expectations with stakeholders. In April, the IOC Executive Board approved the 2028 Olympic Venue plan, setting the stage for the next phase of tactical planning. Similarly, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) approved the 2028 Paralympic Venue Plan in May which will be the largest Paralympics ever held in the history of the movement, and a first Paralympic Games for Los Angeles. With around three and a half years to go, it is more important than ever that our collaboration across all levels of government accelerates.

Accelerated Collaboration

We are grateful for the steadfast support from the Federal government over the past decade and continue to make progress towards ensuring the 2028 Games are a true success.

While there have been several helpful developments, there is still much work and coordination to be done. Federal support and specifically national security planning, must accelerate in 2025 and continue to do so each year to ensure a safe and secure Games in 2028.

U.S. host cities and the American government have a successful history of partnering to ensure a positive, safe and secure Games experience. There is nothing more important than providing the highest standards of public safety for athletes to compete and fans to engage in the Nation's Games.

Games Footprint

It's been more than 20 years since the U.S. hosted the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics and Paralympics and nearly 30 years since the U.S. hosted the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games. The LA28 Games will be the first U.S.-based Games since the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security, and the first in the modern era of technical security advancements following 9/11.

The Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games in the Summer of 2028 will mark the third time the world has come to our city to compete and experience the Olympic Movement. In 1932, the LA Memorial Coliseum was the centerpiece of the historic Tenth Olympiad. Again in 1984, Los Angeles showed the world America at its best hosting unforgettable athletes, iconic moments in sports history, and Rocketman jetpacking across the Coliseum. In just 1,129 days the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, along with the Stadium in Inglewood will welcome the world to America and the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Opening Ceremony. In doing so, the Coliseum will be the only Olympic venue in the history of the Games to host the Olympic Games three times. These Games will be the biggest Games in Olympic history with 36 Olympic sports and 23 Paralympic sports across 49 competition venues. To put the task of hosting the Games into perspective, the LA28 Olympics will be equal to hosting SEVEN Super Bowls per day for 16 consecutive days. The Paralympics will be equal to hosting TWO Super Bowls per day for 12 consecutive days.

Within the 30 days of competition, the Games will bring in an estimated 15 million spectators from around the world, 11,198 Olympic Athletes, and 4,480 Paralympic Athletes.

Intro to Security Funding Needs

During my time with the committee today, I hope to demonstrate how the safety and security program for the 2028 Games can set a new standard for event security and serve as a model for other large-scale events in the United States.

In doing so, I will focus on our expected security needs that we have been working with our Federal, State and Local partners on to date. I also want to provide a high-level overview of where we stand today and highlight some of the great partnerships that are already in place.

Security Needs

The 2028 Games were designated a National Special Security Event (NSSE) in January 2024, the furthest in advance an NSSE designation has been issued. Because these will be the biggest Olympic and Paralympic Games in history, the early NSSE designation was a critical first step in the overall coordination and synchronization of security operations across all levels of government.

As the lead Federal agency for this NSSE event, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) leads the inter-agency integrated planning process and has already named a highly experienced USSS Special Agent as the NSSE Coordinator to chair the planning structure.

To date, 12 subcommittees have been established focusing on specific lines of effort ranging from Critical Infrastructure to Transportation, to Crisis Management and Venue Security, just to name a few. Furthermore, the NSSE planning structure includes an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) consisting of key Federal, State and Local entities critical to the domain: United States Secret Service (USSS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), and California Highway Patrol (CHP). All of these entities coordinate closely with our LA28 security team that is led by a retired FBI Assistant Director with deep roots in the Los Angeles law enforcement community.

USSS has expedited the first wave of Blast Assessments needed to be completed on some of the competition venues and delivered the results to public safety partners and the LA28 Organizing Committee (OCOG), defining the initial footprint of the perimeters for vehicular and pedestrian screening.

Safety and security protocol will require extensive coordination across hundreds of local jurisdictions, State agencies, and numerous Federal agencies. The Games will draw millions of fans from home and abroad to our venues spanning multiple municipalities, jurisdictions and states. The confirmation of preliminary football (soccer) cities and our 50-state Torch Relay route will dramatically broaden the national footprint.

As an example of *just one* multi-venue sports park: the Downtown L.A. “L.A. Live” complex (home of Crypto.com Arena, Peacock Theater, and the LA Convention Center) will experience significant daily use with thousands of unique visitors from around the world for several weeks—with each venue within the L.A. Live footprint hosting an average of 4-8 competition sessions every day, with movement of tens of thousands of guests for sessions throughout the day. This same level of heavy activity and volume will be concurrently occurring at venues across the country, including Oklahoma City —stretching the current abilities of public safety resources and compounding the need for coordinated preparedness and response.

Additionally, a U.S. Torch Relay will thread and bind the Olympic experience to the entire nation. Lasting between 70 to 100 days ahead of the Olympic Opening Ceremony, the Torch Relay will involve localized celebrations in countless jurisdictions across the country, involving close collaboration and support from state and local police, fire, and emergency services personnel at every stage and stop along the way. Similarly, but to a more curated scale, the Paralympic Torch Relay will run somewhere between 7 and 14 days at the close of the Olympic Games leading up to the Paralympic Opening Ceremony.

For the 2028 Games, LA28 is seeking a commitment by the federal government to fund 100% cost reimbursement for public safety staffing and the material costs associated with state and local law enforcement, fire, and emergency services personnel, including but not limited to the National Guard— all of which are essential to providing public safety support for a safe and secure Olympic and Paralympic Games and Torch Relay. To be clear, this is not funding to LA28, rather it is reimbursement directly to those public agencies who are providing critical security functions in support of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. And these reimbursement needs are not unique to the Los Angeles Summer Games as the Federal Government has provided public safety funding for all prior Olympic and Paralympic Games hosted by the United States. Without question, the expenses associated with protecting the 2028 Games represent an investment in our U.S. national security and our global reputation.

The House of Representatives included \$1Billion of funding for security, planning, and other costs related to 2028 Games as part of their 2025 Budget Reconciliation legislation. President Trump also included this funding in his initial budget submission to Congress. This is certainly welcome news and LA28 strongly supports the inclusion of this funding in any final package that the Senate considers related to the 2025 Budget Reconciliation package.

As we continue to work with our Federal, State and local security partners to build out a truly unique operation, we wanted to share some of the current thinking surrounding the components necessary to provide a secure Games environment. Security needs that require federal leadership include a wide range of priorities, including public safety staffing, Department of Defense

Active, Reserve, and National Guard support, enhanced transit security measures and risk assessments, intelligence, training, exercising & readiness.

Specifically tools to include counter-UAS/Drone technology, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) response equipment and related supplies, crowd control and management modeling, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) identification and mitigation, computer and network equipment for use near competition and non-competition venues and key sites, in service of public safety remain key priorities for our ongoing collaboration with our Federal, State and local partners.

Finally, cybersecurity remains a top priority and will require unrelenting collaboration on all fronts. During the Paris Games last summer, the Organizing Committee experienced nearly 55 billion cybersecurity events. These attacks targeted many areas which included Olympic logistics, streaming services, financial services, and transportation networks. We have created the LA28 Games Cybersecurity Council that will bring together over 300 stakeholders that will participate in the operation on the Games. This council will leave behind a true legacy and our continued collaboration with all parties is necessary to success.

In addition to the security needs, LA28 will continue to work with our Federal Government partners on matters related to transportation, visas, energy, communications and spectrum management which are areas requiring Federal resourcing and support in order ensure a successful Games delivery.

With less than three and half years to go before the world descends upon Los Angeles and the United States to experience the largest and greatest Olympic and Paralympic Games ever, your Olympic and Paralympic Organizing Committee at LA28 is strong and getting stronger with each passing day. Our teams are working tirelessly with our Federal, State, local and private sector partners on everything from security to logistics, from transportation to venue design, and from accommodation to spectator experience. It is truly an example of how government and the private sector can, and should, work together at every level to showcase the strength of our Nation, the power of sports competition at the highest of level athleticism, and our resolve to deliver a safe and secure Games environment for our athletes, spectators, workers, and global leaders who will come to Los Angeles in 2028.

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Fetterman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on behalf of LA28, and I look forward to taking your questions.

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