

JGD - 5/2/2024

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 2, 2024

Sec. Spe ~~Regular~~ Session, 2024

H. B. 23- 106

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish a Police Reserve Unit within the Department of Public Safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 23RD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

- 1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that in the past
2 decade there has been a change in community dynamics, as the demand for public
3 services becomes greater than available support and resources; this becomes a
4 challenge for many first responders, as their mission is the protection of life,
5 property and the preservation of peace and order. Over the years, there have been
6 several high-profile cases and incidents. The following headlines provide a
7 summary of some of those events:
- 8 “5 dead in Saipan shooting (2009)”
- 9 “Relatives believe two girls abducted (2011)”
- 10 “CNMI report: Female tourist dragged by car in brazen robbery on Saipan
11 (2011)”
- 12 “Missing person case now a homicide (2012),”

1 “Crisostomo sentenced to life in prison (2014)”

2 “Saipan farmer found dead; case classified as a homicide (2016)”

3 “Extreme Category 5 typhoon, the worst U.S. storm since 1935, leaves
4 Northern Mariana Islands devastated (2018)”

5 “Police still investigating Saipan restaurant murders (2019)”

6 “Man swept out to sea in Saipan, HSC-25 and Department of Public Safety
7 conducting search (2020)”

8 In times of natural disasters or state of emergency, first responders are often
9 left working around the clock, away from their families and with limited relief. In
10 support of first responder growth and wellbeing the Legislature finds the need to
11 establish the Department of Public Safety Police Reserve Unit.

12 This Act will help increase first responder capacity and well-being by
13 expanding programs and services as well as widening available assistance at the
14 scene of an emergency, such as an accident, fire or natural disaster.

15 **Section 2. Amendment.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law
16 Revision Commission, Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 10, Article 1 of the
17 Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to add a new subsection to read as
18 follows:

19 **“§ 101. Police Reserve Unit Authorized.**

20 (a) Police Reserve Unit authorized. The Commonwealth authorizes the
21 Department of Public Safety (DPS) to create and maintain a police reserve unit.

1 This unit will be authorized to have as many reserve officers as there are patrolmen.
2 It will be staffed by citizen volunteers who will assist DPS in the protection of life,
3 property and the preservation of peace and order.

4 (b) Chain of Command. The DPS Commissioner is in charge of and
5 responsible to the Governor for the conduct of the reserve unit. Reserve officers
6 will be appointed from the list of applicants who have successfully completed the
7 Police Academy and all other requirements for their appointment. The reserve
8 officer rank will be subordinate to reserve supervisory ranks that may be created
9 and also to all paid (FTE) officers.

10 (c) Arrest Authority. Reserve officers will have full arrest authority while
11 on duty and only while on duty.

12 (d) On Duty. A reserve officer will be on duty when the unit as a whole has
13 been activated, or when he or she has been specifically assigned to a task or duty
14 by the DPS Commissioner, or Deputy Commissioner. Reserve officers cannot
15 place themselves on duty.

16 (e) Reserve Rules. Reserve officers shall be subject to lawful rules and
17 regulations as may be promulgated by the DPS Commissioner.

18 (f) Dismissal. Reserve officers may be dismissed from their reserve status
19 by the DPS Commissioner for violating any rule or regulation. The reserve captain
20 or supervising officer may suspend a reserve officer from duty status pending
21 review by the DPS Commissioner of allegations of misconduct.

1 (g) Equipment Issue. DPS will provide necessary uniforms and equipment
2 except for leather goods and a handgun. The handgun must be approved by the
3 department.


4 (h) Employee Benefits and Priority Hire. Employer-provided medical and
5 life insurance coverage will be made available for all on duty or activated reserve
6 officers. Reserve officers will be prioritized (based on seniority) for any Full-time
7 officer positions.”

8 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
9 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
10 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
11 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
12 shall not be affected thereby.

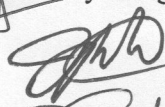

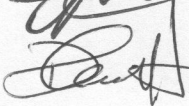

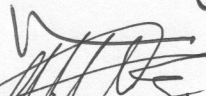

13 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
14 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
15 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
16 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
17 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
18 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
19 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

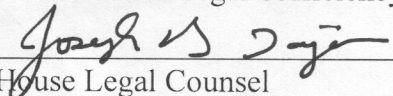
20 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
21 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

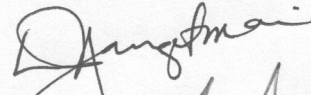
Intro
Prefiled: 5/2/2024

Date: _____ Introduced by: 

Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro

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ALDAN, VINCENT S.

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

House Legal Counsel


M.A. 