

## **Border Violence Prevention Council FACT SHEET**

Building on the principles of co-responsibility for and co-management of our shared border espoused in coordination mechanisms like the 21st Century Border Management Initiative and the High Level Economic Dialogue, the United States and Mexico created the Border Violence Prevention Council. The Council is co- led by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Secretariat of Foreign Relations (SRE) of Mexico, and the Federal Police of Mexico, and includes the participation of other U.S. Department of Homeland Security components, the U.S. Department of State, and the Secretariat of Governance of Mexico.

The Border Violence Prevention Council is a policy-level decision making body that promotes initiatives aimed at preventing incidents of border violence through collaborative efforts, joint public engagement campaigns, increased transparency and information exchange, and the sharing of best practices. The Council has met four times, most recently on November 3, 2016, where we noted significant past accomplishments, including:

- Undertaking actions to increase the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s and CBP’s accountability, transparency, and notification regarding use of force cases.
- Increasing the understanding of use of force policies and officer training efforts in both countries, which included policy and technical discussions, exchanges of information and visits to each other’s enforcement training centers.
- Exchanging information on changes to relevant policies and procedures.
- Conducting joint community outreach and engagement initiatives between the 12 Consulates of Mexico located at the border, Mexico’s Federal Police, U.S. Customs and Border Protection including its component, the U.S. Border Patrol, and U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE).
- Strengthening the relationship between local CBP and SRE personnel through greater communication and collaboration.
- Identifying and adopting best practices for engagement between Mexican consular officials and CBP personnel.

The Border Violence Prevention Council continues to work together in the following areas:

- Increasing collaboration and involvement of local and state authorities in border violence prevention and community engagement activities with the objective of building trust in border communities.
- Deepening joint efforts to prevent use of force incidents along the border, particularly cross-border events, through bilateral exchanges, visits, and training.
- Adopting best practices of community outreach and engagements activities along the shared border, such as the Arizona Missing Migrant Initiative, launched in June 2015, and the “Building Stronger Border Communities” project, developed in 2016.
- Continuing efforts to increase transparency, information exchange, and sharing best practices.