



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Unused Government Properties for GPD Yigo Precinct and Public Safety Communications Center Prioritized at Public Hearing

Bills identify GovGuam land for a police precinct in Yigo and public safety communications center in Barrigada Heights

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A public hearing was held on two bills introduced by Public Safety Committee Chairman Senator Shawn Gumataotao prioritizing unused Government of Guam land for a new Guam Police Department (GPD) precinct in Yigo – and a public safety communications center in Barrigada Heights. Both proposals were requested by Police Chief Stephen Ignacio.

If approved, Bill 51-38 (COR) strengthens police presence in northern Guam by reidentifying public land for a police precinct in Yigo, acknowledging that public safety services are currently provided primarily through GPD's Dededo Precinct.

"In light of the ongoing military buildup in northern Guam and the economic activities resulting from this growth, Bill 51-38 (COR) represents this 38th Guam Legislature's commitment to protecting life and property through the investment of additional resources in our public safety and law enforcement organizations," said Senator Gumataotao.

"Yigo has never had a dedicated police precinct – only a *koban* in the past. Response time is a concern, police presence is lacking, and crime rates have risen and continue to rise. We need a precinct in Yigo to bridge these gaps, strengthen community safety, and foster viable police presence. This is vital for reducing crime and increasing trust between residents and law enforcement," testified Yigo Mayor Frances Lizama in support of Bill 51-38 (COR).

"As Guam continues to grow in both population and infrastructure, it is essential that public safety resources keep pace. Yigo, in particular, is one of the fastest-growing villages on the island. Yet, it remains undeserved by current coverage. The Dededo Precinct, which currently serves Yigo, is stretched thin – managing a large, high-demand service area without the capacity to fully meet the evolving needs of the region," added Police Chief Ignacio.

Bill 73-38 (COR) provides a strong foundation from which GPD, Guam Fire Department (GFD) and relevant local, federal, and military public safety and law enforcement agencies may collaborate toward the development, financing, and operation of a Guam Public Safety Communications Center.

In addition to housing both the GPD dispatch center and GFD NexGen 911 operations, it is anticipated that a new Guam Public Safety Communications Center would serve as an alternate facility for emergency response coordination among Guam's local, federal, and military partners.

"This bill is all about the future of interoperability," said Senator Gumataotao. "This is the ability for Guam's emergency responders to together communicate among jurisdictions, disciplines, and levels of government which is crucial to all first responders."

According to Mayor June Blas and Vice-Mayor Jessie Bautista, the Barrigada Municipal Planning Council, "fully supports legislative adoption of Bill Number 73-38 (COR) in the interest of enhancing the Guam Police Department's operating network not only for residents of Barrigada, but for the people of Guam."

For more information, please contact Senator Gumataotao's office at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.