

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, February 26, 2007 - 8:00 a.m.

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

McEaddy Conference Room
12th Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Members Present:

Dave Aronberg
Dale Armstrong
Ric Bradshaw
Delsa Bush
Mike Driscoll
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Harry A. Johnston, II
William Kramer
Barry Krischer
Andrew Lourie
Carl McKoy
Commissioner Warren H. Newell
Eliasib "Junior" Ortiz
Jay Pickens
Gerald Richman
Dr. Debra Robinson
Young Song
Roxanna Trinko
Carmen Veneziano
Max Davis (ex officio Exec. Committee)
Art Johnson (ex officio Exec. Committee)

Members Absent:

Moses Baker
Roselyn Baker
James Barr
Sharon Bock
Barbara Cheives
Frank Davelli
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Kathleen Kroll
Wendy Sartory Link
Richard Staudinger

Guests Attending:

Robert Altman, Community Corrections
Vince Bonvento, PBC Administration
Frank Gurucharri, Nova Southeastern University
Linda Hamilton, Palm Beach County Citizen
Noal Hamilton, Palm Beach County Citizen
Jim Kelly, PBC School District Police Department
Michael McAuliffe, McAuliffe Law Group
Joseph Meshil, Palm Beach County Citizen
Jay Reavis, Drug Enforcement Agency
Craig Spataro, WPB Weed and Seed
Chuck Suits, Board of County Commissioners District 3
Mike Szakacs, Office of Financial Management and Budget
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller (for Sharon Bock)
Leilani Yan, Manager – Recruitment & Selection, Human Resources

Staff Present:

L. Diana Cunningham, Executive Director
Kathryn Bloeser, Criminal Justice Analyst
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Candee Carigma, Criminal Justice Analyst
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Margo Evans, Temporary Financial Analyst
Jenise Gibson, Senior Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Shairrette Major, Financial Analyst II
Faith Martin, Community Justice Service Center Coordinator
Michael L. Rodriguez, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Youth Violence Prevention Program Coordinator

- I. Chair Harry Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Johnston welcomed all guests and invited them to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Andy Lourie.
- V. The minutes of the January 22, 2007 full Commission meeting was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Davis and second by Mr. Elmore.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chairman Johnston:
 - A. Welcomed three new members to the Criminal Justice Commission, Mr. William Kramer, an Economic Council appointee who is the Senior Vice President for Sugarcane Growers Cooperative of Florida and based in Belle Glade, Mr. Eliasib "Junior" Ortiz, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) replacement for Jeff Favitta, and Dr. Debra Robinson, School Board member and replacement for Paulette Burdick.
 - B. Invited Max Davis to speak on the CJC Youth Violence Prevention Project. Mr. Davis reported that the City of West Palm Beach would be having their grand opening of the Northwood Youth Empowerment Center at 723 39th Street, West Palm Beach on Thursday, March 1, 2007, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. He provided an overview and focus of the project which is to provide skills and jobs for the youth.

Commissioner Newell pointed out that the County Commissioners would be having a meeting and that one of the areas they would be looking at was the budget issues, highlighting that the Economic Council is trying to back their budget down and possibly the state. He thinks that funding for the Youth Violence Centers could be in jeopardy in the next couple of years and stressed the need for a concerted effort on everyone's part to talk about how critical these centers are in reducing crime in the county. Mr. Davis responded that we would pay one way or the other.
 - C. Chairman Johnston reported that he appeared before the Board of County Commissioners two weeks ago wherein he read Mr. Dale Armstrong's email commending the CJC on its distinct purpose and accomplishments over the years.

Chairman Johnston also reported that the Selection Committee for the new Executive Director met on February 12, 2007. The Selection Committee consist of: CJC Chair, Harry Johnston, II; private sector members: Jim Barr, Barbara Cheives, and George Elmore; and public sector members: Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll, Public Defender Carey Haughwout, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and State Attorney Barry Krischer, along with Vince Bonvento, Assistant County Administrator who serves as the representative from County Administration.

He congratulated Michael Rodriguez, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst on being appointed by the Selection Committee as Interim Executive Director until a permanent Executive Director is chosen.

Chairman Johnston advised that the Selection Committee would again meet following the full CJC meeting to narrow down the field of candidates from 48 to 8(or10) prospects to be interviewed for the permanent Executive Director position. The final candidate selected, per CJC Ordinance 88-16, will then be confirmed by the Board of County Commissioners. He indicated that the County has been extremely helpful in using their personnel to advertise and identify the best candidates. Of the 48 applicants, 28 met the minimum requirements as advertised.

Mr. Carl McKoy inquired about the time frame for identifying the new Executive Director. Mr. Johnston replied that he was not sure but that they wanted to have it done as soon as possible, indicating that once the 8 or 10 candidates were identified, they would be notified and the interview questions prepared. He further stated that we operate in the open under the Sunshine Law but that certain exceptions were made, in that anybody who sits in on this is prohibited from contacting anyone regarding the questions. He said that at the first Selection Committee meeting there were several applicants present.

- D. Chairman Johnston reported that Roxanna Trinka has been appointed to serve as the CJC representative on the Criminal Justice Information System (JIS) Board, following a request by Chief Judge Kroll for a CJC representative. Appreciation was extended to Ms. Trinka for accepting the appointment.
- E. With regard to the potential recommendation by County Administration for CJC ordinance amendment, Chair Johnston reported that one Commissioner at the County Commissions meeting, said that the CJC was operating illegally and was not complying with the County Charter. Mr. Johnston in turn, disputed this claim and stated that Ms. Cunningham reports to the CJC, and that the CJC reports to the Board of County Commissioners, but that Ms. Cunningham attends staff meetings and follows the procedures as required. Given the CJC's uniqueness and its make up, Chair Johnston said he tried to point out to the Commissioners that it would be almost insulting to ask representatives from the FBI, DEA, FDLE and other state officials, nine elected county officials and others to report to the County Manager, reiterating that there is nothing like the CJC in the County and the State. He also told them that if we proceed on this path it could be the death of the CJC. We may have a sub-committee to look at this.

Mr. Davis pointed out that this has been an on-going battle and he doesn't think this can work and would agree to the establishment of a sub-committee to look at this.

Commissioner Newell added that the CJC has done so many positive things because of its independence and to lose that independence concerns him. He thinks a part of the problem is that the Commissioners still don't understand what the CJC does, but feels that "if it is not broke, don't fix it", pointing out that it may not be perfect but seems to be doing the right thing.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout inquired where the push for change was coming from and what the real concern is.

Ms. Cunningham responded by pointing out that the County Administrator's office would like the CJC Executive Director to report directly to him as any other department head so the push is really from the County Administrator and the Assistant County Administrator. She also indicated that some of the County Commissioners would prefer to appoint the private sector members to the Commission instead of having the Economic Council do so.

Commissioner Newell added that there has been head butting on policies and issues over the last few years so if the report is directly to the Administrator then the control would be there.

VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Ms. Cunningham:

- A. Brought to the attention of the Commission, the newspaper headline on the increase in violent crime in most of the County by 11% over the past year and voters were insisting on better control. She indicated that the CJC has been working closely with the Florida State University's School of Criminology Center for Public Policy over the last year and a half and Dr. Bales has made presentations to the Commission and the Board of County Commissioners and others. This is therefore what we have expected as the age group of individuals committing these crimes are between 14 and 25, which also happens to be the demographic age group in Palm Beach County that is rising most rapidly and will continue to rise over the next 10 years.
- B. Reminded the Commission of the International Restorative Justice Conference entitled "*Sustaining Restorative Justice: the Challenge of Systemic and Community Transformation in Juvenile Justice Reform*" to be hosted by the Balanced And Restorative Justice Project and the Community Justice Institute at Florida Atlantic University. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Boca Raton Florida from **March 21-23, 2007**. Ms. Cunningham said the CJC is working closely with Dr. Bazemore and she again encouraged all CJC members to attend.
- C. Congratulated Damir Kukec on his promotion to Research and Planning Manager, effective February 5, 2007. Mr. Kukec has extensive background in criminal justice research and planning and comes to the CJC from the equivalent of the National Institute of Justice in Canada. He started with the CJC in October 2006 as a Temporary Criminal Justice Analyst. Ms. Cunningham welcomed back Ms. Margo Evans as a Temporary Financial Analyst who will be working closely with Shairette Major on grants.
- D. Thanked Ms. Kathryn Bloeser, Criminal Justice Commission Analyst for the great work she has done with the CJC with the Youth Violence project and congratulated her on being accepted in the Law Enforcement Academy. Her last day with the CJC will be March 6, 2007.

- E. Announced that the Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Council is hosting their Annual Gang Summit on April 13, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the McDonald Center, next door to North Miami Beach City Hall. It is coordinated by a contract agency entitled “The Children Psych Center”. CJC staff and members have been invited to observe this day long conference. Interested persons should contact Ms. Jenise Gibson at 355-1503.

VIII. There were no Business Consent items.

IX. Old Business

Chairman Johnston advised the full CJC of the CJC Executive Committee’s approval of a recommendation to use Crime Prevention Trust Funds to establish a Countywide Crime Prevention Specialist position to coordinate the adult and youth councils that are being established in the community as a component of the youth violence prevention initiative.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout inquired whether there was an overlap in the services to be provided, as it appeared to her that looking at the job description, it is what CJC staff, in particular Ms. Becky Walker is currently doing.

Ms. Becky Walker explained that the County provides funding for her position with the youth violence prevention project which includes a lot more than just the youth empowerment centers and the crime prevention aspect. She said the new position would be a support to what we are currently doing, but would also provide an opportunity to expand into other areas of in crime prevention.

Mr. Davis added that what they had gotten involved with is bigger than what was envisioned, hence the need for additional personnel to ensure effective communication, plans and implementation.

A Motion was made to use Crime Prevention Trust Funds to establish a Countywide Crime Prevention Specialist position moved by Roxanna Trinkka and seconded by Mr. Davis. Motion passed

X. New Business – Regular Item(s)

A. Motion by Barry Krischer with a second by George Elmore for approval of recommendation by the Weed and Seed Steering Committee on West Palm Beach Police Department’s proposal to sustain site funding in the amount of \$50,000 with funding from the CJC \$1 million account to fund the program up to October of 2007 to get in synch with the County fiscal year. Motion passed.

B. Motion by Barry Krischer with a second by Roxanna Trinkka to increase funding up to \$75,000 (from the Drug Abuse Trust Fund) for (Judge Rodger’s) Civil Drug Court to accommodate referrals from the Justice Service Centers and the Youth Empowerment Centers. Motion passed.

C. Motion by Max Davis with a second by Roxanna Trinkka for approval of \$250,000 for the Law Enforcement component of the Youth Violence Prevention Project with funding from the Crime Prevention Trust Fund. Motion passed.

D. Motion by Gerald Richman with a second by Carl McCoy to amend the CJC Bylaws to include an Ethics session that will be held once per year for all CJC members and staff at the Annual Planning Meeting each November. Motion passed.

Ms. Cunningham informed the meeting that March CJC's meeting will be for one and one half hour to accommodate Mr. Berger's first ethics session.

XI. Chairman Johnston asked members to read through the 2007 CJC Priorities that were voted on at the CJC Planning Meeting on November 13, 2006, indicating that it would be the CJC's guide for 2007.

XII. Members Comments

A. Commissioner Newell commended Douglas Duncan, Chair, and the Corrections Taskforce for doing a job in keeping track of the jail population and making sure it does not go over the limit, as evidenced by the attached monthly jail population reports.

B. Senator Dave Aronberg reported that legislative session starts on March 6, 2007 and that the gang issues would be a priority. He referred to an article sent out by Diana on Stay Away Orders and stated how it differs from gang injunctions, and inquired whether they were being used in Palm Beach County.

He also reported that the Anti Murder Bill which is Governor Crist's top priority would be voted on during legislative session.

There being no further business before the Commission, meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.