

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, March 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:

Rosalyn Baker
James Barr
Ric Bradshaw
Delsa Bush
Barbara Cheives
Mike Driscoll
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Harry A. Johnston, II
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Andrew Lourie
Carl McKoy
Jay Pickens
Roxanna Trinko
Carmen Veneziano
Max Davis (ex officio Exec. Committee)
Art Johnson (ex officio Exec. Committee)

Members Absent:

Dave Aronberg
Dale Armstrong
Moses Baker
Sharon Bock
Frank Davelli
Douglas Duncan
Barry Krischer
Wendy Sartory Link
Commissioner Warren H. Newell
Eliasib "Junior" Ortiz
Gerald Richman
Debra Robinson
Young Song
Richard Staudinger

Guests Attending:

Jody Barnett, Vice Mayor Palm Beach Gardens
Lenny Berger, Assistant County Attorney
Max Beverly, Dept. of Public Safety/Justice Services
Jim Kelly, PBC School District Police Department
Joseph Meshil, Palm Beach County Citizen
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
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Candee Carigma, Criminal Justice Analyst
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Jenise Gibson, Senior Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Shairette Major, Financial Analyst II
Faith Martin, Community Justice Service Center Coordinator
Glenna Nowalk, Clerical Specialist
Michael L. Rodriguez, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Youth Violence Prevention Program Coordinator

- I. Chair Harry Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:05 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.
- V. The minutes of the February 26, 2007 Full Commission meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Barr.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chairman Johnston:
 - A. Thanked Ms. Cunningham for 16½ year contribution to the Criminal Justice Commission and presented her with a plaque on behalf of the CJC members and staff for outstanding and dedicated service.
 - B. Reported that the Selection Committee met on Monday, March 12 and interviewed 9 of the 48 applicants for the Executive Director position of the CJC. The interview consisted of six oral questions, a written exam, and an extemporaneous oral exam. Mr. Johnston said he was pleased with the quality of the Selection Committee members and expressed his gratitude for their time and commitment. He noted that two members; George Elmore and Chief Judge Kroll were unable to participate in the interviews due to other engagements.

Members of the Selected Committee who participated were: James Barr, Barbara Cheives, Public Defender Carey Haughwout, State Attorney Barry Krischer, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, and Assistant County Administrator Vince Bonvento.

The 9 applicants were narrowed down to 3 finalists and after much discussion a final vote was taken and Michael Rodriguez was selected to succeed Diana Cunningham as the Executive Director. This is to be confirmed by the Board of County Commissioners at their meeting on March 27, 2007 where Chairman Johnston will be in attendance to explain the selection process and provide clarification where needed. Mr. Johnston encouraged Commission members to attend the meeting if possible.
 - C. Congratulated Ms. Rebecca Walker on her promotion to Program Manager.
 - D. Reported that the CJC's first Youth Violence Prevention Project's Youth Empowerment Center at West Palm Beach had its grand opening on Thursday,

March 1, 2007. The Center will provide young adults 12 to 18 years old, the opportunity to be in a relaxed, safe, fun place to develop skills and talents for jobs and careers. Lake Worth, Riviera Beach and Boynton Beach centers will soon follow, and Belle Glade in the pipeline.

Chair Johnston also noted that Florida State University School of Criminology Center for Public Policy began development of the Evaluation design for all five Youth Violence Prevention Project sites on Tuesday, March 20, 2007.

- E. Indicated that he initially planned to appoint a Committee to discuss with County Administration their desire to change the CJC ordinance, but that from his last conversation with Vince Bonvento, they are trying not to open the ordinance, but to instead resolve the issue by a memorandum or a letter of agreement. The problem Chairman Johnston said is that he could not be sure that the present Commission could bind future Commission by doing this act, but he thinks we are coming close to a resolution.

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

- A. Officially introduced and welcomed Mr. William Kramer, Senior Vice President of Sugarcane Growers Cooperative of Florida, appointed for a three year term on the CJC by the Board of County Commissioners on March 13, 2007. Mr. Kramer has been an active resident in Palm Beach County and currently works out of Belle Glade.

- B. Invited Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to share his planned Town Hall meeting with the audience.

Sheriff Bradshaw extended invitation to everyone, indicating that the Town Hall meeting will be a presentation and panel discussion on Gang Violence on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach Community College in Lake Worth. He said it is expected to be very informative and hopes that it will open some awareness and get people in the community involved.

- C. Reported that Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Council would be hosting their Annual Gang Summit on April 13, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the McDonald Center in Miami, and a second one at the Signature Gardens in South Miami on April 16, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Persons interested in attending were asked to contact with Jenise Gibson.

VIII. Special Presentation

Ms. Cunningham introduced Mr. Lenny Berger, Assistant County Attorney who was invited to give a 30-minute presentation to CJC members and staff about ethics, what constitutes ethical behavior, the sunshine law, in the context of working in Palm Beach County.

Mr. Berger provided an overview on ethics, stating that in the general sense, it is a matter of knowing right from wrong. He noted that as public officials every decision we make should be in the public's interest and not for private gain. Mr. Berger used illustrations to highlight what might involve ethical issues. He referred to two broad categories of regulations, one which deals with purely prohibited conflicts and the other

deals with a set of potential conflicts that are non-prohibited but require you to abstain from voting. The Prohibited conflicts entail common sense regulations and prohibition against doing business with your own agency/company, and prohibition against having any contractual relationship with any kind of entity that is doing business with or being regulated by your agency. For the non-prohibited conflicts, he advised members to complete a voting conflict form and make it a part of the minutes.

Mr. Berger encouraged everyone to seek assistance from the County Attorney's Office about any ethical issue(s) and also refer to the state's website on ethics. (website address: www.ethics.state.fl.us).

With regards to the sun shine law, Mr. Berger said it requires all government decisions to be made in the public and applies not only to the meetings, but pointed out that if two or more voting members are engaged in discussion about CJC business outside of a public meeting, it would constitute a violation of the law.

Mr. Berger reported that he is working with the County's Human Resource Department in developing web based presentations and will be doing it on a quarterly basis for different government departments and divisions. Persons will therefore have information at their disposal.

Ms. Cunningham pointed out that an exception to the sun shine law is the operations portion of law enforcement meetings which is not subject to the public because of its nature.

After his presentation, Mr. Berger invited and addressed various questions from the audience.

- IX. There were no Business Consent items.
- X. There was no Old Business
- XI. New Business – Regular Item(s)
 - A. Motion to ratify the selection of Michael Rodriguez as the new CJC Executive Director was moved by George Elmore and seconded by William Kramer without objection.
 - B. Motion to send letter of support to Congress to reinstate Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) / Byrne block grant funding for local government, as recommended by State Attorney Barry Krischer was moved by Roxanna Trinkka and seconded by Barbara Cheives
 - C. Andrew Lourie, Chair of Weed & Seed Steering Committee provided an overview of the Weed and Seed activities and the need for assistance for Riviera Beach Police Department to sustain FY 07 site funding in the amount of \$50,000 from the CJC \$1 million account.

Motion to provide funding from the CJC \$1 million account moved by Carey Haughwout and seconded by William Kramer with modification as needed to reflect the correct sum required and the time frame.
 - D. Ms. Cunningham reported that Hugh McMillan, Governmental Relations Consultant and Public Interest Lobbyist who has worked with the faith and character initiative in the Department of Corrections contacted her regarding the

Bill to establish the Florida Parole Commission as the state transition authority. She indicated that Representative Priscilla Taylor and Senator Arthenia Joyner are lead sponsors of the bill and recommend that CJC support the cause. She referred to attachment regarding the bill in the agenda packet.

Motion for CJC to write letter to support Senate Bill moved by Carey Haughwout and seconded by Carl McKoy.

- E. Motion to support Commission Newell's letter to Senator Aronberg endorsing the Community Budget Issue Request for four portable classrooms for use at the Juvenile Detention Center in West Palm Beach was moved by George Elmore and seconded by Carey Haughwout.

XII. There were no CJC initiatives updates

XIII. There were no member comments

There being no further business before the Commission, meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m., at which point Chairman Johnston asked for a round of applause for outgoing CJC Executive Director, Diana Cunningham.