

# M I N U T E S

TUESDAY, May 29, 2007 - 8:00 a.m.

## PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

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

### ***Members Present:***

Dale Armstrong  
Dave Aronberg  
Moses Baker  
Rosalyn Baker  
James Barr  
Barbara Cheives  
Douglas Duncan  
George Elmore  
Feirmon Johnson  
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.  
William Kramer  
Barry Krischer  
Kathleen Kroll  
Commissioner Warren H. Newell  
Eliasib "Junior" Ortiz  
Jay Pickens  
Gerald Richman  
Debra Robinson  
Young Song  
Carmen Veneziano  
Max Davis (ex officio Exec. Committee)

### ***Members Absent:***

Sharon Bock  
Ric Bradshaw  
Delsa Bush  
Frank Davelli  
Mike Driscoll  
Carey Haughwout  
Harry A. Johnston, II  
Wendy Sartory Link  
Andrew Lourie  
Carl McKoy  
Richard Staudinger  
Roxanna Trinko  
Art Johnson (ex officio Exec. Committee)

### ***Guests Attending:***

Leondrae Camel, City of Belle Glade Weed & Seed  
Mike Edmondson, State Attorneys Office (SAO)  
John Green, Riviera Beach Weed & Seed Steering Committee  
Karen Heidtman, Clerk & Comptroller Office  
Jim Kelly, PBC School District Police Department  
D/S Karl Martin, Palm Beach Sheriff Office (PBSO)  
Michael McAuliffe, McAuliffe Law Group  
Joe Meshil, Palm Beach County Citizen  
Kristen Pesiwc, County Legislative Delegation Office  
Jay Reavis, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)  
Paula Russell, State Attorney Office  
Mike Szakacs, Office of Financial Management and Budget (OFMB)  
Lillian Tomeu, Belle Glade City Hall

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**Staff Present:**

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director  
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary  
Candee Carigma, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst  
Jenise Gibson, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst  
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager  
Shairette Major, Financial Analyst II  
Faith Martin, Community Justice Service Center Coordinator  
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Vice Chair James Barr called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Vice Chair Barr welcomed all guests and invited them to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Davis.
- V. The minutes of the April 23, 2007 Full Commission meeting was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Johnson, Sr.
- VI. Vice Chair Barr reminded CJC members of the summer break, highlighting that the next Full CJC meeting will be Monday, September 24, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
  - A. Welcomed Katherine Hatos, new Criminal Justice Analyst, and CJSC members of staff; Cassandra Strachan - Social Worker, Sammie Caldwell - Community Service Supervisor and Ed Rooney – AARP Senior Aide.
  - B. Congratulated Damir Kukec, Manager of Research and Planning, on his marriage.
- VIII. There were no Business Consent items.
- IX. Old Business

Mr. Rodriguez referred to letter from Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to Commissioner Greene regarding the need for local enforcement in the area of Convenience Store security, specifically requesting that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) direct staff to draft an ordinance which adopts the state statutes and provides for local enforcement of the Convenience Store Security Ordinance.

Deputy Karl Martin of the Sheriff's Department added that the "Convenience Business Security Act" is regulated on a State level and is currently enforced by the Attorney General's Office. They are seeking to have this enforcement adopted at the local level, citing that a number of the crimes committed at convenient stores may have been solved or prevented with such an ordinance. He further stated that this would speed up the processing time and get everyone in compliance.

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State Attorney Barry Krischer pointed out that the violations are civil in nature.

Commissioner Newell commented that the County Commissioners were concerned as to whether the Sheriff's Department had the resources to enforce the ordinance. He suggested involving the Planning and Zoning Department to look at the designs of the future facilities for maximum safety.

Deputy Martin indicated that all five officers involved in this area are CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) certified and know how to read blueprints, and would be able to assist the Planning, Zoning and Building Department.

Motion made by Mr. Krischer and seconded by Mr. Elmore for CJC to make recommendation to the BCC to direct staff to draft an ordinance which adopts the state statutes and provides for local enforcement of convenience store security.

X. New Business

A. Mr. Rodriguez provided an overview of CJC's current budget and the proposed fiscal year 2008 budget. He indicated the origin of the various funds and how they are being allocated, highlighting that the Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program is a blend of federal grants administered separately to support a broad range of activities to prevent crime. These include the Byrne Grant and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. The Drug Abuse Trust Fund, Crime Prevention Trust Fund, Criminal Justice Reserve Fund (\$1million), and the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (\$2 million) are local funds.

He pointed out that the CJC voted in February 2006 to sunset all of its finance committees; given the continued decline in federal funding and other sources (e.g. County). It was agreed that the CJC would continue to fund current federally funded programs, meaning that the finance committees were no longer necessary. This fiscal year the CJC received more funds than anticipated and Mr. Rodriguez suggested that a review of funds allocation might be possible.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that there are concerns in the County regarding the type of funding that will be available for the fiscal year 08. Department Heads have gone through different formulas of budget cuts and revisions to reduce the proposed budget. CJC's budget revision resulted in a 31.5% reduction, however, the \$1 million and \$2 million will still be received from the County.

Mr. Bonvento added that there is currently a lot of uncertainty with the Governor's budget and that the County's budget has already been reduced by \$100m and there is the possibility of a further reduction of over \$50m. He said that if the Governor's budget proposal goes forward, County Administrator, Bob Weisman will request that the Board delete the \$2 million funding for the youth empowerment centers. He stated however, that a provision is currently in place if this happens and that the cities have been informed that at minimum, the County will match their dollar amount allocated to the centers for next fiscal year. He

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also said that several hundred employees could be laid off due to the budget cut.

Commissioner Newell expressed a given the new financial pressures, perhaps we should put the Youth Empowerment Centers on hold. He suggested why open the centers in the short term only to have to close them down in the future.

Mr. Bonvento said that this all depends on what happens during Session in Tallahassee. If Session approves the compromise somewhere in between, he didn't think Mr. Weisman would identify the \$2 million as a potential cut. The decision will be made known at the June 26 Board meeting. He said they were advised that some of the cities are also struggling to start the programs as they too are concerned about the pending budget cuts.

Commissioner Newell remarked that as soon as the CJC is aware of the budget situation, they need to determine which programs the monies will be spent on. He also reminded that the left over from the \$1million is being shifted over to cover next years' budget, and that there will be no reserve next year.

Vice Chair Barr concurred that the CJC will have further discussion on the budget following the decision of June 26th Board meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez presented CJC's budget proposals for FY08, noting that the CJC was given just over a month to have this completed. He advised that a sign off on the budget from the CJC, then 51% of the municipalities must concur and then it needs to be presented to the BCC for submission to the federal government by June 22<sup>nd</sup>. He pointed out that if problems are encountered to impact the funds, the CJC has the ability to move around programs within the federal and local monies.

State Attorney Barry Krischer noted that there were suggestions about putting additional dollars into the Civil Drug Court in anticipation of more referrals from the youth empowerment centers. He said there was an agreement to provide the dollars for the beds but a disagreement for providing funds for personnel.

Commissioner Newell stressed that the CJC should carefully consider taking on new programs started with federal dollars; since we are usually forced to fund the program after federal dollars run out.

Mr. Rodriguez remarked that his preference would be to establish a finance committee to review and re-evaluate all the CJC programs to determine their effectiveness, to which Commissioner Newell agreed there is that need.

Motion to recommend to Chair Johnston that a finance committee be re-instituted to review CJC programs for funding was unanimously approved.

The following regular items were approved unanimously after motion by Mr.

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Johnson, Sr. and second by Mr. Elmore:

- Approval of the proposed budget to support the continuation of programs submitted with the CJC operating budget to the County Office of Financial Management and Budget for FY2008 from the following revenue sources:

Program	1 Million Reserve Fund	Drug Abuse Trust Fund	Crime Prevention Trust Fund	(JAG) Byrne	(JAG) 06-10 LLEBG
LEPC/Crime Analysis	230,549				
Community Justice Service Center – WPB	156,175			404,592	
Drug Court	35,000	200,051		38,476	
Delray Beach Weed & Seed	100,000				
Riviera Beach Weed & Seed	100,000				
WPB Weed & Seed	100,000				
CJSC – Westgate		75,000			
CJ Program Dev Specialist	87,571				
COMBAT (4 Positions)					205,000
Re-Entry (2 Positions)	15,197				82,303
Riviera Bch Civil Drug Court		100,000		16,500	
Forensic Accounting				45,000	
Violence Against Women				60,000	
Crime Prevention Specialist			88,181		
Crime Analysis			67,771		
Visual Planning Technology			170,000		
Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst			86,166		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>824,492</b>	<b>375,051</b>	<b>412,118</b>	<b>564,568</b>	<b>287,303</b>

- Approval for staff to submit the application for the 2007 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (previously known as the Byrne Grant) to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement by the June 29, 2007 deadline. **\$564,568** has been approved for Palm Beach County.
  - Approval for staff to submit the application for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program FY2007 Local Solicitation (previously known as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant) to the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance by the July 2, 2007 deadline. **\$287,303** has been allocated for Palm Beach County.
- B. Mr. John Green, Vice President of the Weed & Seed Steering Committee provided an overview of the Belle Glade Weed & Seed program and presented the

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recommendation on behalf of the Committee to sustain site funding in the amount of **\$14,290.80** from the CJC \$1 Million Reserve Fund. A letter and Scope of Work was presented for information.

Mr. Randy Johnson inquired if the problems being experienced by Belle Glade were now resolved for them to move forward.

Ms. Walker responded that they were progressing and meetings were scheduled with the City Manager to move forward.

Mr. Krischer added that he was in attendance at a meeting where monies were approved for the other weed and seed sites but that they were awaiting Belle Glade's paperwork which is now presented.

Motion to approve the Belle Glade Weed & Seed program's request for funding in the amount of **\$14,290.80** from the CJC \$1 Million Reserve Fund by Mr. Barry Krischer and second by Mr. Randy Johnson.

- C. Mr. Rodriguez reminded members that at the last CJC Annual Planning meeting in November, 2006 the issue of gangs were identified as a priority; and that CJC staff were seeking direction from the Commission.

Mr. Kukec provided a brief background on the efforts to combat gangs in Palm Beach County. He presented a document outlining three options for the CJC to choose on which to proceed.

Vice Chair Barr inquired about the extent to which this would be separate from the initiative that Mr. Davis and Ms. Walker have been working on for the past year.

Ms. Walker responded that there would be overlaps but that we could ensure that there was no duplication of efforts.

Mr. Davis added that the youth empowerment centers are presented as an alternative for the kids and that they welcome the opportunity to participate in the Youth Empowerment Centers.

Mr. Krischer noted that a lot of the gang issues are being handled on a local level and that there was a mechanism to share information at least once per month. He added that he has extended his commitment by assigning a lawyer to handle all gang homicides. He remarked that he was not sure that bringing the Public Defender, the State Attorney and the Chief Judge for a meeting would address the issue.

Dr. Debra Robinson commented that a bus stop initiative could assist with recruitment of the kids; that the kids need love and money and that the gangs

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provide that to them. She also said that it is a public health issue and that we need to look at shifting our focus and resources to prevention.

Mr. Jim Kelly of the Palm Beach County School District added that we should take a holistic approach at the issue, highlighting that the schools currently provide a safe haven for some kids who feel unprotected once they leave the school compound. He thinks the CJC should concentrate on the positive and ensure that we share intelligence so that all the players are on the same page.

Mr. Krischer added that the meetings must be productive and CJC staff ought to be given the resources if they are expected to do the job.

Mr. Duncan commented that he supported Option 1 because it seemed to offer the most balanced and comprehensive approach.

Senator Aronberg commented that we should ensure that another committee is not being created to duplicate our efforts.

Ms. Cheives noted that while we deliberate on the direction forward, she thinks that the missing voice is the community and that it is important to get them involved.

After further discussion, option one was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Barry Krischer and second by Mr. Randy Johnson.

### ***Option One***

Criminal Justice Commission to establish an Anti-Gang Task Force that may:

- a. Assemble a membership that would take a balanced approach, including crime prevention, law enforcement, the State Attorney, a Circuit Judge, and Public Defender, and corrections.
- b. Develop strategies that would position the County to access funding from federal and state government sources for combating gang activity.
- c. Develop partnerships with federal, state, county and local governments, agencies, and organizations to identify new innovations and approaches to combating gangs and gang activities, and to maximize resources/funds.
- d. Include a research and monitoring component to measure the trends in gangs and gang activity; as well as, the response by the criminal justice system.
- e. Include a media or public awareness component that informs the general public about the dangers of gangs and what the public can do to combat gangs in their neighborhoods and to assist the criminal justice system.
- f. Include a media or public awareness component that informs the general public about the actions taken by county and local governments to combat gangs and gang activities in the County.

Vice Chair Barr expressed that although the motion is passed, he would like Mr. Rodriguez to look at the resources available in house and report to the Executive

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Committee.

XI. Member comments.

Senator Aronberg provided an update on the budget debate in Tallahassee, but pointed out that it is too early to say what will happen, noting that negotiations are going slowly and there is a divide between the Senate and the House. He said that Senator Ted Deutch, Palm Beach County delegation member, sits on the finance committee that is debating the homestead issue. He thinks that after the special session in June, we will know more about the impact of this issue on the budget.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.