

CORRECTIONS TASK FORCE

Also sits as the Public Safety Coordinating Council and Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council



Virtual Meeting (Zoom) Wednesday, May 5, 2021; 12:00 PM

- MINUTES -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Duncan, Chair, Roth and Duncan, P.A. Alfonso Starling, Vice-Chair, Colonel, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Ted Booras, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Cheryl Caracuzzo, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services, Inc. Daniel Eisinger, Public Defender's Office Latronda Hayes, Court Services Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association David H. Talley, PBC CareerSource Alton Taylor, Drug Abuse Foundation Craig Williams, Office of the State Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles Burton, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit **Sherri Collins**, Administrative Judge, County Court, 15th Judicial Circuit **Laura Cusack**, Coalition for Independent Living Options **Dave Kerner**, Commissioner, Palm Beach County **Louis Tomeo**, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller

GUESTS PRESENT:

Carlo _, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association Jerry Casal, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association Colleen Farnsworth, DCF Legal John Johnson, Major, Superintendent, Department of Juvenile Justice Josh _, South County Bail Bonds Diane McCarthy, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller (for Louis Tomeo) Richard Riffard, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association Felicia A. Scott, Riviera Beach Civil Drug Court Tyrell Siagi, County Administration Tammy _, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association John Viola, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association



CIC STAFF PRESENT:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst Bert Winkler, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

I. Welcome and Opening Comments, Chairman Douglas Duncan

Welcomed Major John Johnson, South Region Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center Superintendent in West Palm Beach. Extended appreciation and well wishes to Major Mamine Saintil, now with the North Region DJJ in Tallahassee, for her many years of service in the Correction Task Force and the Criminal Justice Commission.

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Members and guests signed in the chat box for attendance, in lieu of roll call and introductions.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved without any changes.

IV. Approval of May 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved without amendments.

V. Old Business

A. Operation Green Light Report – *Diane McCarthy, County Criminal Manager, Clerk & Comptroller's Office*

Ms. Diane McCarthy reported on Operation Greenlight for Louis Tomeo. It was a very successful virtual event held on March 1-5 wherein customers made payments over the phone. The Clerk's Office reinstated over 560 licenses, provided affidavits to get reinstatements on 1,600 licenses, and collected over \$500,000; 1,300 cases were paid in full, and payment plans were developed for almost 400 customers. Chair Duncan thanked Ms. McCarthy for the report and congratulated the Clerk's Office for a successful event.

VI. New Business

A. Proposed Modification of Administrative Order No 12.510 (Mitigating Measures In Response To Covid-19) – *John Viola, Palm Beach Bail Bond Association* (AO 12.510 - 2.2021.20 attached)

Mr. John Viola proposed a review of A0 12.510, specifically the temporary modification to the bond schedule which basically reduced \$3,000 bonds to \$1,000 bonds only on third degree felonies. He contended that the bond calls at night are not being answered because bondsmen cannot generate any kind of revenue from it. According to Mr. Viola no bonds are being posted at night as shown by a table provided by Juna Thomas (Inmate Records). Mr. Viola proposed therefore that this portion of the AO be obsoleted at this time and let them go back to \$3,000 schedule, as it was originally, to give the bail industry the incentive to go out at night.

Ms. Rosalind Murray asked whether it is the committee's and CJC'S role to help the bondsmen generate revenue. Mr. Viola said no, but they cannot work for free and they have to make knowledgeable, tangible, and good recommendations to the judiciary to benefit those criminal defendants. Chair Duncan noted that the CTF always reviews the bond schedule, and whether one industry is making money certainly falls within the committee's purview. He opened up the issue to the committee for discussion.

Ms. Regenia Herring recommended tabling the issue because this is something the Safety and Justice Challenge in the MacArthur project has been working on, much of which is going back to this committee. Chair Duncan said he would like input from the Chief Judge and all parties involved and recommended putting it on next month's agenda. Mr. Daniel Eisinger added he would also like to know what was the impact of lowering the bond from \$3000 to \$1000 on crime in the community; and whether the \$1000 bonds should be OR if the defendants were not committing new crimes and the community is not in danger by having them released.

B. Posted Bonds Per Shift, PBSO - John Viola, Palm Beach Bail Bond Association

Mr. Viola said the table provided by Ms. Thomas indicates what bond, surety or cash, were being posted during each shift. A Shift, which is midnight to 8 AM, had limited or no bonds posted. They wanted to provide this information so that the CJC may have a knowledgeable and tangible understanding of what has been going on.



VII. Reports

A. Jail Population and In-House Arrest, Colonel Alfonso Starling, PBSO

Col. Starling reported their total population as of that morning was 1,860. As indicated on the hand-out provided, inmate population as of April 30th were broken down as: 1,263 blacks; 947 whites. In-house arrest was 204: 164 adults; 4 juveniles; 40 county sentenced; 0 Probation; 0 DJJ; 0 AO. Pay n Go for April was 168. Individuals awaiting transport to prison was now down to 32 individuals. Individuals in custody for another county was 32 as well.

B. Pretrial Services, Latronda Hayes, Palm Beach County Justice Services

Ms. Latronda Hayes reported that as of April 30th there were a total of 1,089 defendants on SOR; 794 of those individuals were on SOR only, 295 were on SOR with a money bond. Of the 1,089 individuals on SOR, 44 remained in custody; due to 2 awaiting in-patient treatment. Of the 295 individuals on SOR, 46 remained in custody. The total out of custody population was 999; of which 14 failed to appear for court (1%) and 22 had new criminal activity (2%). They had a total of 66 technical violations. For population that remained in custody: 41 were white, 49 black. For those granted supervised release by race: 634 were white, 455 black. Their numbers were down when compared to this time last year.

C. Juvenile Detention Center, Major John Johnson, Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Major John Johnson reported they currently have a total of 24 juveniles in secure detention. They have two direct filed youth, and nine committed youth.

D. Misdemeanor Probation, Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services

Ms. Glenny Cueto reported they had a total of 153 new cases for the month of January; 1,444 total active cases; 90 successfully completed cases; 7 revoked; 19 on ICE hold. Total active cases broken down by race: 497 black; 332 white, 397 black/Latino, 218 white/Latino.

report was presented in person, but a handout was included in the meeting packet.

E. Felony Probation, Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections

No report was presented.



Ms. Herring shared that the County Commission passed an ordinance which reduced quorums to 25% for in-person meetings. She said they will check whether this committee has by laws that require a quorum to conduct business. Chair Duncan concurred.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 12 PM.