

MINUTES

Monday, August 20, 2018 – 12:10 p.m.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAW ENFORCEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL
SCHOOL SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE**

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



Members Present:

Chairman Judge James Martz, Administrative Juvenile Division Judge
Frank DeMario, Chief of Law Enforcement Operations, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Bill Johnson, Director Emergency Management, PBC Public Safety Department
Chief Frank Kitzerow, Palm Beach County School District Police Department
Barry Krischer, CJC Vice Chairman
Diana Matty, Fire Chief for the City of West Palm Beach Fire Rescue & Fire Chief Associations of Palm Beach County Representative
Frank Mercurio, Resident Agent in Charge, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Lynn Powell, Juvenile Division Chief, State Attorney's Office
Chief Clint Shannon, Palm Beach Gardens Police Department
Greg Starling, Chief Probation Officer, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Guests Present:

Gerald Richman, CJC Chairman
Congressman Brian Mast
Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO, Children's Services Council
Christine Shaw, Executive Director, Legislative Delegation, Palm Beach County
Rebecca DeLaRosa, Director, Legislative Affairs, Palm Beach County
Dave Bernhardt, PBC Commission Administrative Assistant II

CJC Staff Present:

Kristina Henson, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Commission
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, Criminal Justice Commission

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Jonathan Hackley, Criminal Justice Analyst, Criminal Justice Commission

Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant

I. Welcome and Opening Comments – *Chairman Martz*

- a. Chairman Martz welcomed Chief Diana Matty, Fire Chief for the City of West Palm Beach Fire Rescue & Fire Chief Associations of Palm Beach County Representative

II. Introductions were made.

- III. The agenda and minutes were approved upon a motion by Chief DeMario and a second by Lynn Powell.

IV. Business

- a. **Update on Palm Beach County School District Police Department** – Chief Kitzerow reported on a recent incident in which an act of violence occurred outside a secure area of the stadium. He thanked Sheriff Bradshaw, PBSO deputies, FDLE, Highway Patrol, and Florida Fish & Wildlife for their assistance. He also commended the responding officer for moving towards the gunfire and being on scene so quickly. Chief DeMario remarked that everything went well and noted the biggest issue was self-deployment. He recommended that people be aware of their surroundings and look for exits when they are out at the movies or other venues. Chief DeMario also expressed concern about law enforcement not being able to keep their guns at sporting events and inquired about the Chiefs signing the authorization for guns in the courthouse. Chairman Martz also commended those on the scene and partners that helped with the incident.

- b. **School Safety Issues** - Congressman Brian Mast thanked law enforcement for all their hard work and recognized that they face danger head on. He advised that there is a great deal of surplus equipment that the school should be able to access without a fee. This equipment has already been purchased by taxpayers. He welcomed members to contact him if he can be of any assistance.

- c. **Details for Law Enforcement Training Symposium** – Executive Director Henson provided an overview of the event in which lead trainers will be invited from each agency to discuss best practices. Chairman Martz reiterated that the event is not intended to develop policies. Mr. Krischer mentioned that he is working with the US Secret Service to have someone attend the meetings. There was a general discussion about training. Chief DeMario noted that the Sheriff's Office has provided training for private schools and they are working on setting up charter schools. Chief Kitzerow mentioned that they should take an inventory of their accomplishments. He stressed the importance that

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each school has an officer in contrast many areas throughout the state and the nation don't have law enforcement coverage. He also explained that their training includes federal recommendations that a single officer would move towards the threat.

- d. Update on the DCF Governor's Executive Order meeting** – Chairman Martz noted that the first meeting on July 17th was well attended. Executive Director Henson provided an overview of the purpose of the meetings. She noted that they are intended to address information sharing and identify threats early on. Meetings will be held quarterly and the Criminal Justice Commission will continue to be involved to ensure that the right players are in attendance.
- e. Children Service's Council (CSC) Update** - Lisa Williams-Taylor reached out to substance abuse and mental health providers. Every entity is different in how they assess clients. She noted several issues including that they don't have enough child psychologists and mental health counselors. CSC is helping to build capacity by assisting those that need mental health licenses as a master's degree is required. They are also trying to determine why new graduates aren't staying in the area. It was noted that cost of living is a significant barrier in retaining graduates. Ms. Williams-Taylor also reported that CSC received \$4.2 million that they are looking at adding mental health counselors to 45 schools.
- f. Feedback and thoughts from members** – Chief Matty requested that fire be included in the training symposium. RAC Mercurio and Mr. Johnson would also like to attend. There was a discussion about setting up a central number for incidents. Chief DeMario mentioned that the student protect app could be used. Mr. Johnson also advised that the EOC has the capability to establish a number. Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director, introduced herself to the committee and offered her support. They are looking at using leftover funds from last year as a potential resource for additional officers. She will reach out to Amity Schuyler with the PBC School Board. They are also looking at mental health funding.

Chairman Martz noted that he would like to address any concerns by fire rescue at the next meeting on September 17th at 12:10 PM.