



Criminal Justice Commission



2007



annual report

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Purpose of this Report

The annual report is prepared for the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners who oversee the work of the Criminal Justice Commission. The report contains a description of the Criminal Justice Commission, its members, and highlights its work and 2007 accomplishments. The report is an appropriate way to acknowledge the members, staff, and countless volunteers that make up the Criminal Justice Commission. The annual report is presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their information.







Addie L. Greene
Chairperson
District 7

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

In 1988, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners created the Criminal Justice Commission by ordinance to develop innovative processes for addressing criminal justice issues. County government has a large stake in preventing crime, ensuring public safety, and controlling criminal justice system costs. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners reasoned that the most effective way to address these issues was through a collaborative criminal justice system. The Criminal Justice Commission's role is to research current and emerging issues and advise the County Commission of the most effective methods of addressing these issues.



Jeff F. Koons
Vice Chair
District 2



Karen T. Marcus
District 1



Robert J. Kanjian
District 3

Palm Beach County, Ordinance No. 88-16



Mary McCarty
District 4



Burt Aaronson
District 5



Jess R. Santamaria
District 6



Criminal Justice Commission

Mission Statement

Section 1. Purpose The Criminal Justice Commission is established to study all aspects of the criminal justice and crime prevention systems within the federal, state, county, municipal, and private agencies in Palm Beach County.

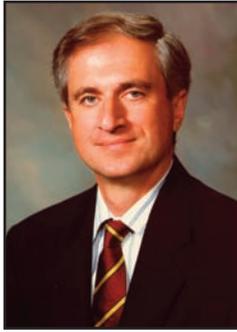
The purpose shall include the study of the health and human services and educational systems, among others, as they pertain to criminal justice or crime prevention. The Criminal Justice Commission shall make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on policies and programs designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- a) To provide overall coordination of law enforcement and crime prevention efforts in the county.
- b) To provide an efficient, cost-effective and timely criminal justice system in the county.
- c) To effect the reduction of crime in the county on a permanent basis.

Bylaws of Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission (as amended May 22, 2006).



Message from Administration



Robert Weisman
County Administrator



Vince Bonvento
Assistant County
Administrator

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of Palm Beach County Administration, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the Criminal Justice Commission members for their 2007 accomplishments and the successful release of yet another annual report.

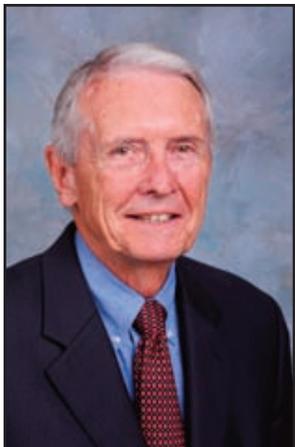
We are particularly happy to welcome the appointment of the Commission's new leader, Executive Director Michael Rodriguez. We know that staff and the Commission have a great number of priorities that are of importance to the county: these include crime prevention, alternatives to incarceration, unfunded mandates, and re-entry of inmates.

Thank you to the 33 Criminal Justice Commission members who volunteer their time to enhance the lives of Palm Beach County residents. The county benefits immensely from the diverse makeup of the commission and its ability to develop meaningful relationships and partnerships with various sectors to address crime and enhance public safety throughout our vast county.

Finally, congratulations to the Criminal Justice Commission for another successful year, and we look forward to working with the members in 2008 and beyond.



Message from Chairman Harry A. Johnston II



Dear Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners:

We are pleased to present the Board of County Commissioners with a copy of the 2007 annual report. Soon after being appointed the 2007 Chairman of the Criminal Justice Commission, it quickly became evident that this year would be one of great change. After serving the county more than 17 years, Ms. L. Diana Cunningham announced that she was retiring.

As a result, members of the Criminal Justice Commission were tasked with steering the commission through this period of transition. The subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Commission worked tirelessly to find a new executive director. It was only after a national search and a competitive process that the selection committee nominated Michael L. Rodriguez as the new executive director. Even during this period of transition, the Criminal Justice Commission and its staff continued to forge ahead.

In 2007, under the Criminal Justice Commission:

- The Criminal Justice Service Centers (formerly Community Courts) assisted 6,138 walk-in residents with various social services between January 2007 and December 2007 from both service centers; coordinated 188 community projects, involving 3,410 community service hours aimed at restoring the two communities; whereby, 3,410 community service hours translated into \$32,305 worth (\$9.50/hour) of contributions to the community.
- The Youth Violence Prevention Project supported the implementation of youth empowerment centers in Lake Worth, Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, and Boynton Beach. Discussion continues in Belle Glade for the development of youth empowerment centers.
- The Weed and Seed Steering Committee supported the opening of the fifth weed and seed site in Gramercy Village.



- The Law Enforcement Planning Council addressed a vast number of legislative issues such as: confidentiality of law enforcement personal information, sale of imitation guns, prohibition of gun shows, controlled substance prescription tracking, property tax change, and police training funds levied by the court; updated the Law Enforcement Planning Council pursuit policy recommendations to conform to the national accreditation and professional organizations; and, collaborated with the State Attorney and others to update the child abuse protocol and received a positive review by the grand jury.
- The Court System Task Force completed a mental health case study of an individual's experience with the criminal justice system and continues to study the impact that driving under license suspension offenses have on the court.
- The Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council (CTF/PSCC) reviewed House Bill 1477 and Chapter 2007-200, Laws of Florida on Mental Illness and Substance Abuse. The CTF/PSCC recommended that a new council be formed in the county for this specific special interest topic. The recommendation was approved by the Criminal Justice Commission and forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners. The BCC formally created the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council by resolution on September 25, 2007.

I was particularly impressed with the level of cooperation and urgency given by the various private and public sector members which resulted in the successful completion of a grant application to the Department of Children and Families. Both staff and members of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council should be commended. Lastly, the Criminal Justice Commission continues its work addressing a number of relevant issues, including youth violence, alternatives to incarceration to alleviate overcrowding in the county jail, and re-entry. It is important to highlight the opening of youth empowerment and adult service centers across the county to address the growing problem of youth violence.

Please join me in congratulating staff and the vast community which supports the work of the Criminal Justice Commission and its accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Harry A. Johnston II
2007 Criminal Justice Commission



Criminal Justice Commission Officers

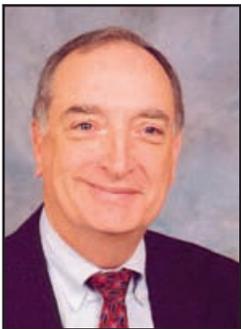


Harry A. Johnston II
Chairman

Mr. Harry A. Johnston is a law partner at the office of Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs, P.A. in West Palm Beach, Florida where he has been an attorney since 1986. He received his BA degree at the Virginia Military Institute in 1953 and his JD from the University of Florida in 1958. He served in the United States Army as a first lieutenant in the 4th Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas from 1953-1955. He served in the Florida Senate from 1974 - 1986 and was President and Presiding Officer from 1984-1986. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1989 and served until 1997. He was a Foreign Affairs Committee member from 1989-1997, an African Subcommittee member from 1992-1997, and Chairman of the African Subcommittee from 1992-1994. He has lectured at Harvard University and Princeton University on African matters.

Mr. Johnston's past leadership positions included President - Palm Beach County Bar Association 1970, President - Rotary Club of West Palm Beach 1971, President - United Way of Palm Beach County 1972, Founding Chairman - Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Chairman of Board of Trustees - Palm Beach Community College 1986-1998, Member - Advisory Committee to Export/Import Bank of the United States, Chairman - U.S. Committee for Refugees, Presidential Special Envoy to Sudan - October 1999 to January 2001, and President - Forum Club.

Mr. Johnston's leadership positions include former President - Norton Museum of Art, Member Advisory Committee to Carnegie, Inc. (Russian Studies-Harvard), Trustee - Chastain Foundation. Present Chairman - Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission.



James S. Barr
Vice Chairman

Mr. James Barr is a seasoned executive with over 30 years of professional, financial and managerial experience. His major strengths include planning, organization, and supervision, in addition to contract and project negotiations.

Mr. Barr is the President of JSB Consulting and former President of Palm Beach Transportation, the largest ground transportation company in Palm Beach County. His impressive past professional positions include Vice President of Commercial Lending of Harris Bank, Executive Vice President/ Chief Financial Officer of The Fremont Company, Vice President and Managing Executive of Northern Trust Bank of Florida, and President of Boca Bank. As Vice Chairman of the Criminal Justice Commission, Mr. Barr served as the Chairman of the Drug Abuse Trust Fund Committee.

Mr. Barr served in the military as a lieutenant in the United States Navy. He received his MBA from the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Barr has also been involved in many community organizations. He has been the Chairman of the Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, the Boca Raton Academy Trustees and the Palm Beach County Convention and Visitors Bureau. He has also served on other organizations such as the Boca Raton Rotary Club, the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Spanish River High School Advisory Council.





Feirmon Johnson
Secretary

Mr. Johnson was born in Alachua, Florida where he completed his early education. He completed his undergraduate studies at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (BS), Florida International University (BSW), and graduate studies at the University of Northern Colorado (MS). He has been an employee of the state of Florida since August 1974 and currently serves as the Chief Probation Officer for the Department of Juvenile Justice, Circuit 15, Palm Beach County. His employment with the State has included supervisory positions in Detention, Child Abuse, Investigation, Delinquency Case Management, Probation, Program Specialist, and Program Operations Administrator in Circuit 17, Broward County. Prior to coming to Palm Beach County in October 2000, he served as the Administrator for the Broward Juvenile Intervention Facility, responsible for all integrated and contractual services at the facility.

Mr. Johnson is married with four adult children and three grandchildren. He is an active member of Saint John United Methodist Church where he sings in the choir, teaches the senior adult Sunday school class, and serves as the coordinator for educational and grants programs for the Boys To Men Organization.

He currently serves as a member of the South Florida North Carolina A & T State University Alumni Association, the NAACP, Urban League, Florida Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Florida Association of Community Corrections, the Palm Beach County Coalition for Children, Speakers Bureau, and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



Barbara Cheives
Treasurer

Ms. Barbara Cheives is the President and CEO of Converge & Associates Consulting. Converge specializes in race and ethnic relations consulting and cultural competency training. Ms. Cheives' consulting expertise includes law enforcement, public safety, social services, media and education.

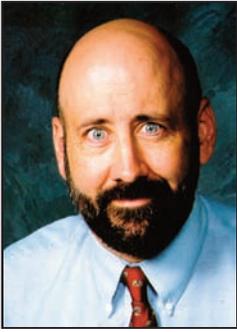
She has been certified as a cultural competency trainer in Health and Human Services by the Cross Cultural Healthcare Program in Seattle, Washington. Ms. Cheives received her certification as a study circle facilitator and facilitator trainer from the Study Circles Resource Center of Pomfret, Connecticut. She has participated in a workshop at the world-renowned Aspen Institute's Roundtable for Community Change. Ms. Cheives served as the first Executive Director of Toward A More Perfect Union in Palm Beach County. TMPU is a nonprofit initiative that addresses the critical impact of race and ethnicity in a diverse community. She now sits on a variety of community organization boards including the United Way of Palm Beach County and Sun Fest, and currently serves as Vice Chair of The Children's Campaign Incorporated Statewide Minority Issues Advisory Council. Ms. Cheives is First Vice President of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Palm Beach Chapter, and is an active alumna of Leadership Palm Beach County from the Class of 2002.

Ms. Cheives' community appointments include Secretary of the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission; Palm Beach County Juvenile Justice Board; Palm Beach County Personnel Appeals Board; and the West Palm Beach Mayor's Diversity Advisory Council. She was also appointed as a commissioner to the statewide 2007 Blueprint Commission of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

She has received numerous honors and awards, most notably the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Women of Excellence Award, the March of Dimes Woman of Distinction Award, United Way of Palm Beach County Volunteer of the Year and the American Cancer Society Lifesaver Award. Ms. Cheives has also been honored by the Women's Chamber of Commerce, Wachovia Bank and the Junior League and as a finalist for the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches Athena Award.



Message from Executive Director, Michael Rodriguez



2007 was certainly an interesting year for both the Criminal Justice Commission and its staff. With the retirement of Ms. Diana Cunningham, the CJC went through the transition process successfully, but not without some growing pains. The institutional knowledge of Ms. Cunningham will be surely missed by the CJC. As the new executive director, I had extensive knowledge of many issues on which the CJC works, but I also quickly realized the need for more.

This report contains many examples of the important work done during the year. As just one of many examples, I would like to note the success of the formation and work of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council. The council and its staff were successful in scoring the highest score in the grant application process to the state and obtaining a firm to assist in writing a strategic plan to address this issue for Palm Beach County.

I want to personally thank the CJC members for their dedication and assistance during my first year as executive director. Things haven't always gone smoothly, but your support and generous donation of time in 2007 made our many accomplishments possible. Special thanks go to Mr. Harry Johnston, the first CJC chair I had the privilege to work for directly. His invaluable advice during 2007 and continuing to this day has been instrumental in my evolution as the executive director.

I also want to mention the Board of County Commissioners, County Administration and the many county departments with which the CJC works for their continued support during the transition. Great appreciation goes to Mr. Vince Bonvento for his assistance in understanding the county bureaucracy, protocol and many other matters.

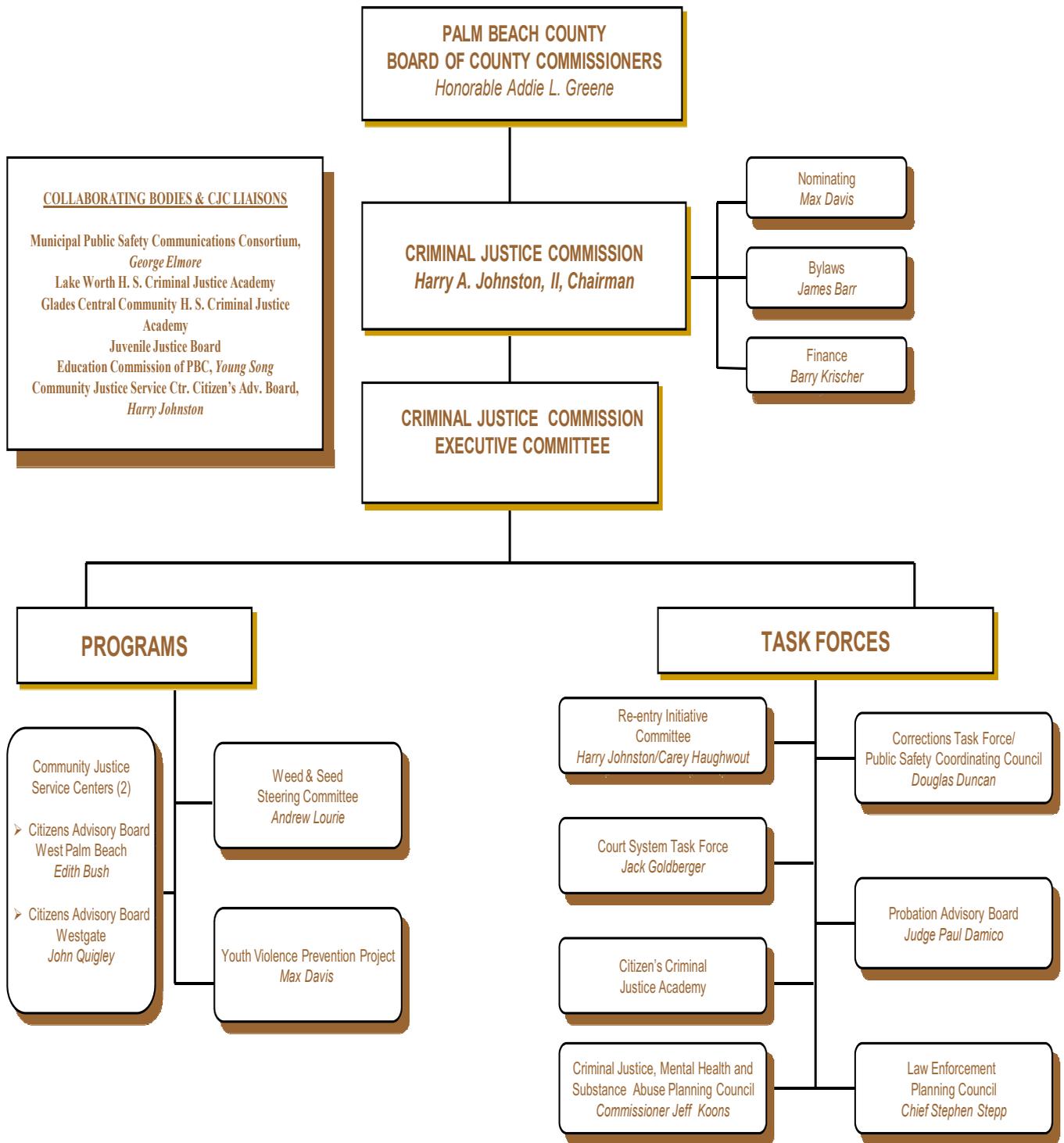
Last, and certainly not least, my thanks to the CJC staff for their hard work and dedication. Your professionalism and expertise were critical for the commission in 2007 and will continue to be important in the future. I look forward to working with all of you in 2008 in maintaining the quality and quantity of work we have traditionally done.

I encourage you to read the annual report in its entirety to fully appreciate the breadth of issues addressed by the CJC in 2007.



PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

2007 Organizational Chart



Foundation: Criminal Justice Commission

In order to fulfill its mandate, the Criminal Justice Commission is organized into two parts:

1) Criminal Justice Commission members; and, 2) Criminal Justice Commission staff.



The first component, often referred to as the commission, includes 21 senior officials from the public sector and 12 community leaders from the private sector. The public sector membership includes a diverse group of people with vast experience and knowledge of the inner workings of the criminal justice system, as well as health and social services. Public sector members are selected from chiefs of police, law enforcement, state attorney, public defender, judges, and representatives from schools and cities. Members from the private sector are just as diverse and

experienced; they include business leaders, directors, attorneys, engineers, architects, and communications specialists. This group is led by the chairperson, who is elected by the commission from the private sector membership. The strength of this group is its ability to work in concert, to overcome obstacles in the community and within individual institutions or agencies, and to foster partnerships and bring forward viable recommendations that enhance the county's criminal justice system

The commission staff form the second component; they are the coordination and research arm of the Criminal Justice Commission. This component is headed by the executive director, who is selected by the commission and approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The executive director and staff have advanced degrees in criminal justice, social work, sociology, psychology, and police administration. The staff possess significant experience in law enforcement, managing alternative and preventive criminal justice programs and conducting criminal justice research and analysis.





The coordination role involves administering monthly meetings for the Full and Executive Criminal Justice Commission and its numerous task forces and committees. Commission staff manage contracts, community-based programs and strategies developed by the Criminal Justice Commission. The research function includes research and statistical services, data collection, and geographic information services (or mapping) for the Criminal Justice Commission and the task forces and committees which drive much of the work for commission staff. The Criminal Justice Commission is also supported by the county administrator, county attorney, and the Department of Public Safety, which is responsible for providing the commission with access to records, reports, documents and other data required by the commission to fulfill its mandate.

These two components form the foundation and support the four pillars of the Criminal Justice Commission: crime prevention; law enforcement; courts; and corrections. Each pillar benefits from the work of commission members, staff and the countless volunteers that actively participate on tasks forces and committees, subcommittees, steering committees, and ad hoc working groups. Each year, the commission holds an annual planning meeting, to ensure that its work remains relevant and addresses the most pressing issues in the county. This work would not be possible without the focus on partnerships and sharing of resources to develop and implement innovative strategies that combine all four pillars.



Criminal Justice Commission Members



Harry A. Johnston
Jones, Foster, Johnston
& Stubbs, P.A.



Burt Aaronson
Palm Beach County
Commissioner



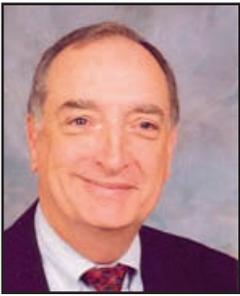
Dave Aronberg
County Legislative
Delegation



Moses Baker
Administrative
Juvenile Judge



Rosalyn Baker
Circuit Administrator
Florida Department
of Correction



James A. Barr
J.A.B. Consultant



Sharon R. Bock
Clerk & Comptroller



Ric Bradshaw
Palm Beach County
Sheriff



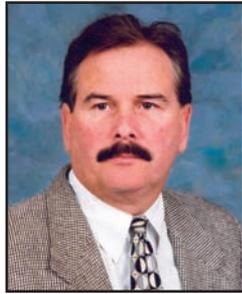
Delsa Bush
Chief, West Palm Beach
Police Department



Barbara Cheives
Converge Associates
Consulting



Frank Davelli
Resident Agent in Charge
Drug Enforcement
Administration



Michael Driscoll
Special Agent Supervisor
Florida Department of
Law Enforcement



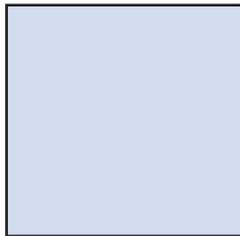
Douglas Duncan
Attorney-at-Law
Roth and Duncan, P.A.



George Elmore
Hardrives of Delray



Carey Haughton
Public Defender
15th Judicial Circuit



Dale Armstrong
Resident Agent in Charge
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco &
Firearms





Feirmon Johnson
Circuit 15 Manager
Florida Department
of Juvenile Justice



Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Communications by
Johnson, Inc.



William Kramer
Sugarcane Growers
Cooperative of Florida



Barry Krischer
State Attorney
15th Judicial Circuit



Kathleen Kroll
Chief Judge
15th Judicial Circuit



Wendy Sartory-Link
Ackerman, Link &
Sartory, P.A.



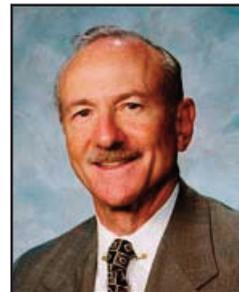
Andrew Lourie
Deputy Chief
US Attorney's Office



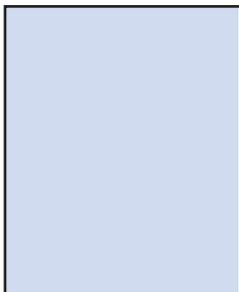
Carl McKoy
Commissioner
City of Boynton Beach



Jay Pickens
Palm Springs
Public Safety



Gerald Richman
Richman, Greer, P.A.



Debra Robinson
Palm Beach County
School Board



Young Song
Song & Associates,
Inc.



Richard Staudinger
CH2M Hill



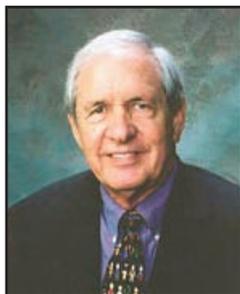
Roxanna Trinka
Baseline Engineering
& Land Surveying, Inc.



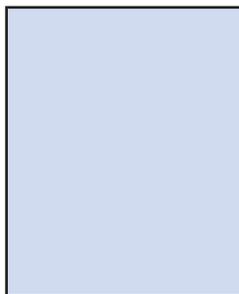
Carmen Veneziano
Crime Prevention
Officers Association



Dr. Art Johnson
Superintendent
Palm Beach County
School District
(ex-officio)

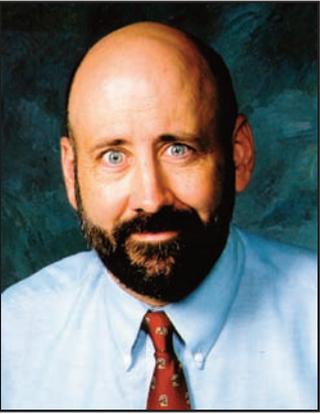


Max Davis
(ex-officio)



Eliasib "Junior" Ortiz
Sr. Supervisory Agent
Federal Bureau of
Investigation

Criminal Justice Commission Staff



Mr. Rodriguez has been executive director of the Criminal Justice Commission since April 2007. He has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and over 25 years experience in direct services, administration, and planning in all areas of the criminal justice system. Starting as a pretrial services professional in Cincinnati, Ohio, he rose through the ranks there to become the evening/weekend bond setting supervisor. He was instrumental in developing the supervised release program, evening and weekend telephone bond setting procedures and was the first in Cincinnati, Ohio to administer an electronic monitoring program.

After nearly 15 years in Cincinnati, he accepted the position of coordinator of Pretrial Services in Broward County, Florida. He was responsible for administering all aspects of pretrial services in Florida's second largest county. He then served as assistant manager for the Palm Beach County Pretrial Services for two years before joining the Criminal Justice Commission of Palm Beach County. During his time with the commission, he served as staff representative for the Law Enforcement Planning Council, Probation Advisory Board, Corrections Task Force, Court System Task Force, Crisis Intervention Team Training and on various other projects as directed.

Mr. Rodriguez has served as the secretary, treasurer, vice president and president of the Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida. He has also served as a regional representative on the National Association of Pretrial Service Professionals.



Administration



Arlene Burton
Administrative Secretary



Glenna Nowalk
Clerical Specialist



Mike Szakacs
Financial Analyst II

Research & Planning



Damir Kukec
Manager



Wayne English
Sr. Criminal
Justice Analyst



Jenise Gibson
Sr. Criminal
Justice Analyst



Katherine Hatos
Criminal
Justice Analyst



Candee Villapando
Criminal
Justice Analyst

Programs



Becky Walker
Manager



Journey Beard
Crime Prevention Project Specialist
Youth Violence Prevention



Rosalind Murray
Program Development
Specialist - Weed & Seed



Brenda Oaks
Planning Coordinator
Youth Violence Prevention

Community Justice Service Center



Lillian Chappelle
Court Reporter



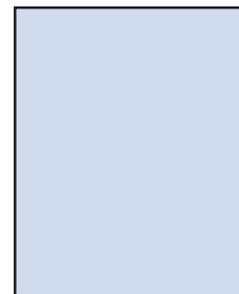
Sabrina Cornish
Court Case Advisor



Dolores Cutlip
Senior Secretary



Fay Callam
Clinical Service
Program Specialist



Sammie Caldwell
Community Service Center
Supervisor

Crime Prevention - Purpose and Accomplishments

The strength of the crime prevention pillar is the active participation of local governments, law enforcement, community leaders, and citizens wanting to make a difference in their communities. There were a number of crime prevention initiatives in 2007, including the opening of several youth empowerment and adult justice service centers, as part of the Youth Violence Prevention Project led by the Board of County Commissioners. The following describes the individual accomplishments for each initiative under the crime prevention banner.

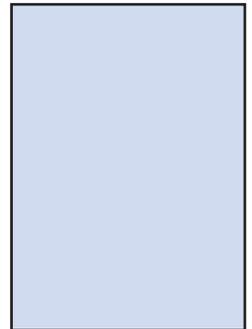


Community Justice Service Centers



Edith Bush
Chairperson,
West Palm Beach

The mission of the Community Justice Service Centers is to empower the residents to have a voice in the criminal justice system and improve the quality of life in the communities in which they live. Their main purpose is to address the offenses which contribute to the deterioration of communities using a restorative justice approach for both the offender and the community. The centers provide an alternative court to address low-level misdemeanor offenses in the communities; and an array of social services for offenders and community members. The following highlights describe some of their accomplishments in 2007:



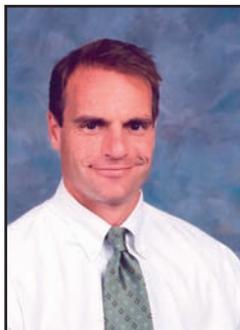
John Quigley
Chairman,
Westgate

- Reached nine years of operation for the Community Justice Service Center located at 2107 Tamarind Avenue, West Palm Beach.
- Assisted 6,138 walk-in residents with various social services between January 2007 and December 2007 from both service centers.
- Coordinated 188 community projects, involving 3,410 community service hours aimed at restoring the two communities.
- The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office assumed responsibility for the Community Justice Service Center in Westgate at 4215 Cherry Road, West Palm Beach.
- 3410 community service hours translates (9.50/hour) into \$32,305 worth of contributions to the community.



Crime Prevention - Purpose and Accomplishments

Weed & Seed



Andrew Lourie
Chairman

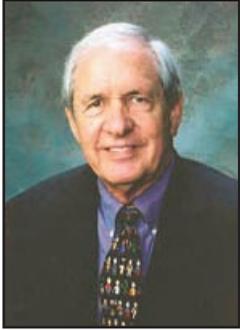
The Criminal Justice Commission considered the Weed and Seed Program, first developed and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, in the early 1990s. The Weed and Seed Program was designed to counter the negative impact of drug and crime-infested areas in the community. With the help and direction of the Criminal Justice Commission, Palm Beach County has established five sites, which are designed to “weed” out crime in communities and “seed” those communities through revitalization efforts. These sites include Riviera Beach (established in 1993), West Palm Beach (1999), Delray Beach (2000), Belle Glade (2004), and Gramercy Park (2007). It is important to note that these efforts are typically designed to meet the local needs of the individual communities and that not all weed and seed programs are completely alike.

Some sites focus on training and job placement, while others provide community-based direct services, such as Safe Haven in Belle Glade. This year, the Criminal Justice Commission:

- Supported the opening of a fifth site in Palm Beach County. In October 2007, the Gramercy Village, which includes part of West Palm Beach and unincorporated Palm Beach County, was opened.
- Developed and implemented a pilot prisoner re-entry program for Delray Beach, Gramercy Village, and West Palm Beach.
- Improved our local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) centers to help residents complete their tax returns.
- Developed sustainability plans for three “retired sites”, one each in Delray Beach, Riviera Beach, and West Palm Beach.

Crime Prevention - Purpose and Accomplishments

Youth Violence Prevention Project



Max Davis
Chairman

The Youth Violence Prevention Project was developed by the Criminal Justice Commission in response to the growing tide of homicides involving young people in the county between the ages of 14 and 29. The Youth Violence Prevention Project is directed by a steering committee, which includes full commission members and other volunteers from all four pillars. The steering committee commissioned a study to examine violent crime in Palm Beach County and programs in other U.S. cities aimed at reducing violent crime in their neighborhoods. This study also identified target areas where there were particularly high rates of violent crime involving guns. The Youth Violence Prevention Project was developed in part from this information and from extensive consultations with various stakeholders from local municipal governments, community organizations, youth groups, and criminal justice system officials. As a result of this work, the Criminal Justice Commission and the steering committee developed and adopted a comprehensive plan to tackle gun and violent crime in five targeted areas in Palm Beach County.

The project is a balanced approach which calls for enhanced law enforcement, and youth empowerment centers to facilitate the growth of youth not caught up in crime and the criminal justice system. It will also provide a resource to those individuals who have already been in contact with the criminal justice system. These resources will help individuals readjust to life outside of prison and to become law abiding citizens. This year the following was achieved:

Crime Prevention:

1. Implementation of four Youth Empowerment Centers and one Justice Service Center Partnerships with Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Boynton Beach and Belle Glade

Collaboration with:

- Workforce Alliance
- Palm Beach County School District
- Department of Children and Families
- DATA
- Children's Services Council
- Prime Time
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Corrections



2. In the first year of the project:
 - Over 2,000 youth have completed programs at the Youth Empowerment Centers.
 - Over 15,000 have participated, including special events.
3. Number of programs implemented: 55 - including educational, recreational, career oriented, leadership building, job readiness, employment, computers, health, life skills, gang resistance, and audio/video recording.
4. Created and developed a countywide Super Youth Group. This group is organized to have youth representation from the entire county, and recruitment efforts have included speaking engagements with PBC schools; criminal justice academies; the Urban League; faith-based organizations; non profit youth agencies, and law enforcement youth groups .



The group elected officers and is working on three special projects. These include creating bus shelter displays, developing a survey on youth violence, and hosting a Youth Weekend Conference. The participants meet twice a month.

The group is focusing on creative methods for reducing youth violence and empowering youths as future leaders in Palm Beach County.

Law Enforcement:

- Distributed evidence collection handbooks and arranged training for all law enforcement officers.
- Purchased equipment to enable more guns to be testfired quicker and entered into the identification system; and use of license plate recognition equipment for special operations.
- Tracked joint law enforcement activities.
- Revised crime gun protocol.

Courts:

5. Established gang prosecutor and COMBAT prosecutor for:
 - Tracking gang cases.
 - Providing joint training to law enforcement and prosecutors.

Corrections:

6. Justice Service Center – Over 350 ex-offenders received services including assistance with obtaining identification, restoration of civil rights, employment, job readiness, job training, and transportation.
7. Created two 30-minute TV shows with the local Channel 20 station. The focus of the TV shows highlight the successful strides being made in the reduction of youth violence in Palm Beach County. Character-building efforts of PBC youths are featured.
8. Bus Shelter Posters have continued to be posted for cold cases, crime prevention tips and “hard time” for gun crimes.
9. Florida State University was contracted to provide an independent evaluation of the Youth Violence Prevention Project. FSU presented the six-month update to the Board of County Commissioners and gathered data for the year-end report. Baseline data and control sites have been established, evaluation instruments have been developed, refined and implemented.

The Criminal Justice Commission, the steering committee, and the five cities that form this partnership are excited about the possibilities this program holds for the future well-being of their communities. The Criminal Justice Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to see these programs implemented and maintained by the local partners and communities.

Criminal Justice Education

The purpose of the Citizen’s Criminal Justice Academy is to educate citizens on matters related to the criminal justice system and crime in Palm Beach County. It offers an opportunity for citizens to attend lectures given by criminal justice practitioners, including the chair and executive director of the Criminal Justice Commission, sheriff’s deputies, the state attorney, the public defender, corrections officials, and criminal defense attorneys. It also provides participants with an opportunity to see the workings of the criminal justice system up close. The 11-week course offers tours of the Palm Beach County Courthouse, jail and other criminal justice facilities. In 2007, the Academy graduated its 18th and 19th classes with 47 graduates, totaling almost 450 graduates since its inception.



Law Enforcement - Purpose and Accomplishments



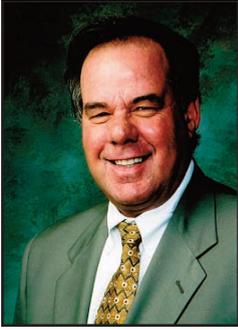
Jay Pickens
Chairman

The Criminal Justice Commission bylaws call for the establishment of the Law Enforcement Planning Council, which is mandated to improve coordination among law enforcement agencies in Palm Beach County as well as other criminal justice entities, and to research and evaluate national trends in law enforcement issues for local implementation. This is no small feat given that over 50 representatives from law enforcement agencies across federal, state, county and local levels are part of the council. In 2007, the Law Enforcement Planning Council provided valuable input on various issues considered by the Criminal Justice Commission and its task forces and committees. In 2007, the Law Enforcement Planning Council:

- Continued to contribute significantly to the development of the Youth Violence Prevention Project aimed at reducing violent crime and increasing public safety in Palm Beach County.
- Supported the Underage Drinking Task Force and its activities.
- Distributed over 3,000 “We Speak” translation guides to law enforcement to assist in dealing with non-English speaking people.
- Addressed a vast number of legislative issues such as: confidentiality of law enforcement personal information, sale of imitation guns, prohibition of gun shows, controlled-substance prescription tracking, property tax change, and police training funds levied by the court.
- Completed a quarterly law enforcement staffing survey, which showed that the vacancy rate in the county has averaged less than 4% in 2006.
- Updated the Law Enforcement Planning Council pursuit policy recommendations to conform with the national accreditation and professional organizations.
- Collaborated with the state attorney and others to update the Child Abuse Protocol and received a positive review by the grand jury.
- Created a committee to develop guidelines for eye witness evidence.
- Created a committee to review the issue of telephonic search warrants and make recommendations.

The Law Enforcement Planning Council continues to be involved with a number of initiatives focusing on the use of technology to enhance law enforcement’s ability to deter and solve crimes. This includes enhancing information sharing between agencies and better coordinating the collection of evidence from crime scenes. This approach is further supported by the Law Enforcement Planning Council, through the visual planning technologies initiative which is working to create a countywide criminal justice data network that will facilitate the sharing of criminal justice information at all levels of law enforcement (i.e., local, county, state, and federal).

Courts - Purpose and Accomplishments



Jack Goldberger
Chairman

The Court System Task Force acts as an advisory committee to the Criminal Justice Commission. Its purpose is to identify methods to enhance the efficiency of the court process and to provide oversight for the Community Justice Service Centers (formerly referred to as the Community Courts), Drug Court, and the Ex-Offender re-entry programs. In 2007, the Court System Task Force achieved a number of objectives, including:

- Completed a substance abuse and mental health case study of an individual's experience with the criminal justice system.
- Studied the issue of driver license suspensions, examining ways to help reinstate driving privileges for specific types of suspensions.
- Updated a report on the impact of additional law enforcement officers on the criminal justice system, and in particular the court system.

Corrections - Purpose and Accomplishments



Douglas Duncan
Chairman

The Criminal Justice Commission bylaws mandate the creation of the Corrections Task Force, and this committee has expanded to include the Public Safety Coordinating Council created under Florida Statute 951.26. Pursuant to the Florida statute, the primary purpose of the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council is to monitor detention or correctional facilities to ensure that they do not exceed their capacity; and to make recommendations concerning programs that alleviate overcrowding in detention or correctional facilities in their county

Florida Statute 951.26 (2)

The council shall meet at the call of the chairperson for the purpose of assessing the population status of all detention or correctional facilities owned or contracted by the county, or the county consortium, and formulating recommendations to ensure that the capacities of such facilities are not exceeded. Such recommendations shall include an assessment of the availability of pretrial intervention or probation programs, work-release programs, substance abuse programs, gain-time schedules, applicable bail bond schedules, and the confinement status of the inmates housed within each facility owned or contracted by the county, or the county consortium.



In support of its mandate, the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council (CTF/PSCC) completed a number of activities. The council also addressed a number of issues, including mentally ill offenders in jail, and re-entry programs. In 2007, the council completed the following tasks:

- Compiled monthly jail population and jail counselor reports.
- Studied the problem of the transfer time of inmates to state forensic beds where inmates were held beyond the 15-day statutory limit at an estimated 65 days over this limit. By June of this year, the problem was fixed by the state opening more forensic beds.
- Coordinated jail tours of the mental health and substance abuse programs for CJC and task force members.
- Reviewed House Bill 1477 and Chapter 2007-200, Laws of Florida on Mental Illness and Substance Abuse. The CTF/PSCC recommended that a new council be formed in the county for this specific special interest topic. The recommendation was approved by the Criminal Justice Commission and forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners. The BCC formally created the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council by resolution on September 25, 2007.
- Approved and recommended a pilot project for a re-entry Florida ID card program at the main detention center to the CJC.
- Submitted a letter of support to the BCC for the joint location of the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) and Juvenile Detention Center.



Planning and Partnerships

Annual Planning Meeting

Each year the Criminal Justice Commission holds its annual planning meeting in November to identify the issues and priorities for the upcoming year. This year, the members met for half a day to discuss the potential issues the commission may address in 2008. The planning meeting is one of the mechanisms whereby members and others may raise issues for consideration. This year, local criminal justice system practitioners and experts presented on five issues of concern in Palm Beach County and perhaps the nation, for the commission to consider.



The presentations included:

- 2008 legislative priorities for Palm Beach County;
- Criminal justice trends;
- Youth Violence Prevention Project;
- COMBAT prosecutions to reduce the threat posed by gangs in the county;
- The executive director's views on strategic planning;
- Summary of the 2008 proposed direction.



Another example is the commission's work to address mental health and substance abuse in the criminal justice system. Staff was tasked with continuing to focus on the priorities identified in the previous planning meeting. As a result, staff continued to roll out the program components of the Youth Violence Prevention Project and to include a review of all programs and initiatives in the county aimed at combating gangs. The Research and Planning Unit would build internal capacity to undertake research and evaluation projects by accessing local operational databases, encouraging the Criminal Justice Commission to advocate an evidence-based approach in support of developing recommendations and funding new and existing programs.



Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse



Jeff F. Koons
Chairman

In June of 2007, House Bill 1477 created the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program within the Department of Children and Families. The program provides \$3.8 million in grants to Florida counties to reduce the number of individuals with substance abuse disorders and mental health illnesses in local jails and state prisons. It was created to provide funding to counties so they can plan, implement or expand initiatives.

Subsequently, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners established the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council comprised of representatives set forth in CS/CS/HB 1477, [Chapter NO. 2007-200, Laws of Florida]. The council was created by resolution on September 25, 2007, and was organizationally placed under the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) which will serve as the administrative office,

The purposes of the council as set forth in the resolution are to:

- Plan, implement, or expand initiatives that increase public safety, avert increased spending on criminal justice, and improve the accessibility and effectiveness of treatment services for adults and juveniles who have a mental illness, substance abuse disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorder and who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal or juvenile justice systems.
- Make formal recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding how the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program may best be implemented within Palm Beach County.
- Prepare the application on behalf of county administration for submission to the Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation, Inc. for review.

In January of 2008, Palm Beach County was awarded the State Grant to address this issue and the Board of County Commissioners agreed to match the State's funding.



Funding



The success of the Criminal Justice Commission hinges upon the positive relationships it fosters between commission members and with others in the community in Palm Beach County. These relationships often translate into partnerships which facilitate information sharing and the sharing of resources to develop and implement strategies aimed at enhancing public safety in our neighborhoods. Partnerships encourage innovation, which does not always require new funds. Without partnerships, the commission's work would be a Sisyphean task.

The Youth Violence Prevention Project is a good example of the Criminal Justice Commission helping to form a partnership between the county and five cities to create and maintain a program aimed at addressing growing youth violence. This partnership includes a commitment to provide the funding and locations needed to implement part of the program calling for youth empowerment centers and adult justice service centers. Thus far, the partnership includes a proposed budget of over \$2 million from the county and \$1.4 million from three cities. Another highlight this year is the opening of a second community justice service center located in Westgate. This would have been difficult to achieve without the support of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office which is now fully funding the operation of the Westgate Center, with the exception of the receptionist position and substance abuse treatment.

There are countless other programs that the Criminal Justice Commission has developed and implemented with partners throughout the county. While most of these programs were originally supported through federal grants, most of the support now comes from the county and local partnerships, either with cities or other criminal justice agencies or not-for-profit organizations. In 2007, the commission continued to coordinate programs under each pillar (e.g., Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council and Re-entry Task Force)

Memoranda of Understanding and individual contracts are administered by the Criminal Justice Commission staff, under the direction of the executive director and the commission's finance committee. In 2007, staff completed and submitted an application for the FY 2008 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (formally known as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant) for Palm Beach County. The commission received notice that the application for grant funding was approved on August 23, 2007. Staff was also successful in obtaining funds from the Byrne Formula Grant Program.

The Future

The Criminal Justice Commission can take a number of lessons from this year's work and accomplishments.

First, the Commission's work is evolving as federal grant dollars are diverted elsewhere and new funding methods (i.e., Article V, Revision 7) continue to place added pressure on county and local policymakers for resources. This is further exacerbated by the increase of law enforcement officers on the beat, which has outpaced the growth of other criminal justice practitioners in the courts and corrections sector. These pressures require the commission to work even harder (and in unison) to present innovative solutions to the Board of County Commissioners, to stretch scarce resources and maximize the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.



Second, the Youth Violence Prevention Project is perhaps a glimpse into the future of the commission, where the Commission spearheads research and consultations to develop an evidence-based response to growing crime problems in the county. The development stage would consider all four pillars to ensure that future recommendations are balanced and reflect the concerns of local communities affected by the problem (e.g., youth groups to inform the development of the Youth Crime Prevention Project). Support from all partners, including the

Board of County Commissioners, is central to laying the ground work for eventual program implementation and on-going maintenance by local partners, and future evaluations with all involved partners.

Finally, in October of 2007, the executive director agreed to complete a review of programs for the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. This request reflected the county's interest in "evidence-based" policy and program development. It also reflected a concern over budgetary pressures that would require the Criminal Justice Commission to demonstrate policy and program efficacy that can balance public safety with responsible investment of taxpayers' funds.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION



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CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



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