

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

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

Members Present:

Frank Adderley
Marcia Andrews
Dave Aronberg
Sheldon Burkett
William Dames
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Joseph Ianno, Jr.
Randolph Johnson, Sr.
Kevin Jones
Dave Kerner
Nellie King
Frank Mercurio
Christina Morrison
Gerald Richman
Greg Starling
Stephen Stepp
Lee Waring
Lauren Whetstone

Members Absent:

Michael Barbercheck
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Barbara Cheives
Ellen Cohen
Rachel Docekal
Douglas Duncan
Keith James
Michelle Johns
Thomas J. Jones
Kathleen Kroll
Krista Marx
Tina Polsky

Guests Attending:

Major Alfonso Starling, PBSO
Diane McCarthy, Clerk & Comptroller's Office
Daniel Svec, Court Administration
Michelle Cruz, Court Administration
Dr. Angela Bess, PBC School District
Dave Bernhardt, PBC BOCC District 3
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Judge James Martz, Circuit Court Judge
Mike Edmondson, State Attorney's Office
Dave Talley, PBC CareerSource

Staff Present:

Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst
Jonathan Hackley, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Kristina Henson, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
Jacqueline Schoenfeld, FUSE Program Coordinator
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Jon Van Arnam, Deputy County Administrator
Jean Williams, Assistant County Attorney
Bert Winkler, Manager, Program Development

- I. Chairman Joseph Ianno, Jr. called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Ianno invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda for the February 24, 2020 meeting was unanimously approved upon a motion by Mayor Dave Kerner and a second by Reverend Kevin L. Jones.
- V. The minutes of the January 27, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Mayor Dave Kerner and a second by Mr. George Elmore.

VI. Chairman's Comments

- A. Chair Ianno announced the award of \$1.4 million to Palm Beach County for the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge renewal application. Chair Ianno and Director Henson acknowledged the excellent work of the stakeholders and CJC staff, in particular Mr. Bert Winkler and Mr. Damir Kukec.

VII. Executive Director Comments:

- A. Executive Director Henson announced the 40th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy (CCJA) began on February 3, 2020, with a record number of attendees. Director Henson commended Ms. Rosalind Murray for her work in facilitating the Academy. FAU is starting a similar program and Ms. Murray is assisting them with establishing a curriculum.

VIII. Old Business:

Chairman Ianno gave an update on the Executive Director Selection Committee (SC). The SC had its first meeting on February 19, 2020. The SC is pursuing

an aggressive timeline for the hiring process in order to allow the new Executive Director to overlap for a few weeks with Director Henson. The SC will review all applications but for those who don't meet the minimum qualification of a bachelor's degree as determined by Palm Beach County Human Resources. The SC will meet to create a shortlist of about 10 to 12 candidates for a stage 1 telephone interview. Following that, the SC would review results and proceed to stage 2 face-to-face interviews. The Chair is explained that the aggressive timeline requires a determination of how the CJC will vote to approve the candidates selected by the SC. He explained the three options include:

- i. Delegating the selection of a new Executive Director to the SC;
- ii. Hold a special call meeting of the full session CJC; or
- iii. Hold a meeting of the CJC Executive Committee

There was member discussion about the interview process, the SC meetings being subject to the Florida Sunshine Law, whether CJC member designees to the SC would be able to vote, factors that can disrupt the steps outlined in the SC timeline, such as not having a viable candidate,, And if there were rules governing the lobbying by candidates to the SC. Members were informed that designees will be able to vote, that the timeline is a plan that will require flexibility as issues develop and the CJC will be consulted if necessary, and that Director Henson will look into the issue of lobbying. Ms. Christina Morrison requested a progress report be given at the full session CJC meeting in March, to take assessment of the timeline process and results. Mr. Gerald Richman made a motion to have the CJC delegate the selection of the candidate to the SC. Chairman Ianno added delegation is subject to presentation of a progress report at the full session March 23 CJC meeting. Upon a second by Mayor Dave Kerner, the motion passed unanimously.

IX. New Business:

- A. Executive Director Kristina Henson introduced a request from Commissioner Mack Bernard and County Administrator Verdenia Baker for CJC staff to submit an application by February 14, 2020, to become part of the Cities & Counties for Fine and Fee Justice Project. This is a new national network of local officials committed to enacting equitable fine and fee reforms. Director Henson explained the goal for Palm Beach County's participation is to assess the impact of criminal justice fines and fees on low-income people and people of color. Additionally, it will introduce fine and fee listening and conversation sessions as a supplement to the ongoing community engagement work being conducted through the CJC Community Engagement Team and partner agencies Everyday Democracy and Community Partners of South Florida. The Project's

goal is for participating cities and counties to reform three types of fines and fees. The Project provides a grant of \$50,000, technical assistance in fine and fee analysis and other support. Palm Beach County's challenges are that most fines and fees are set by the Legislature and they fund agencies including the Clerk of Court, State Attorney and Public Defender. Member discussion included what CJC resources would be needed, to which Director Henson stated that CJC staff would be required to staff a Fines and Fees Team that would oversee the work. CJC Vice Chair Rev. Kevin Jones stated that he felt this was a good use of CJC time and a worthy effort to undertake. There was no member objection to the application and members agreed to wait until the Project's selection process has been completed and proceed from there.

X. Update on CJC Initiatives:

- A. Mr. Bert Winkler gave an update on the progress of new strategies developed for the MacArthur Safety & Justice Challenge (SJC) Renewal Grant including: 1) finalization of logistics and an Interlocal Agreement with the Florida Department of Corrections for the felony probation mobile reporting unit ; 2) finalizing a contract amendment for a new Social Services Coordinator position with the Public Defender's Office; 3) extending the contract with Uprust, Inc., to expand the court date reminder system to include pretrial and probation appointments; 4) anew data analyst position with the CJC to provide data to the Public Defender and State Attorney to allow better monitoring of the jail population and case management; and 5) sustainability of initiatives and programs after the SJC funding ends approximately at the end of 2021. Additionally, Everyday Democracy, a national non-profit, is working with the Community Engagement Team to set up several dialogues throughout the community, with the purpose of addressing racial and ethnic disparity issues within the community and gaining feedback related to the local criminal justice system and the SJC strategies. This initiative will run for five weeks and result in an action plan.

- B. Judge James Martz gave an update on the School and Community Safety Initiative. He explained the new Aware and Care PBC website is almost completed. It will serve as a resource for what to do if someone suspects an active attack might occur and a directory to mental health and support services through 211. He also explained that the law enforcement track is reviewing 911 operations, dispatch and coordination between the 14 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in the county.

Director Henson reported that the U.S. Secret Service just issued a report on active attacks and conducted a training in Miami last week that she sent CJC staff Ms. Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst. Ms. Shover said the seminar was excellent and she is endeavoring to bring the training to Palm Beach County.

XI. Member Comments:

There were no member comments.

XII. Adjourn:

With no further Member comments, Chairman Ianno adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.