



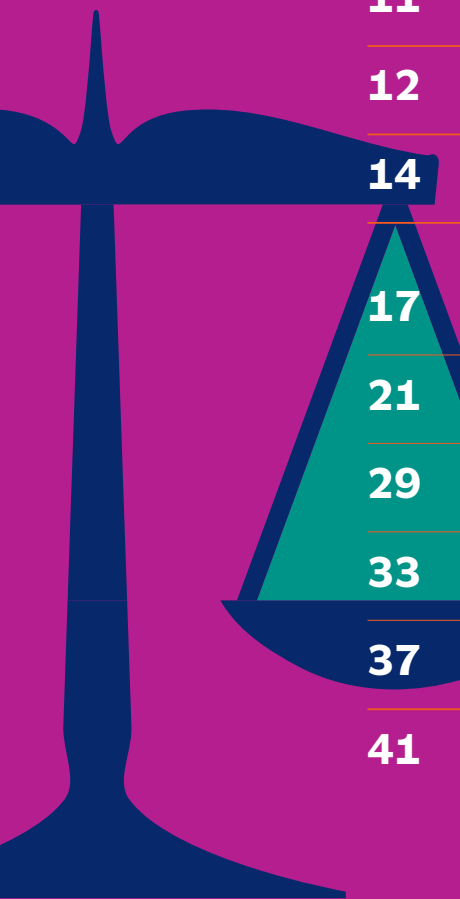
**Palm Beach County  
Criminal Justice Commission**  
*Improving Justice Outcomes*

# Annual Report 2019



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## 2019 **Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners**

**Mack Bernard**  
Mayor

**Dave Kerner**  
Vice Mayor

**Hal R. Valeche**

**Gregg K. Weiss**

**Robert S. Weinroth**

**Mary Lou Berger**

**Melissa McKinlay**

**County Administrator**  
**Verdenia C. Baker**

## A message from **Chairman Gerald Richman**

On behalf of the members of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), I am pleased to present our annual report for 2019. This report provides details of the CJC's work and achievements during the past year.

The most notable accomplishment of this past year was the CJC's work implementing the \$2 million Safety and Justice Challenge grant from the John D.

law enforcement, fire rescue, emergency management, and other entities to review training and policies. They were also kept informed of the statewide commission created by Governor Scott to review the Broward incident and make recommendations, as well as recent reports by the U.S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and others to ensure our county benefits from the latest methods to prevent



***“All of these accomplishments are the result of a shared belief amongst leaders in our local criminal justice system, private sector, and government, that working together improves justice outcomes in our community.”***

and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded in October 2017. This grant continued our local efforts to implement criminal justice system reforms to safely reduce our jail population and address racial and ethnic disparities in that population. This is a tremendous systemwide effort to implement best practices to address the greatest drivers of incarceration in our local jail. Details of the work involved in this project can be found later in this report.

After the mass casualty attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County, the CJC at its annual planning meeting in February created the School Safety Subcommittee to work on issues of coordination and prevention. They worked with first responders to ensure our county is ready to respond in the event of an active attack by bringing together

and respond to these incidents. In partnership with the Children's Services Council, a separate behavioral health track was created later in the year to work with providers, the School District's School Safety Office, the Sheriff's Office Behavioral Health Unit and others on prevention.

The CJC's community outreach efforts continued to reach residents throughout the county. The Community Engagement Team held events in a variety of communities, including West Palm Beach, Boynton Beach, and Belle Glade. These "Community Conversations" were designed to listen to feedback from residents about our system of justice, engage in dialogue, and build greater partnerships. Our Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy conducted three sessions and graduated 150 participants. This free

12-week course taught by local system professionals provides interactive learning about all aspects of the local criminal justice system and includes tours of the county jail, 911 operations, the Medical Examiner's Office, and the Main Courthouse.

The work of the CJC involved all aspects of the criminal justice system. Our Law Enforcement Planning Council continued its tradition of bringing together the 24 local police chiefs, the Sheriff's Office, and state and federal agencies in monthly meetings to share information, examine crime trends, and collaborate on issues of importance. Finally, our Corrections Task Force continued to monitor the jail population.

All of these accomplishments are the result of a shared belief among leaders in our local criminal justice system, private sector, and government that working together improves justice outcomes in our community. As I end my two years as CJC Chair, I reflect on the unique nature of the CJC and commend the County Commission for the confidence it places in this organization. I am proud of the accomplishments during these past two years that I know will have lasting positive impact.



## History and Mission of the CJC

The CJC was created by a Palm Beach County ordinance in 1988. It has 21 public sector members representing local, state, and federal criminal justice and governmental agencies, 10 private sector business leaders representing the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, and one clergy member nominated by a variety of clergy associations in the county representing a broad range of faiths. County officials and business leaders built a unique partnership when they created the CJC. The theory of government and business working as a team to solve the problems of a community was unique. The CJC remains the statewide model for Florida. There are other similar entities, but they differ from the CJC in the inclusion of business leaders and process.

The CJC thrives on challenge. Crime affects everyone in some way. The CJC believes in a holistic approach to address crime that involves practically every branch of government in collaboration with the private sector, community agencies, and residents. The CJC has had great success in building partnerships among these groups with proven results, such as the creation of community programs, efficiency improvements and cost-saving measures, and finding new sources of program funds. CJC members take their role seriously and dedicate much of their own time and effort toward making the local justice system better. Residents of Palm Beach County can be proud that these partners come together on a regular basis to make the local system of justice the best it can be.



## MISSION

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Study all aspects of the criminal justice and crime prevention systems within the federal, state, county, municipal and private agencies within the county. This 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.

## VISION

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Cultivate and enrich local criminal justice practice, policy, and program development by serving as a catalyst to bring together criminal justice and related agencies in partnerships.

## OBJECTIVES

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

## CORE VALUES

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- An efficient, effective, and timely criminal justice system is vital for the health, safety, and welfare of the county;
- Crime is best addressed through cooperative efforts that involve both public and private sectors;
- Neutral leadership is the best foundation for examining issues in a fair and independent process (not directed by any single criminal justice agency);
- Decisions made by a consensus of all interested parties is fundamental to unity;
- An open forum for the discussion of issues is imperative for genuine and candid debate;
- Success is more certain when all interested parties have a say in crafting solutions;
- Expertise and experience of local professionals is an invaluable knowledge base to draw upon;
- Successful model programs and national/international trends can benefit local communities; and
- Courage to seek bold innovative approaches produces remarkable results.

## 2019 CJC Officers



**CHAIRMAN**

**Mr. Gerald Richman**

*Day Pitney LLP  
CJC Member since 2001*

Gerald Richman was nominated by the Economic Council of Palm Beach County as a private sector member of the CJC in 2001. He is a shareholder with the law firm of Day Pitney LLP. His focus is on trial and appellate practice, and complex commercial litigation with emphasis in numerous areas. Prior to his time at Day Pitney LLP, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and as a White House Social Aide to President Lyndon B. Johnson. Mr. Richman has held numerous leadership positions in local and national organizations.

Mr. Richman's professional involvement currently includes serving as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and on the Board of Governors of the International Society of Barristers. He is a charter member of both the Miami Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and the National Association of Consumer Advocates.



**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**Mr. Joseph Ianno, Jr.**

*Florida Power & Light Company  
CJC Member since 2015*

Joseph Ianno, Jr., is a managing attorney for Florida Power & Light Company. His practice is devoted to complex commercial litigation and is an experienced trial attorney. Prior to Florida Power & Light, he served as trial counsel for many Fortune 500 companies in multi-million and multi-billion dollar claims involving fraud, conspiracy, theft of trade secrets, breach of fiduciary duty, and other corporate misconduct claims. He has extensive involvement with the defense of class action lawsuits involving securities fraud, deceptive and unfair trade practices, antitrust claims and consumer fraud issues. Chambers USA, a leading guide to the legal profession, noted that he "earns praise for his attention to detail and client focus, with one peer adding: 'He's very good. He's tough, smart and focused. I would send a client to him in a minute.'"





**SECRETARY**

**Dr. Rachel Docekal**

*Lyrae Group  
CJC Member since 2017*

Rachel Docekal was nominated by the Economic Council of Palm Beach County as a private sector member of the CJC in 2016. Dr. Docekal is a seasoned leader with specialized knowledge in for-profit and nonprofit sectors. As an accomplished writer, polished speaker, experienced leader, respected trainer and successful motivator with excellent facilitation and interpersonal skill, Dr. Docekal focuses on the improvement and acceleration of marketing and philanthropy programs. She has a gift for aligning organizational goals with core missions while ensuring sustainability, which led her to establish the Lyrae Group in 2015.

Over the course of Dr. Docekal's more than 20-year career in branding, marketing and fund development, she has worked in a senior leadership capacity for a variety of for-profit and nonprofit organizations, including serving as the CEO of the Hanley Center Foundation; as well as Nova Southeastern University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the South Florida Science Museum.



**TREASURER**

**Reverend Kevin L. Jones**

*Assistant Pastor,  
Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church  
Mayor Assistant, City of West Palm Beach  
CJC Member since 2016*

Reverend Jones was nominated by the Criminal Justice Commission to fill the first clergy member seat of the CJC, by an ordinance change in 2016. Reverend Jones holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Radford University. He relocated to Palm Beach County in 1997 and has held several positions in the non-profit sector focusing on Youth Development. He currently serves as Assistant Pastor at the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in West Palm Beach. Rev. Jones is also member of the Men's Ministry, Church School staff, Christian Education Ministry and Social Justice Ministry.

In January 2014, Rev. Jones was hired as an Assistant to Mayor Jeri Muoio in the City of West Palm Beach as coordinator of the Mayor's Youth Council, Faith Advisory Council and the Mayor's Village Initiative. He now serves as Coordinator of Community Initiatives in the Office of Community Engagement.



## 2019 CJC Members

*Chairman*

**Mr. Gerald Richman**  
Day Pitney LLP

*Vice-Chairman*

**Mr. Joseph Ianno, Jr**  
Florida Power & Light Company

*Secretary*

**Dr. Rachel Docekal**  
Lyrae Group, LLC

*Treasurer*

**Reverend Kevin L. Jones**  
Tabernacle Baptist Church

### **PUBLIC SECTOR MEMBERS**

**Honorable Marcia Andrews**  
Palm Beach County School Board

**Honorable Dave Aronberg**  
State Attorney  
15th Judicial Circuit

**Honorable Sharon R. Bock**

Palm Beach County  
Clerk & Comptroller

**Honorable Ric Bradshaw**

Sheriff, Palm Beach County

**Mr. Sheldon Burkett**

Resident Agent in Charge  
Drug Enforcement Administration

**Ms. Ellen L. Cohen**

U.S. Attorney's Office

**Officer William Dames**

West Palm Beach Police Department  
Crime Prevention Officers Association

**Mr. Justin Fleck**

Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Honorable Carey Haughwout**

Public Defender  
15th Judicial Circuit

**Ms. Kimber Heddon**

(January 2019 – November 2019)

**Ms. Michelle Johns**

(November 2019 – December 2019)

Circuit Administrator  
Probation & Parole  
Florida Department of Corrections

**Honorable Keith James**

West Palm Beach City Council  
League of Cities

**Honorable Dave Kerner**

Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

**Ms. Nellie L. King**

Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

**Honorable Judge James Martz**

(January 2019 – June 2019)

**Honorable Judge Kathleen J. Kroll**

(July 2019 – December 2019)

Administrative Judge Juvenile Division  
15th Judicial Circuit



**Honorable Krista Marx**

Chief Judge  
15th Judicial Circuit

**Mr. Frank Mercurio**

Resident Agent in Charge  
Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement

**Chief Sarah J. Mooney**

*(January 2019 – June 2019)*

**Chief Frank Adderley**

*(June 2019 – December 2019)*  
West Palm Beach Police Department

**Honorable Tina Polsky**

Florida House of Representatives  
Legislative Delegation

**Mr. Robert Shirley**

*(January 2019 – September 2019)*

**Mr. Michael D. Barbercheck**

*(September 2019 – December 2019)*  
Resident Agent in Charge  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms  
& Explosives

**Mr. Gregory Starling**

Chief Probation Officer  
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  
15th Judicial Circuit

**Chief Stephen Stepp**

Palm Beach Gardens Police Dept.  
Chiefs of Police Association

**PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBERS –  
ECONOMIC COUNCIL**

**Mr. Barry Krischer**

Retired State Attorney  
*(Retired from CJC September 2019)*

**Ms. Barbara Cheives**

President  
Converge & Associates Consulting

**Dr. Rachel Docekal**

Lyrae Group, LLC

**Mr. Douglas Duncan**

Roth and Duncan, P.A.

**Mr. George T. Elmore**

President, Hardrives of Delray, Inc.

**Mr. Joseph Ianno, Jr.**

Florida Power and Light Company

**Mr. Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.**

President  
Communications by Johnson, Inc.

**Ms. Christina Morrison**

Carmel Real Estate & Management

**Mr. Gerald Richman**

Day Pitney LLP

**Mr. Lee Waring**

Seaside National Bank

**PRIVATE SECTOR –  
CLERGY MEMBER**

**Reverend Kevin L. Jones**

Tabernacle Baptist Church



## A message from **Executive Director Kristina Henson**

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) staff, I am pleased to present this annual report for 2019. This report documents the efforts of staff and the many talented and dedicated professionals who come together to improve justice outcomes in Palm Beach County.

Chair Gerald Richman and other members of the CJC volunteered hundreds of hours of their time toward ensuring the CJC's success in addressing the needs of our community. There were over 130 meetings in 2019 for the CJC and its 20 committees and subcommittees. The membership of these committees included over 200 subject matter experts in criminal justice, social services, behavioral health, government, non-profits, and the private sector. On behalf of the staff and CJC members, I want to acknowledge all of these individuals who gave their time and talents to serve on CJC committees.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the work of the CJC staff. These individuals must wear many hats, from meeting organizers, to researchers, to writers of reports and grants, to data collectors and analyzers, and to facilitators of consensus. Having a small staff requires us to work as a team and provide support to one another for the overall good of the CJC's work. The staff performed some wonderful work this year, and I appreciate their dedication, spirit of cooperation and level of excitement.

This year marked the CJC's 31-year anniversary. I am proud to be part of such a unique organization. An ideal justice system involves quality people communicating with each other. People from outside our county who witness how our stakeholders interact are surprised that such an environment exists. This is a credit to the people as well as their commitment to the CJC.

# CJC Staffing & Operations

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners provides funding to staff the CJC along with county trust funds collected through criminal court cases and grants.

Initially, the CJC obtained a comprehensive study of the entire criminal justice system in the county. This 1990 study resulted in almost 100 recommendations for improving the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the system. The CJC then created eight task forces to assess the recommendations and develop implementation plans. Each year, the committee structure changes to suit the priorities established at the CJC's Annual Planning meeting.

The CJC invites professionals, citizens, and interested parties from a wide range of disciplines to participate on committees. Over 200 people volunteer their time and expertise as shown in this report. The staff facilitate the various committees and projects as well as write the minutes, identify topics and project planning needed for the agendas, conduct research and data analysis, and do behind-the-scenes consensus building. The pages that follow highlight the hard work the staff and members produced. The CJC recognizes and appreciates every one of these individuals for their valuable insight, thoughts, and talents, and wishes to thank them for their time.

## 2019 CJC STAFF



**Kristina Henson**  
Executive Director



**Damir Kukec**  
Research and Planning Manager



**Albert (Bert) Winkler**  
Manager of Criminal Justice Programs



**Katherine Shover**  
Senior Criminal Justice Analyst



**Rosalind Murray**  
Senior Criminal Justice Analyst



**Jonathan Hackley**  
Criminal Justice Analyst  
(MacArthur Racial & Ethnic Disparity Coordinator)



**Jacqueline Schoenfeld**  
PalmFUSE Program Coordinator  
(JAG Grant Funded)



**Candee Villapando**  
Criminal Justice Analyst



**Bradley Allen**  
Criminal Justice Analyst



**Danny Kreshak**  
Financial Analyst II



**Allison Orr**  
Administrative Assistant

# 2019 Primary Achievements

## **SAFETY & JUSTICE CHALLENGE**

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Work continued to implement strategies from the October 2017 awarded \$2 million grant by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. A renewal application was submitted in September 2019 for \$1.4 million, which continued current strategies and added some additional ones. The award was received in December for the full amount requested with a stipulation that the \$250,000 in funds for PalmFUSE be reallocated to a more impactful strategy to reduce the jail. That strategy is to be decided in early 2020 by the Core Team.

### **Court Reminder System**

A text-based Court Reminder System was implemented in November 2017, and expansion to additional clients were developed in 2019 to reduce the numbers of failures to appear in jail.

### **Racial and Ethnic Disparity (RED)**

A RED Team was formed and met monthly with the W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI), providing technical assistance in performing data analysis and presentations to the team. The CJC hired a senior criminal justice analyst focused on this topic who began developing a plan to do system-wide implicit bias/systemic racism training.

### **Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument**

Review and evaluation of the instrument continued from its implementation September 2017. Data metrics were created to track judicial match rates with the instrument's recommended release matrix and process improvements were made.

### **PalmFUSE**

Contracts with the Lord's Place and Gulfstream Goodwill Industries were executed to provide housing and case management services. Six participants were housed in 2019, bringing the total number to eight.

### **Case Processing Efficiencies**

A Case Processing Team was formed and began discussion methods to realize a reduction in the average length of stay for pretrial inmates.

### **Data Collection, Analysis and Performance Measures**

The collection of data from our primary sources was refined and enhanced to increase accuracy, and performance measures were created to track each of our strategies.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM**

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Four events were held in the community that engaged over 400 residents in Boynton Beach, Belle Glade, Jupiter, and West Palm Beach in discussion about race and the local criminal justice system. A supplemental grant with the MacArthur Foundation for community engagement was sought and obtained for \$150,000.

### **CITIZEN'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY**

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Over 150 members of the public graduated from the three academies hosted in the coastal and western communities, totaling 28 weeks of classes this year.

### **CORRECTIONS TASK FORCE**

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Monthly meetings were held to review process, procedures, programs and practices that impact the jail.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL**

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Monthly meetings were held to share information and discuss countywide issues of importance.

### **GRANTS**

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In 2019, the CJC received \$2,186,576 in grant funding. These funds went to the Adult and Juvenile Reentry Programs, the Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE) Project, and the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) Grant. A renewal of \$1.4 million for the SJC was applied for in September, and the full amount was awarded in December.

The CJC managed the county's allocation of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) funds. The program funds for fiscal years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were delayed due to a federal lawsuit regarding new certifications required by the U.S. Department of Justice related to compliance with immigration laws. The funds were released in June 2018, which required staff to

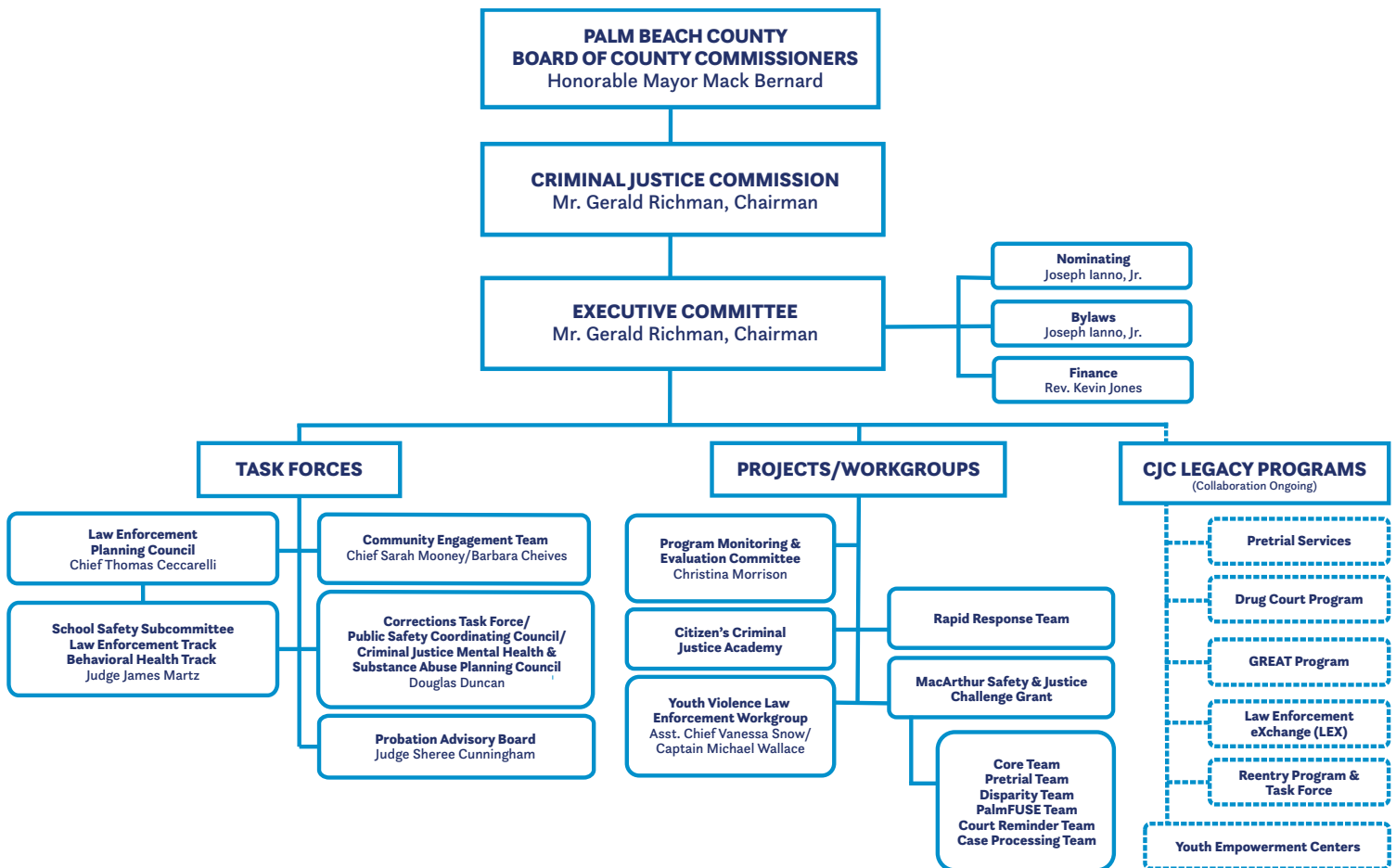
perform a great deal of work in a short period of time to comply with the grant requirements and deadlines to complete five applications for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 grants.

Overall, CJC staff managed \$4,480,693 in grant funds during 2019.





# 2019 CJC Organizational Chart





A stylized graphic of a balance scale. The scale is dark blue with a central vertical pillar and a horizontal beam. Two pans are suspended from the beam. The left pan is filled with a light blue liquid, and the right pan is filled with a teal liquid. The background is a solid magenta color. An orange horizontal bar is positioned across the middle of the scale, containing the text "2019 CJC Initiatives".

2019 **CJC Initiatives**



## Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy

The Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy (CCJA) was established in 1998 and in 2019 marked the 37th class. It is an evening program featuring speakers from various federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies once a week for 12 weeks. It is offered three times throughout the year and is free to the public. Participants are also offered to participate in field trips to witness the system in action at various places, such as first-appearance hearings, ride-along with law enforcement officers, and officer simulation training on the use of force/firearms. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) offered a rare tour of its Fusion Center. Palm Beach Gardens Police Department continued to dazzle participants on the last meeting of the session, which included dinner and display of their high-tech equipment, including license plate reader technology. Participants saw demonstrations of the taser, ballistics, and the shoot-don't-shoot law enforcement training simulation. The public has an opportunity to ask questions and interact with these professionals, providing a personal hands-on experience. One hundred fifty-nine participants graduated from the academy in 2019.

PBSO was a primary sponsor, providing meeting space, tours of the jail and 911 operations, and demonstrations by drug-sniffing dogs and the bomb squad. The West Palm Beach Police Department (WPBPD) also sponsored some of the evenings by providing meeting space and highlighting some of their specialized units and body camera program. The WPBPD Crime Scene Investigation staff was a highlight of the session with a seasoned investigator speaking about their work.

A Belle Glade Academy was added in 2016. In 2019, the four-week academy continued to work

with various organizations in the Glades area. This included Bridges of Belle Glade, Healthier Belle Glade, and the Office of Community Revitalization. PBSO remains the largest sponsor here, providing an interesting presentation entitled "What to Do if Stopped by Police." The Community Conversation, as part of the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, was a highlight of the session. The Academy had a record attendance this year in the Glades.

**“The Academy provides useful, practical, lifesaving information. As a volunteer at many of the churches in the area, I have used the information learned in the Academy and the contacts to help make churches safer.”**

**Raymond Cuminale Russo**  
*Lay Minister*  
*St. Ann's Catholic Church*





Rev. Kevin Jones, CJC Member and Executive Director of the Mayor's Initiative for West Palm Beach.



Chief Michael Gregory of Boynton Beach, Chief Javaro Sims of Boynton, and Chief Sara Mooney of West Palm Beach discuss body worn cameras.

The 12-week course outline may vary but generally includes:

- WEEK 1** | Introduction to the CJC, the Clerk and Comptroller, the Courts, and Crime Measurement
- WEEK 2** | Local and State Law Enforcement and Body Worn Camera Demonstration
- WEEK 3** | Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- WEEK 4** | Adult Criminal Court–Part I with judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys
- WEEK 5** | Adult Criminal Court–Part II
- WEEK 6** | Introduction to the PBSO & the County Medical Examiner's Office
- WEEK 7** | PBSO-Special Investigations–Part I
- WEEK 8** | PBSO-Special Investigations–Part II
- WEEK 9** | PBSO and Jail Tour
- WEEK 10** | PBSO Unit Demonstrations
- WEEK 11** | Juvenile Justice
- WEEK 12** | Shoot Don't Shoot, Reentry, Victim's Services & Graduation

▶ Albert Winkler of the CJC discusses the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge grant with a panel consisting of (left to right) Daniel Eisinger, Chief of Felony Division, Public Defender's Office; Eugene Babb, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; Cheo Reid, Juvenile Division Chief, State Attorney Office; Barry Carrigan, Juvenile Probation Officer, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; Kimber Heddon, Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections; and Pastor Benny Everett, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Pahokee.



**Jane Tierney, member of the CJC's Community Engagement Team, discusses anti-bias educational component education for law enforcement.**



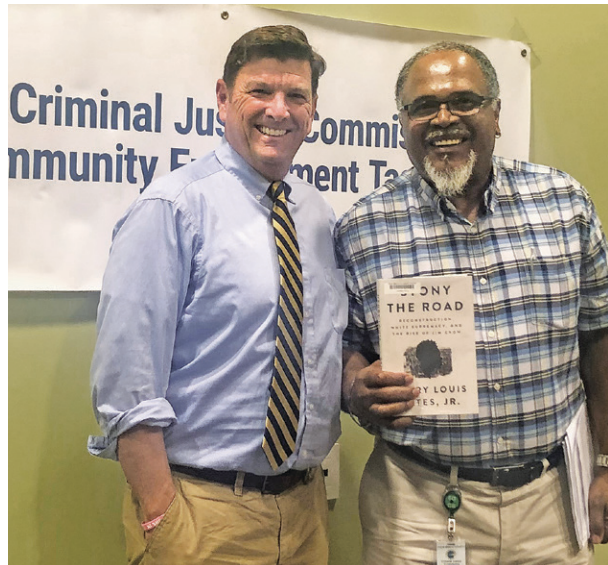


## Community Engagement Task Force

The CJC formed the Community Engagement Task Force as one of its priorities because of discussions at its 2016 Annual Planning Meeting. The task force is co-chaired by a local chief of police and a private sector businessperson who specializes in training organizations in community building and outreach, cultural competency, and race relations. The mission of the task force is to engage the community in dialogue with leaders in the criminal justice system to provide channels of communication to share information, concerns, and ideas.

In 2019, several forums were held throughout the county each quarter. They included a community forum held in April at Rolling Green Elementary School in the San Castle neighborhood in Boynton Beach. Many partners came together to foster a positive dialogue around the youth in the community and police.

We developed a strong partnership with the Palm Beach County Library and created a series entitled “Informed and Engaged.” Not surprisingly, it was a hit.



**Book discussion on *Stony the Road* with panelists FAU historian Richard Engle and CJC Senior Criminal Justice Analyst Jonathan Hackley.**

Books and movies formed the backdrop. One topic of great interest was the Safety and Justice Challenge. Each ended with a panel discussion. It was exciting noting the interest in reliable information and direct



**The Community Engagement Team discusses ideas for a public event.**



Book discussion on *Just Mercy* with panelists (left to right) Kristina Henson, Charlene Farrington, Lenny Gross, Jill Hanson, Jeanette Marshall, and Judge Bradley Harper.





participation. All included a panel of experts to offer information and advice.

In March, we held a book discussion around the book by Bryan Stevenson, entitled *Just Mercy*, a story of justice and redemption. Also in March, we had an informative discussion called “Criminal Justice and Race in Palm Beach County.” In June at the Lantana Library, we hosted a movie, *13th*, by Ava DuVernay. The documentary charts the explosive growth in the

American prison population and looks at our nation’s history through public policy. In July, we discussed the book by Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*. The bestseller discussed the new caste system created for returning citizens from prison. In October, we read and discussed a book by Dr. Henry Lewis Gates entitled *Stony the Road*. It was an informative, historical perspective about what really happened after the Civil War.



Chris Jankow, Palm Beach County Librarian and Rosalind Murray with the CJC introduce the panel discussion, “Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Local Criminal Justice System,” with panelists (left to right): Kristina Henson, CJC; Jane Tierney, Catalyst for Justice; James Snowden, Public Defender’s Office; Abbey Murrell, Healthier Delray; and Bert Winkler, CJC.



Staff at the Florida Department of Corrections participated in a two-day Implicit Bias Training.



◀ The Racial Equity Team represented at the Race To Equity Summit in Palm Beach County. (Left to right:) Chris Hayes, The Burns Institute; Adrianna Lopez, State Attorney's Office, 15th Judicial Circuit, Angela Pagan, Esq. and CJC Executive Director Kristina Henson.



Barbara Cheives addresses the public regarding racial equity during a presentation at Rolling Green Elementary School.

## MEMBERS

*Co-Chair*

**Barbara Cheives**

President

Converge & Associates Consulting

CJC Private Sector Member

*Co-Chair*

**Chief Sarah Mooney**

West Palm Beach Police Dept

CJC Member

**Greta Britt**

United Believers of Delray

**Jane E. Tierney, CEO**

Catalyst for Justice

**Rev. Kevin L. Jones**

Tabernacle Baptist Church

CJC Member

**Daniel Eisinger**

Felony Division Chief

Public Defender's Office

**James Snowden**

Felony Resource Director

Public Defender's Office

**Cheo Reid**

Assistant State Attorney

**Major Chris Keane**

PBC Sheriff's Office

**Lieutenant Beth Krivda**

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

**Adam McMichael**

Violence Reduction

Program Coordinator

United States Attorney's Office

**James D. Smith**

Law Enforcement

Community Coordinator

US Attorney's Office

**Keisha Bazile**

Community Outreach Coordinator

US Attorney's Office

**Kimber Heddon**

Circuit Administrator

Florida Department of Corrections

**Jeannette Marshall**

Project Director

Healthier Together Communities

West Palm Beach

**Abby Murrell**

Ambassador

Healthier Together Communities

Delray Beach

**Ricky Petty**

Project Director

Healthier Together Communities

Boynton Beach

**Dr. Angela Bess**

Director of Educational

Alternatives

School District of

Palm Beach County

**Howard Williams**

Boynton United

**Charlotte Wright**

Community Engagement Director

Community Partners

**Inger Cheves**

Executive Director

Healthier Glades

Project Director

Healthier Jupiter

**Joanna Peluso**

Project Manager

Healthier Jupiter

**Carmelle Marcelin-Chapman**

Project Director

Healthier Lake Worth

**Ricky Aiken, Executive Director**

Inner City Innovators

**Ontario Johnson**

Circles Coordinator

Pathways to Prosperity

**Rhonda D. Rogers**

Executive Director

BRIDGES at Lake Worth West

**Adam McMichael**

Violence Reduction

Program Coordinator

US Attorney's Office

**Dr. Keith Oswald**

Chief Academic Officer

School District of

Palm Beach County

**Judge Bradley Harper**

County Court Judge

Criminal Division,

15th Judicial Circuit

**Judge Lou Delgado**

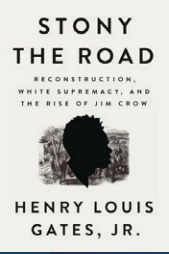
Circuit Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit

# Informed & Engaged

The CJC's Community Engagement Team Partnership with the Palm Beach Library System produced some profound and truthful discussions on race equity awareness.

**INFORMED & ENGAGED:**  
*Connecting Palm Beach County to reliable information and direct participation*


**HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.'s, "STONY THE ROAD: RECONSTRUCTION, WHITE SUPREMACY, AND THE RISE OF JIM CROW": A PANEL DISCUSSION**




**STONY THE ROAD**  
RECONSTRUCTION, WHITE SUPREMACY, AND THE RISE OF JIM CROW  
**HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.**

**Wed, Oct 30, 6:30 pm**

This New York Times bestseller provides a profound new rendering of the struggle by African Americans for equality after the Civil War. Discuss the book along with a panel facilitated by the PBC Criminal Justice Commission. Copies of the book available in the library catalog. (90 min.) Preregister.




**Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission**  
Improving Justice Outcomes




**SAFETY + JUSTICE CHALLENGE**  
Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

**Lantana Road Branch**  
 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth 33462  
 Phone: 304-4500




**Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners**  
Black Democrat, Mayor; Dave Kerzen, Vice Mayor; Hal R. Vanecko, Gregg K. Weisk, Robert S. Weinstock, Mary Lou Berger, Melissa McKinley



**50th ANNIVERSARY**  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

CONNECT. INSPIRE. ENRICH.  
10/19



**INFORMED & ENGAGED**  
**Criminal Justice**  
Connecting Palm Beach County to reliable information and direct participation.

**Bryan Stevenson's "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption," A Panel Discussion**


Bryan Stevenson has been called "perhaps the most inspiring and influential crusader for justice alive today." Kick off this month's examination of American criminal justice with a panel discussion facilitated by the PBC Criminal Justice Commission. Copies of the book are available in the library catalog. (90 min.) Preregister.

**Wed, Mar 13, 6:30 pm**


**Criminal Justice & Race in PBC**

A panel of experts will discuss the realities, challenges and strategies related to racial disparities and criminal justice reform in PBC. Facilitated by the PBC Criminal Justice Commission. (90 min.) Preregister.


**Wed, Mar 27, 6:30 pm**  
**Lantana Road Branch**  
 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth 33462  
 Phone: 304-4500




**SAFETY + JUSTICE CHALLENGE**  
Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



**Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission**  
Improving Justice Outcomes



**Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners**  
Black Democrat, Mayor; Dave Kerzen, Vice Mayor; Hal R. Vanecko, Gregg K. Weisk, Robert S. Weinstock, Mary Lou Berger, Melissa McKinley



**50th ANNIVERSARY**  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

CONNECT. INSPIRE. ENRICH.  
3/19

The Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission  
Community Engagement Team  
and Partner Agencies  
Present



Please Join us for a

**SAN  
CASTLE**  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

“REFLECTING OUR YOUTH’S REALITY”

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Rolling Green Elementary School Cafeteria  
550 Miner Road, Boynton Beach



Palm Beach County  
Criminal Justice Commission  
Improving Justice Outcomes



SAFETY + JUSTICE  
CHALLENGE  
Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Dinner provided courtesy of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

# INFORMED & ENGAGED: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Connecting Palm Beach County to reliable information and direct participation

FILM DISCUSSION: 13TH

WED, JUN 26, 6:30 PM

This thought-provoking, Emmy-winning documentary features scholars, activists and politicians, analyzing the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom. A discussion facilitated by the PBC Criminal Justice Commission will follow the film. (2.5 hr.) Preregister.

MICHELLE ALEXANDER'S, "THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS":

A PANEL DISCUSSION

WED, JUL 24, 6:30 PM

Michelle Alexander's New York Times best-seller is a stunning account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement. Discuss the book along with a panel facilitated by the PBC Criminal Justice Commission. Copies of the book available in the library catalog. (90 min.) Preregister.

LANTANA BRANCH

4020 Lantana Road  
Lake Worth 33462  
Phone: 304-4500



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
Mark Bernard, Mayor; Dave Kerner, Vice Mayor; Hal R. Valchev,  
Joseph R. Wynn, Robert D. Wernick; Mary Lou Berger, Melissa McKinlay

10.65  
2019

CONNECT. INSPIRE. ENRICH.

CONNECT. INSPIRE. ENRICH. #pbcLibrary 06/19



# Corrections Task Force

The Corrections Task Force monitors the county's jail population and makes recommendations to achieve the efficient use of the county's limited jail beds. It meets the requirements of Florida Statute 951.26 which requires counties to create public safety coordinating councils for the same purpose. It has also been designated by the Board of

County Commissioners (the Board) as the county's Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council per Florida Statute 394.657 to recommend to the Board the best implementation and selection of an applicant for the State's Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Act Grant Program.

## MEMBERS

*Chair*

**Douglas Duncan**

Roth and Duncan, P.A.  
CJC Member

**Judge Ted Booras**

County Court Criminal Division  
Gun Club Branch

**Glenny Cueto**

Director of Operations  
Professional Probation Services, Inc.

**Judge Sheree Cunningham**

Administrative Judge  
County Court Criminal Division

**Daniel Eisinger**

Chief Assistant Public Defender

**Brian Fernandes**

Chief Assistant State Attorney

**William Genem**

Crime Victim Practitioner, CILO, Inc.

**Latronda Hayes**

Court Services Manager  
PBC Justice Services

**Kimber Heddon**

Circuit Administrator  
Florida Department of Corrections

**Judge Laura Johnson**

Circuit Court Criminal Division  
Gun Club Branch

**Commissioner Dave Kerner**

PBC Board of County Commissioners

**Judge Joseph Marx**

Administrative Judge  
Circuit Court Criminal Division

**Tommy Richards**

Palm Beach Bail Bond Association

**Major Alfonso Starling**

PBC Sheriff's Office

**David Talley**

CareerSource Palm Beach County

**Alton Taylor**

Executive Director & CEO  
Drug Abuse Foundation of PBC

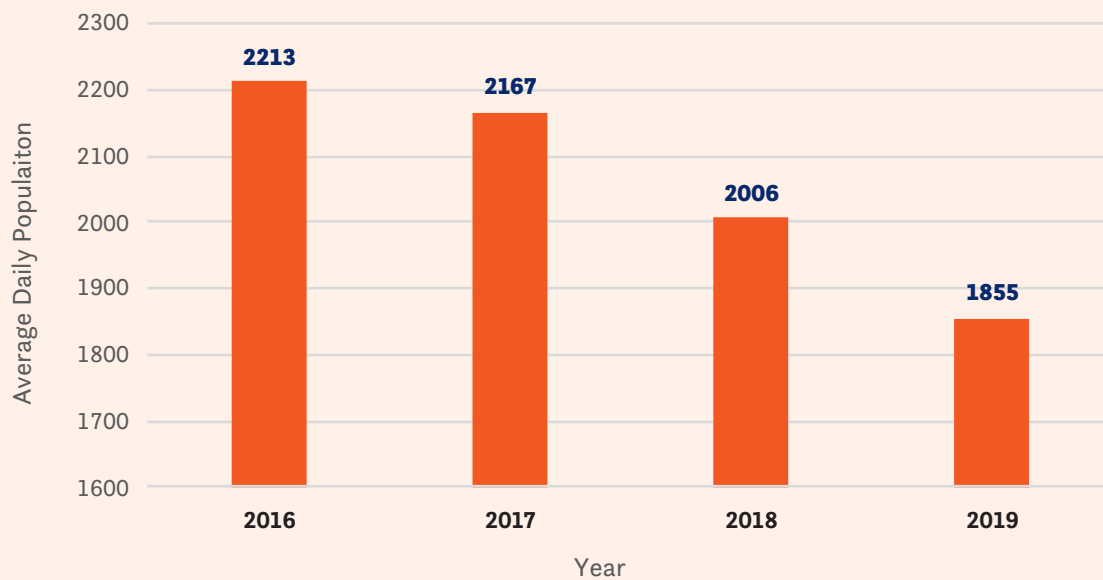
**Louis Tomeo**

Director of Criminal Court Services  
Clerk and Comptroller's Office

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average Daily Population</b> (Annual Mean) 2016 May to December	<b>Monthly SnapShot</b> (Annual Mean) 2016 May to December	<b>Monthly Admissions</b> (Annual Mean) 2016 May to December	<b>Monthly Releases</b> (Annual Mean) 2016 May to December
<b>2016</b>	<b>2213</b>	<b>2058</b>	<b>2436</b>	<b>2471</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>2167</b>	<b>2054</b>	<b>2420</b>	<b>2419</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>1911</b>	<b>2260</b>	<b>2267</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>1855</b>	<b>1763</b>	<b>2174</b>	<b>2196</b>

Source: PBSO BIRS, Computed Dataset Table, as of July 31, 2020

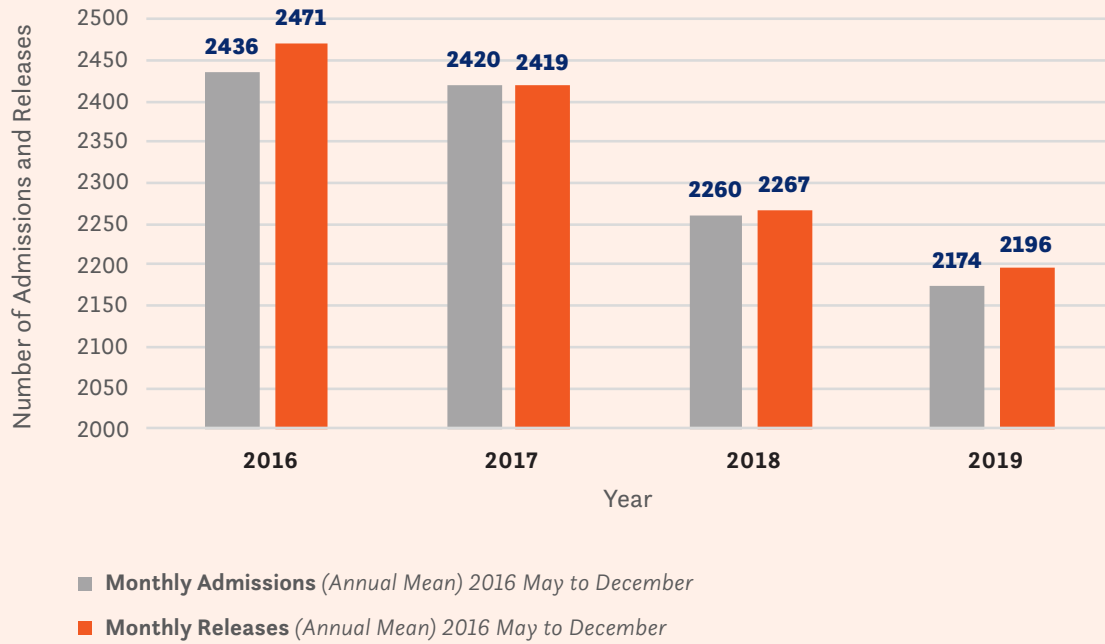
### Palm Beach County Jail Average Daily Population by Year, 2016–2019



Source: PBSO BIRS, Computed Dataset Table, as of July 31, 2020



### Palm Beach County Jail Admissions and Releases by Year, 2016–2019



Source: PBSO BIRS, Computed Dataset Table, as of July 31, 2020

2019 PBC Jail  
**Admissions**  
**↓ 10.8%**  
 from 2016

2019 PBC Jail  
**Releases**  
**↓ 11.1%**  
 from 2016





## Law Enforcement Planning Council

The Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC) is composed of representatives from over 50 local, state, and federal agencies that meet monthly to provide a forum for the coordination, information sharing, research, and evaluation of law enforcement activities within Palm Beach County.

In 2019, the LEPC facilitated information sharing on topics such as the NIBRS update, risk protection orders, school safety interagency agreements with DJJ, PBC 911 capabilities in light of the Parkland school

shooting, human trafficking initiatives, tracking and search for Silver Alerts, re-entry program update, rapid response team annual report, Crime Prevention Officer's Association update, PBC Infectious Disease Elimination Program ordinance, MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, PSAP interlocal agreement, ACEs and trauma, at-home sexual assault collection kits, Children Service's Council update, and the sexual assault evidence testing initiative. The LEPC also discussed the three-year, CJC-funded domestic violence training project.



LEPC presentation about risk protection orders.

## LOCAL MEMBERS

*Chairman*

**Chief Thomas Ceccarelli**  
Palm Springs

*Vice Chairman*

**Chief Sean Brammer**  
Florida Atlantic University

**Chief Robert Mangold**  
Atlantis

**Chief Daniel Alexander**  
Boca Raton

**Chief Michael Gregory**  
Boynton Beach

**Chief Javaro Sims**  
Delray Beach

**Chief Ed Allen**  
Gulf Stream

**Chief Craig Hartmann**  
Highland Beach

**Chief Dan Kerr**  
Jupiter

**Chief John Pruitt**  
Jupiter Inlet Colony

**Chief Brian Smith**  
Juno Beach

**Chief Wes Smith**  
Lake Clarke Shores

**Chief Sean Scheller**  
Lantana

**Chief Carmen Mattox**  
Manalapan

**Chief Richard Jenkins**  
North Palm Beach

**Chief Hal Hutchins**  
Ocean Ridge

**Chief Nicholas Caristo**  
Palm Beach

**Chief Frank Kitzerow**  
PBC School District Police

**Honorable Sheriff Ric Bradshaw**  
PBC Sheriff's Office

**Chief Clint Shannon**  
Palm Beach Gardens

**Chief Steve Langevin**  
Palm Beach Shores

**Interim Chief Spencer Rozier**  
Riviera Beach

**Chief Mark Garrison**  
South Palm Beach

**Chief Gus Medina**  
Tequesta

**Chief Frank Adderley**  
West Palm Beach

## STATE MEMBERS

**Lt. Anthony Mozealous**  
State Fire Marshall's Office

**Captain Juan Torres**  
FL Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco

**Troy Walker**  
Special Agent in Charge  
FL Dept. of Law Enforcement

**Frank Mercurio**  
Resident Agent in Charge  
FL Dept. of Law Enforcement

**Major Olin Rondeau**  
FL Fish & Wildlife Commission

**Major Robert Chandler**  
Florida Highway Patrol

**Bill Fraser**  
Chief Investigator  
State Attorney's Office

## FEDERAL MEMBERS

**Justin Fleck**  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Sheldon Burkett**  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Drug Enforcement Administration

**Eric Chan**  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
U.S. Immigration & Customs

**Robert Shirley**  
Resident Agent in Charge  
Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms & Explosives

**Glen Wilner**  
Assistant Chief  
U.S. Marshals

**Timothy Donohue**  
Resident Agent in Charge  
U.S. Secret Service

**David Brant**  
Special Agent in Charge  
IRS Criminal Investigation

**Pete Garcia**

Federal Security Director  
Transportation Security Administration

**Clay Crawford**

Acting Patrol Agent in Charge  
U.S. Border Patrol

**Robert Crawford**

Acting Chief  
VA Health Administration

**ADVISORY MEMBERS**

*(Non-Voting)*

**Director Rick Rocco**

Criminal Justice Institute  
Palm Beach State College

**Gregory Starling**

Circuit 15 Manager  
Department of Juvenile Justice

**Michelle Johns**

Circuit Administrator  
Florida Department of Corrections

**Dr. Wendolyn Sneed**

PBC Medical Examiner

**Ellen Cohen**

Deputy Chief  
U.S. Attorney

**Honorable Dave Aronberg**

State Attorney

**Shawn Fagan**

CJSTC Field Specialist  
Criminal Justice Training & Standards  
Commission FDLE

**Stephanie Tew**

Chief Assistant Statewide Prosecutor

Presentation to outgoing chairman Chief Thomas Ceccarelli, Palm Springs Police Department, for outstanding service as LEPC Chairman 2019.





## School Safety Initiative

The School Safety Initiative was established by the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) at the annual planning meeting on February 26, 2018. This initiative was created to work on issues of coordination, reviewing recent legislation and other areas they deem necessary for local improvement. A law enforcement and behavioral health track have been established to identify gaps in each system.

In 2019, the School Safety Initiative facilitated information sharing on topics such as behavioral health services of the Healthcare District of Palm Beach County, treatment tracks, trauma informed care definitions, 211 update, BeWellPBC overview, PBC Birth to 22 update, FERPA and HIPAA, expanded duties of the mobile response teams, and Children's Services Council update.



**School & Community Safety Initiative's Behavioral Health Track meeting.**

## School Safety Initiative Team Members

### LAW ENFORCEMENT TRACK

*Chair*

**Judge James Martz**  
Circuit Court Judge

**Holly Dibenedetto**

Victim Services Program Manager  
PBC Public Safety Department

**Douglas Clark**

Division Chief  
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

**Justin Fleck**

Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Lt. Randy Foley**

Behavioral Services Unit  
PBC Sheriff's Office

**Bill Johnson**

Director, Emergency Management  
PBC Public Safety Department

**Chief Frank Kitzerow**

PBC School District Police

**Diana Matty**

Fire Chief  
City of West Palm Beach Fire Rescue  
Fire Chiefs Association of  
Palm Beach County Representative

**Douglas McGlynn**

Deputy Chief of Operations  
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

**Frank Mercurio**

Resident Agent in Charge  
FL Dept. of Law Enforcement

**Chief Clint Shannon**

Palm Beach Gardens  
Police Department  
Law Enforcement Planning Council  
Representative

**Gregory Starling**

Chief Probation Officer  
Circuit 15 Florida Department  
of Juvenile Justice

**Craig Williams**

Chief Assistant  
State Attorney's Office  
Circuit Court Judge

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRACK

*Chair*

**Judge James Martz**  
Circuit Court Judge

**Ann Berner**

Chief Executive Officer/President  
Southeast Florida Behavioral  
Health Network

**Seth B. Bernstein, Psy.D.**

Senior Vice President for  
Community Investments  
United Way

**Melody Bonomo**

Director of Behavioral Health  
Prestige Health Choice

**Darcy J. Davis**

Chief Executive Officer  
Health Care District  
of Palm Beach County

**Dr. Rachel Docekal**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Lyrae Group  
Economic Council Member of the  
Criminal Justice Commission

**June Eassa, Ed.S.**

Director  
Department of Safe Schools

**Megan Eaton**

Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice  
Advisory Board Co-Chair

**Magistrate Judette Fanelli**

15th Judicial Circuit

**Tammy Fields**

Director  
Youth Services  
Palm Beach County

**Lt. Randy Foley**

Behavioral Services Unit  
PBC Sheriff's Office

**Dr. Barbara Gerlock**

Organizational Development  
Consultant

**Major Robin Griffin-Kitzerow**

PBC School District Police

**Jeff Kadel**

Executive Director  
Palm Beach County  
Substance Abuse Coalition

**Sharon L'Herrou**

President/Chief Executive Officer  
211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast

**Kevin McCormick**

Director  
Exceptional Student Education  
Palm Beach County School District



**Pat McNamara**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Palm Healthcare Foundation

**Danielle Ouellette, LCSW**  
Behavioral Services Division  
PBC Sheriff's Office

**Gena Rowlands**  
Senior Planner  
PBC Sheriff's Office

**Robin Russo**  
Director of Student Well Being  
Palm Beach State College

**Judge Rosemarie Scher**  
15th Judicial Circuit

**Jill Sorensen**  
Director of Children's SOC  
Southeast Florida Behavioral  
Health Network

**Cassandra Smith-Burney**  
Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice  
Advisory Board Co-Chair

**Sharon Tarlow**  
Education Coordinator  
Behavioral Health Services  
JFK Medical Center North Campus

**Craig Williams**  
Chief Assistant  
State Attorney's Office

**Magistrate Maxine Williams**  
15th Judicial Circuit

**Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Children's Services Council

**Lauren Zuchman, LCSW**  
Executive Director  
BeWellPBC



**Presentation from Behavioral Health Services of the Healthcare District of Palm Beach County.**



# SAFETY+JUSTICE CHALLENGE

*An initiative to reduce over-incarceration by changing  
the way America thinks about and uses jails.*

# Safety and Justice Challenge

SUPPORTED BY JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

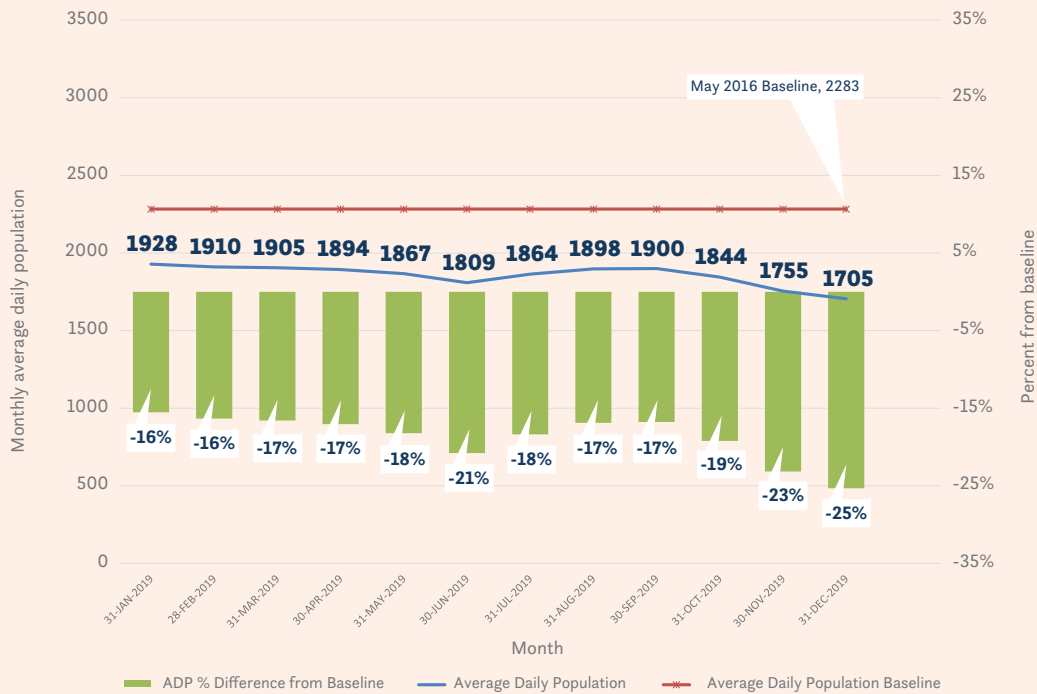
Palm Beach County, under the leadership and management of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), is proud to be a partner in the Safety and Justice Challenge, a national initiative sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The goals of the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) are twofold: 1) reduce local jail populations without compromising public safety, and 2) identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in local jail populations and criminal justice systems.

In 2015, Palm Beach County was chosen out of 191 applicants from across the country to be one of

20 partners in the SJC. In May 2015, the county was awarded a grant of \$150,000 to develop strategies toward achieving the goals of the challenge. An additional \$150,000 for planning was received in March 2016. Implementation funding in the amount of \$2 million was awarded in October 2017. An additional \$1.4 million in renewal funding was awarded in December 2019 for the CJC to continue its work.

The initial goal of the SJC for Palm Beach County was to reduce the average daily jail population 16.7% from the baseline figure (established from November 2015–May 2016). By the end of 2018, a 16% reduction

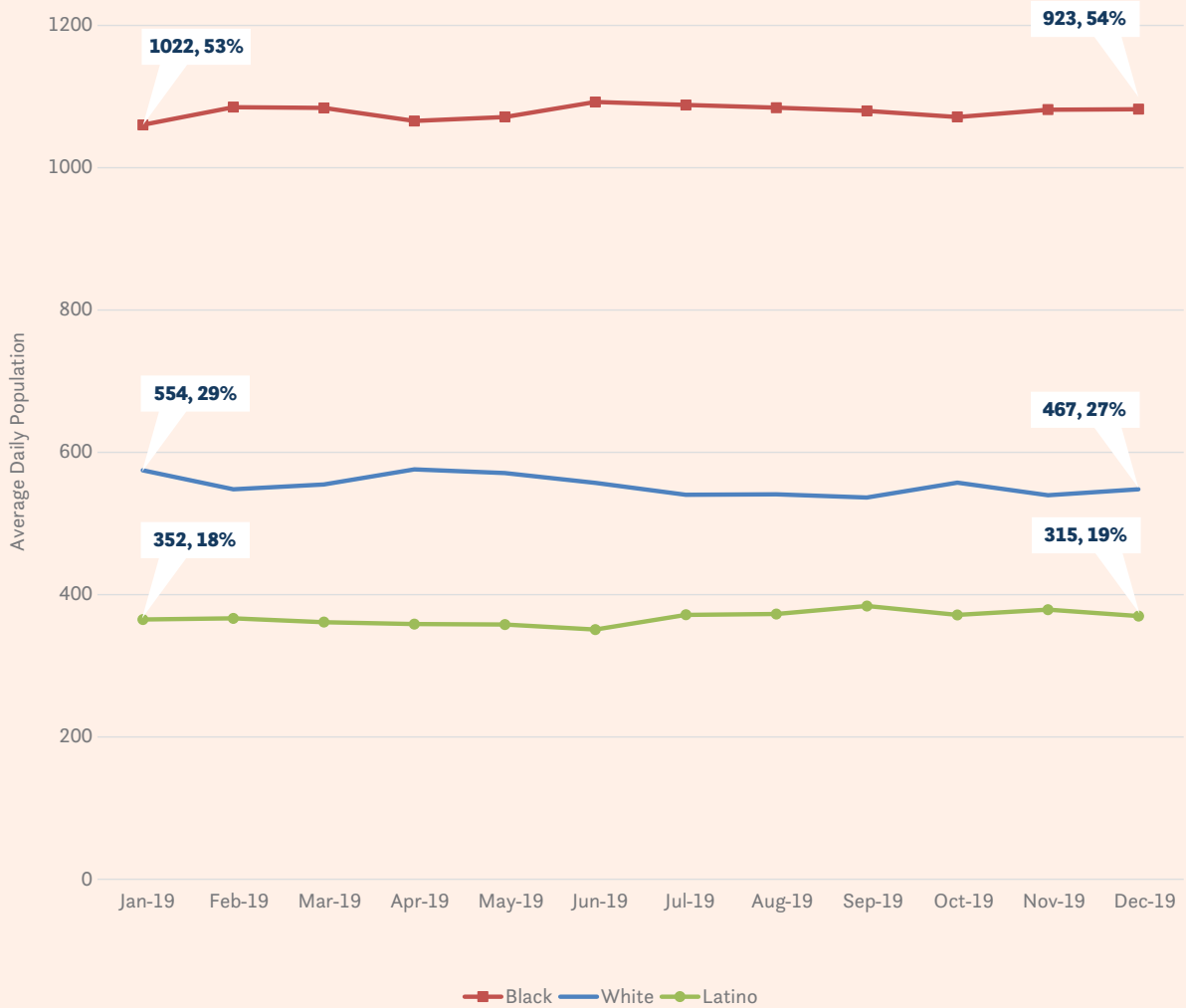
**Confined-Average Daily Population (Comp), January 2019–December 2019**



had been achieved. The supplemental goal for renewal grant funding was a 23% reduction. By the end of 2019, a 25% reduction had been realized. However, the disparities in the jail population persist. Although the

numbers for blacks, Latinos and whites all fell in 2019, the percentages of the black and Latino populations increased, as depicted in the accompanying chart. There is still much work to be done.

**Average Daily Population by Race and Ethnicity, January 2019–December 2019**



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## STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

### ***Court Date Reminder System***

Approximately 14% of admissions to the Palm Beach County Jail historically were simply for failing to appear (FTA) for a scheduled court hearing. Research revealed that other jurisdictions were significantly reducing their FTAs by sending text message reminders of the court dates to defendants who had been released from jail prior to resolving their cases. Palm Beach County contracted with Uptrust, Inc. and began sending messages to public defender clients in November 2018. The program continued throughout 2019 and by the end of the year, court appearance rates had increased from 92% to more than 97%. Comparing 2019 data to historical FTA numbers, approximately 1,000 fewer FTA warrants were issued for public defender clients in 2019 than the annual amount in previous years.

The system was expanded in 2019 to give defendants who were not arrested but instead received a Notice to Appear from the West Palm Beach Police Department the opportunity to receive the reminders. It was further expanded to give defendants being released from jail who do not yet have attorneys the opportunity to participate. Further expansion is planned for 2020.

### ***PalmFUSE (Frequent Utilizers) Project***

Individuals who are repeatedly arrested for low level offenses and cycle through the jail have long comprised a significant portion of admissions. With that in mind, the CJC initiated the PalmFUSE project. It is based on a national model developed by the Corporation for Supportive Housing. The FUSE (Frequent Users Systems Engagement) model helps communities break the cycles of incarceration and homelessness among individuals with medical and behavioral health challenges who are the highest

users of jails, homeless shelters, emergency rooms and other costly crisis services.

This data-driven project develops a list of potential participants by cross-referencing lists of jail bookings, homeless individuals and users of behavioral health crisis centers. Through a process of outreach and “in reach,” participants are located and engaged by case workers and peers. They are then provided with permanent supportive housing, intensive case management and wraparound services. Lives are stabilized, resulting in fewer arrests and better health for individuals, as well as significant cost savings for crisis systems.

PalmFUSE has a pilot project goal of housing 12 individuals with future plans to expand the project. Six participants were housed in 2019, bringing the total to eight. All eight remained in housing at the end of the year, and none had been arrested since being housed. In the two years preceding their respective 2019 housing dates, the six participants collectively had been booked into the jail 28 times and been incarcerated for 475 days.

### ***Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument***

A pretrial risk assessment instrument (RAI) was implemented in Palm Beach County for the first time in September 2017. It was based on the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument Revised (VPRAI Revised) and was designed to provide first appearance judges with objective, reliable data on defendants to assist them in making the fairest possible pretrial release decisions. Pretrial Services staff interviewed defendants prior to first appearance hearings and provided judges with a risk score for each defendant. The judges were then able to apply that score to a risk management matrix with suggested levels of release.



**The Pre-Trial Team discusses the use of current strategies in the 15th Judicial Circuit.**

The Florida State University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice conducted a validation study of the RAI based on 18 months of data. The study was released in December 2019 and found the RAI to be a generally reliable predictor of pretrial success/failure. However, there was a concern that it tended to over-predict risk for blacks. Therefore, it will be re-evaluated with an additional six months of data to determine if modifications can be made to improve its predictive accuracy.

### **Racial Equity**

The SJC Racial Equity Team has been meeting monthly since 2018 to examine racial and ethnic disparities that are present in the local jail population and criminal justice system, and develop strategies designed to reduce those disparities. All our SJC work is viewed through a racial equity lens. The team is a diverse group of criminal justice stakeholders and community representatives. Technical assistance has been provided by the W. Heyward Burns Institute.

Data has been examined to determine the biggest drivers of disparities. One of the greatest disparities in jail admissions has been for Failure to Appear (FTA) warrants. The court date reminder system has significantly reduced the number of FTA warrants issued in 2019. Data is being evaluated to determine how this has affected disparities in the jail population.

Policy change is necessary in order to reduce disparities. The team is developing a work plan to move forward on building consensus around policies that can make a positive difference.

The SJC racial equity coordinator facilitated implicit bias and racial equity training by the Racial Equity Institute for over 700 individuals, including probation officers, assistant state attorneys, pretrial services

staff, private defense attorneys and members of various communities.

### **Case Processing**

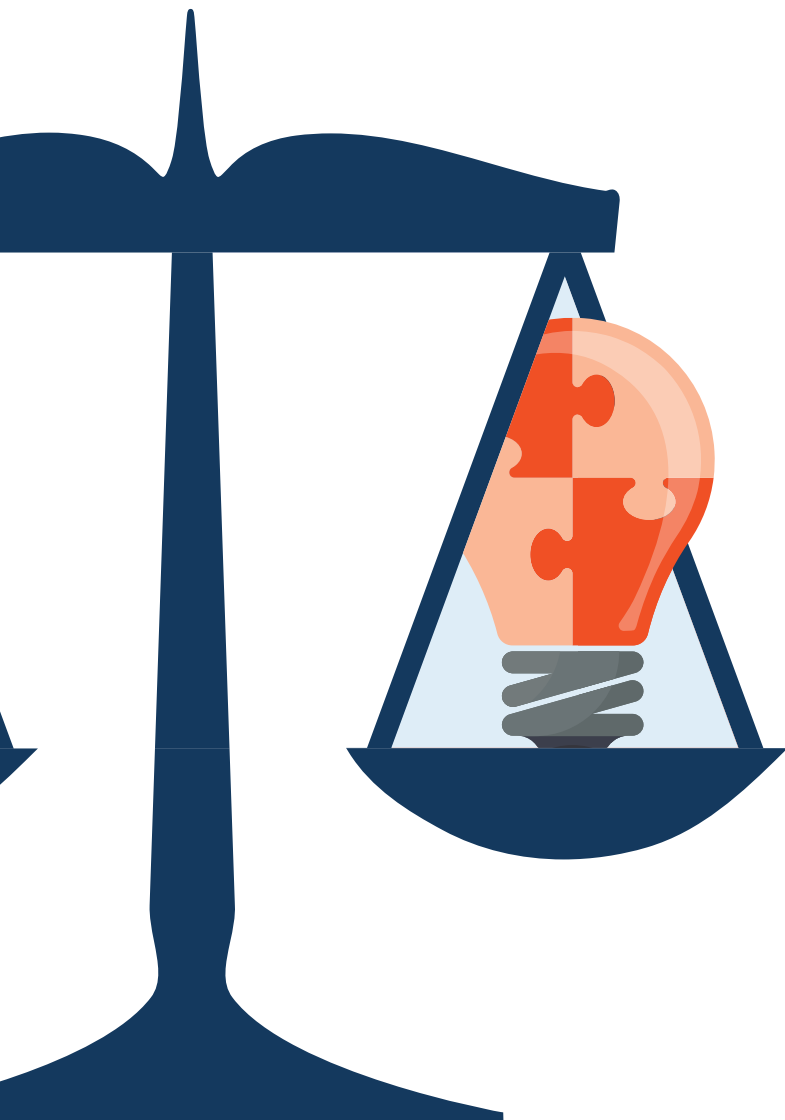
The case processing team conducted a “stress test” in January 2019 facilitated by Jim Austin, a nationally known consultant on jail population and criminal pretrial justice. A variety of cases were examined by judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement and other criminal justice stakeholders. The goal was to see if case processing could be accomplished more efficiently without compromising the interests and rights of the prosecution and defense. Greater efficiency would lead to a reduction in pretrial length of stay (in jail) for defendants with lower level felony charges. A work group was subsequently formed and developed the concept of Initial Case Conference (ICC) hearings which were implemented in September 2019. These hearings are designed to bring the parties together for a meaningful court event at an early date in order to facilitate the resolution of cases. Going forward, data is being examined to gauge the effectiveness of these hearings.

### **Dialogues to Change**

Recognizing the importance of diverse community voices in its work, the CJC is collaborating with the national organization Everyday Democracy to further its outreach for community input as we work to achieve the goals of the Safety and Justice Challenge. Plans have been made to assemble dialogue groups from different areas of the county to meet for several weeks separately and then combine for a joint meeting to develop recommendations for action steps that would address racial and ethnic disparities in our local justice system. These dialogues will be held in 2020. Recommendations will be presented to the appropriate decision-makers for consideration.

### **Data Collection and Analysis**

Improvements to the collection and analysis of criminal justice related data continued during 2019 under the auspices of the SJC. Performance measures to track the progress of SJC programs and projects were established with the assistance of two New York City based organizations: The Center for Court Innovation and the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance.



### **SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE RENEWAL GRANT STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS**

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In the CJC renewal application to the MacArthur Foundation, we proposed continuing our current strategies and developing additional strategies. The new strategies for 2020 include:

**Felony Probation Mobile Unit:** The Department of Corrections Probation Department will, for the first time, utilize a van to travel to different areas of the county to allow individuals with transportation challenges to report to probation officers in their own neighborhoods. This will facilitate the development of productive relationships between probationers and probation officers. An employment specialist will also be available to assist with job training and employment opportunities.

**Jail Population Review:** A new CJC criminal justice analyst will provide information promptly to the state attorney and public defender about new county jail inmates to facilitate their pretrial release and/or the resolution of their cases more expeditiously.

**Social Services Coordinator:** A new social services coordinator position will be created in the public defender office. The coordinator will link clients who are incarcerated pretrial with housing and a variety of social services to facilitate earlier pretrial release and reduce recidivism.

### **SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE WORK TEAMS**

---

Several work teams have been established to facilitate and coordinate local SJC initiatives. Various ad hoc committees have also been created from time to time to address projects.

The ongoing work teams are listed below:



Releases by Release Reason CY 2018  
Palm Beach County Jail

Release Category	Number	Average Length of Stay (Days)	Percent of Total	Calculated ADP
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,838</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,568</b>
County Bond/County Bond & SCB	6,928	4.9	27.7%	33
Own recognizance	6,143	2.2	24.7%	24
Released to family	8,022	8.7	32.3%	324
Released to ICE	3,023	4.1	12.2%	38
Released to DOC	1,872	10.0	7.5%	84
Client Order	1,403	23.0	5.6%	111
Released	8,078	30.0	32.5%	378
Released to other county	303	21.4	1.2%	12
Released to other agency	754	44.3	3.0%	85
Cash bond/County Bond & SCB	100	2.8	0.4%	3
Other	137	45.3	0.5%	23
Unknown	83	30.3	0.3%	7



Safety and Justice Challenge stakeholders discuss how to make case processing more efficient.

**CORE TEAM**

**Jeffrey Colbath**  
Retired Circuit Court Judge

**Sarah Mooney**  
West Palm Beach  
Assistant Chief of Police

**Michelle Cruz**  
Court Administration

**Louis Tomeo**  
Clerk of Court, Criminal Division

**Jennifer Loyless**  
Public Defender Office

**Craig Williams**  
Chief Assistant State Attorney

**Kai Li Fouts Jette**  
Defense Attorney

**Daliah Weiss**  
Circuit Court Judge

**Michelle Johns**  
DOC Probation

**Major Alfonso Starling**  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

**Latronda Hayes**  
Pretrial Services

**Nicole Bishop**  
Public Safety/Victim Services

**PRETRIAL TEAM**

**Laura Johnson**  
Circuit Court Judge

**Ted Booras**  
County Court Judge

**Richard Markoe**  
Clerk of Court  
Criminal Division

**Jim Eisenberg**  
Defense Attorney

**Dan Eisinger**  
Chief Assistant Public Defender

**Craig Williams**  
Chief Assistant State Attorney

**Latronda Hayes**  
Pretrial Services

**Jeffrey Colbath**  
Retired Circuit Court Judge

**Michelle Cruz**  
Court Administration

**Major Alfonso Starling**  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

**Daliah Weiss**  
Circuit Court Judge

**RACIAL EQUITY TEAM**

**Bradley Harper**  
County Court Judge

**Cymonie Rowe**  
Circuit Court Judge

**Jeffrey Colbath**  
Retired Circuit Court Judge

**Barry Cohen**  
Retired County Court Judge

**Michelle Johns**  
DOC Probation

**Sgt. James Graves**  
West Palm Beach Police Department

**Colonel Tony Araujo**  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

**Major Alfonso Starling**  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

**Tameca West**  
Assistant Chief  
West Palm Beach Police Department

**Carey Haughwout**  
Public Defender

**Rev. Kevin Jones**  
Pastor  
Tabernacle Baptist Church

**Angie Pagan**  
Private Attorney

**John Howe**  
Private Attorney

**Danielle Sherriff**  
Assistant State Attorney

**Craig Williams**  
Chief Assistant State Attorney

**Schnelle Tonge**  
Assistant Public Defender

**Barbara Cheives**  
Converge and Associates

**Talmedge Hayes**  
Community Member

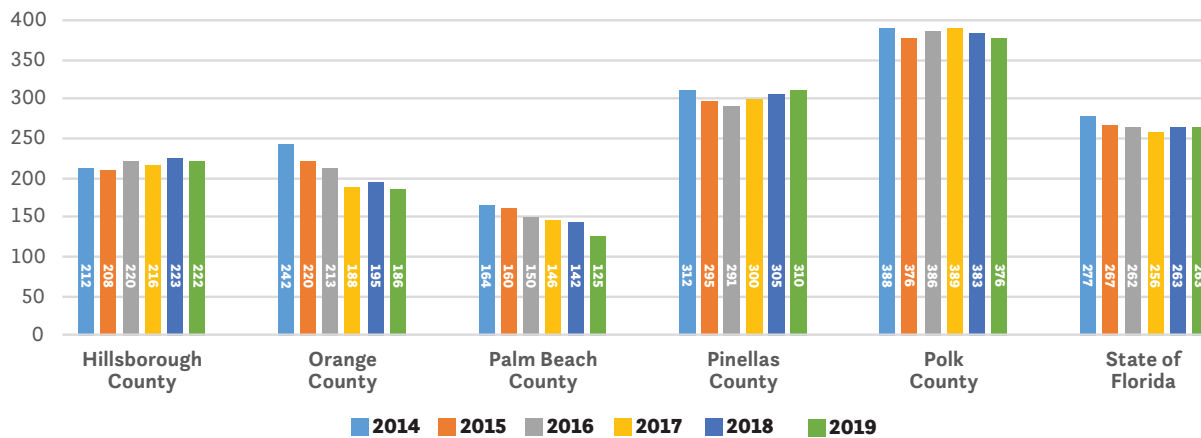
**Jervonte Edmonds**  
Community Member

**Ralph Franklin**  
Community Member

## KNOW YOUR JAIL

County jails are typically the single largest expense for any jurisdiction. In Palm Beach County, it costs \$0.14 of every county tax dollar to operate the county jail and totals just over \$150 million annually. This is considerably less than comparative counties because the CJC over the years has concentrated attention on this issue with the Corrections Task Force meeting monthly to review policies, practices, laws and programs that impact the jail and making recommendations for efficiencies. The following chart illustrates that Palm Beach County has a lower incarceration rate to other comparable Florida counties.

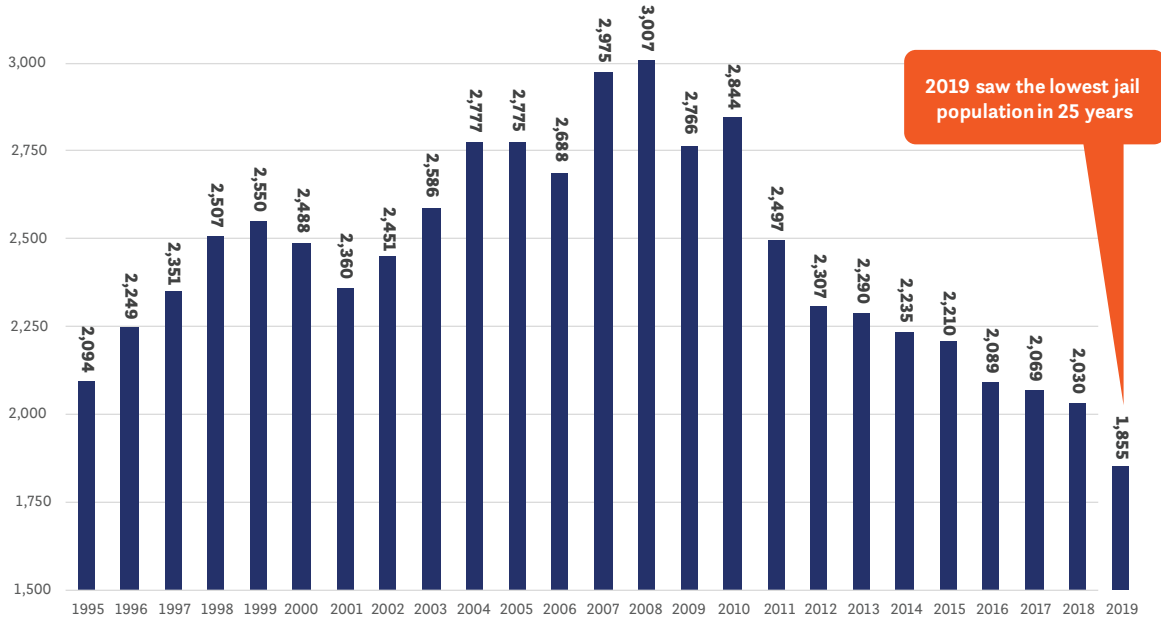
**Incarceration Rates per 100,000** (Source: Florida Department of Corrections)



Comparing Palm Beach County to national incarceration rates, the county again shows it is below the average per the chart below:



### Palm Beach County Jail Population 24-Year Average Daily Population, 1995 – 2019



During the four years the CJC has participated in the SJC, a thorough examination of the jail population revealed who is housed in our jail. In 2019, 45.8% of admissions were for felony crimes, 36.8% for misdemeanor crimes with 17.4% being for other categories such as defendants with warrants for other jurisdictions or people returned from prison to stand trial or testify in other cases. The following page shows a further breakdown especially for the felony population by charge.

Who's in our jails:

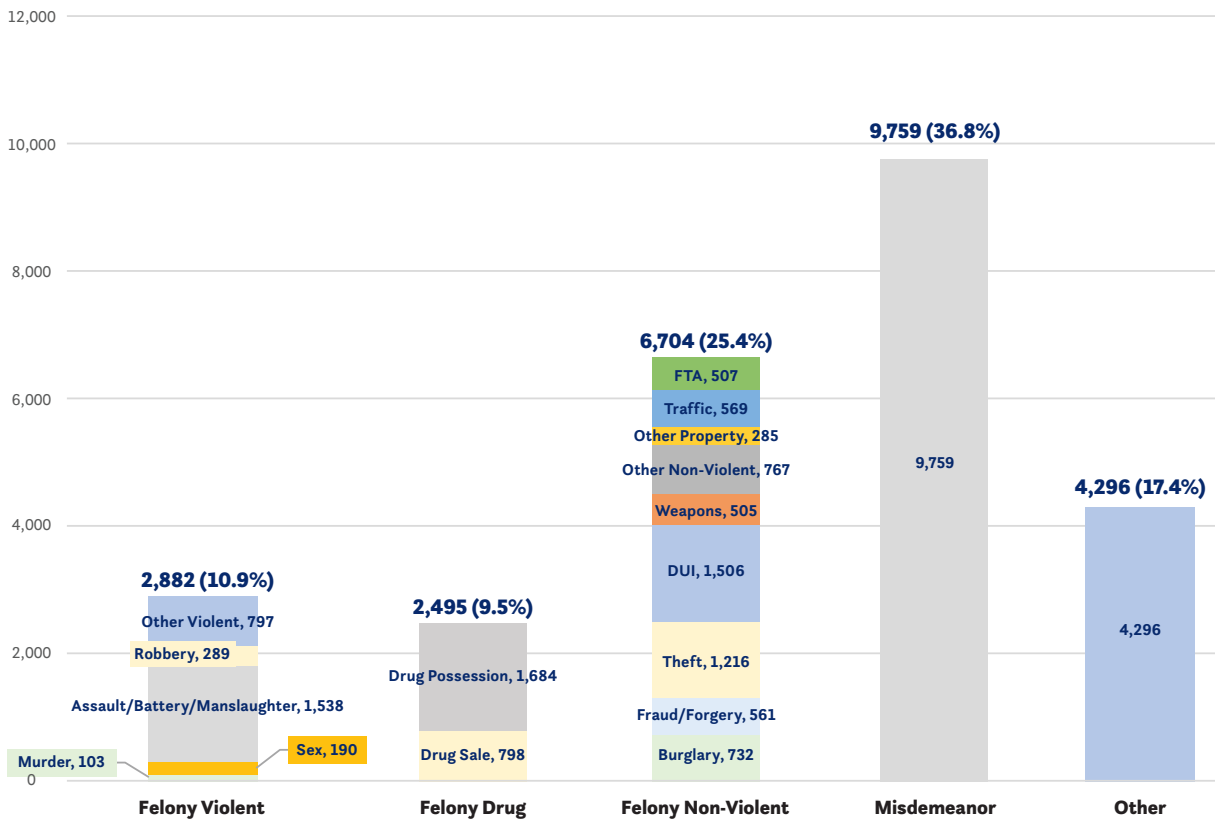


**45.8%**  
felony crimes



**36.8%**  
misdemeanor crimes

## 2019 Admissions by Charge Type



**17.4%**

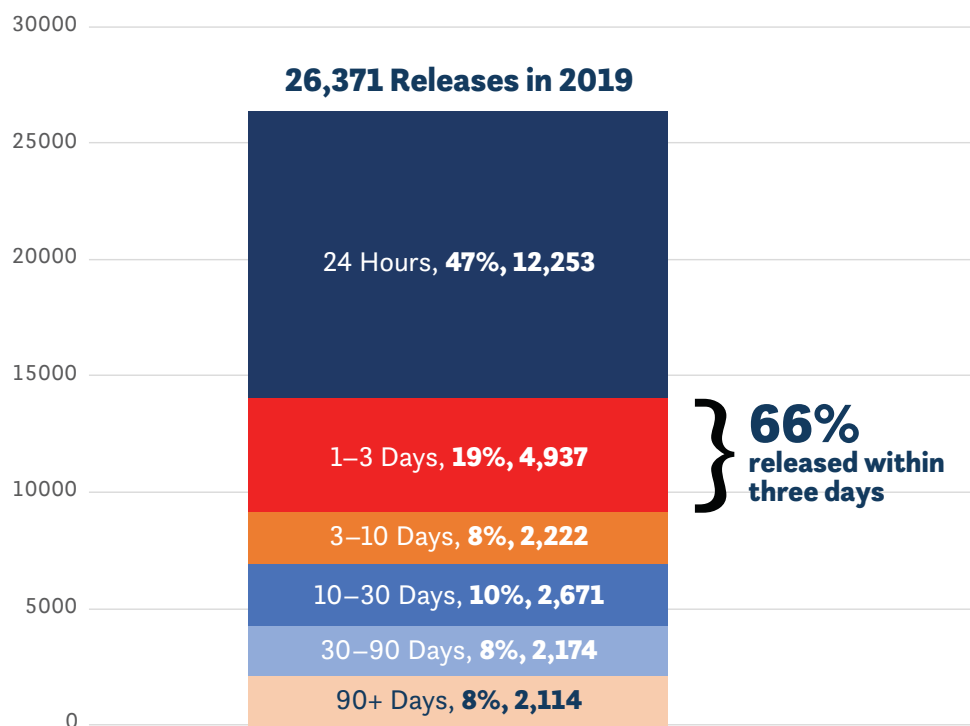
**other**

(e.g., defendants with warrants for other jurisdictions, people returned from prison to stand trial)

Palm Beach County Jail  
2019 Statistics

Understanding the nature of county jails as primarily pretrial holding facilities brings attention to the need to ensure the most efficient court processing of cases. In Palm Beach County, 67% of our jail population is held in a pretrial status. The chart below shows that the vast majority of inmates are released within three days of admission to our jail.

### Releases by Time in Jail







**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Mayor

**Dave Kerner**  
Vice Mayor

**Hal R. Valeche**

**Gregg K. Weiss**

**Robert S. Weinroth**

**Mary Lou Berger**

**Melissa McKinlay**

**County Administrator**  
**Verdenia C. Baker**

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Chairman

**Joseph Ianno, Jr.**  
Vice Chairman

**Dr. Rachel Docekal**  
Secretary

**Reverend Kevin L. Jones**  
Treasurer

**CJC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Kristina Henson**

