

**M I N U T E S**

**MONDAY, January 26, 2009**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION**

McEaddy Conference Room  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

***Members Present:***

Moses Baker  
Rosalyn Baker  
Stephen Barborini  
James Barr  
Joseph Bernadel  
Ric Bradshaw  
Paulette Burdick (alternate for Debra Robinson)  
Delsa Bush  
Barbara Cheives  
Max Davis  
Mike Driscoll  
Douglas Duncan  
George Elmore  
Rolando Garcia  
Carey Haughwout  
Matt Immler  
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.  
William Kramer  
Kathleen Kroll  
Wesley Lauer  
Marti LaTour  
Karen Marcus  
Michael McAuliffe  
Marianne Rantala  
Gerald Richman  
Maria Sachs  
William Stern  
Carmen Veneziano  
Lee Waring

***Members Absent:***

Sharon Bock  
Feirmon Johnson  
Martin Millar  
Luis Perez  
Art Johnson (Ex officio  
Exec. Committee)  
Harry A. Johnston, II (Ex officio  
Exec. Committee)

***Guests Attending:***

Cristy Altaro, Court Administration  
Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration  
Nicole Saunders, Palm Beach County Justice Services  
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller

**Staff Present:**

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director  
Journey Beard, Crime Prevention Project Specialist  
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary  
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst  
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager  
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist  
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator  
Kristie Slinsky, Temporary Staff  
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II  
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Barr called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m., and thanked everyone for attending the first full CJC meeting for 2009 as he look forward to a productive year.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Barr invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was approved unanimously after motion by Mr. George Elmore and second by Mr. Randy Johnson.
- V. The minutes of the December 8, 2008 full commission meeting were approved unanimously after motion by Mr. George Elmore and second by Mr. Randy Johnson.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chairman Barr:
  - A. Welcomed the following new members to the first full CJC meeting:
    - Commissioner Karen Marcus
    - Matt Immler, Police Chief's Association
    - Marti LaTour, Pepsi Americas
    - Michael McAuliffe, State Attorney
    - Lee Waring, FirstCity Bank of Commerce
    - William Stern, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
    - Marianne Rantala, Criminal Defense Lawyers AssociationIn recognizing the new CJC members, Chairman Barr noted that Ms. LaTour and Mr. Waring are nominees of the Economic Council.
  - B. Congratulated Chief Matt Immler on his installment as Chairman of the Palm Beach County Chiefs of Police Association.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
  - A. Reported that the Community Foundation Inc. approved a grant in the amount of \$55,000 for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, payable over a one year period to the CJC to support service contracts, equipment purchases and student fees associated with the proposed Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center. He said it is anticipated that the same amount will be available for next year also.

- B. Announced that the CJC is in the process of applying for a US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Planning Grant in the amount of \$300,000 for Young Offenders in the community.
- C. Announced that the CJC is exploring the possibility of applying for a grant which was announced through the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance. The grant is for a Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program FY 09. It is hoped that this grant will take the place of the state grant received this year for the planning of a mental health substance abuse and criminal justice grant.

Chairman Barr and Mr. Davis thanked Messrs. Elmore and Johnston for their role in obtaining this grant.

- D. Congratulated Mrs. Jenise Link on her marriage in December 2008.

#### VIII. Business Consent item(s)

There were no business consent items.

#### IX. Under Old Business

Members unanimously approved the Executive Committee's recommendation for up to \$49,000 for over-time to support the YVPP Gun Show Initiative. This Initiative is focused on stopping the illegal sales and purchases of guns at gun shows which are a major source of firearms for youthful offenders.

Mr. Barborini added that in recent years, the volume of street criminals attending gun shows have increased due to the overall increase in attendance at the shows which has resulted in the illegal purchasing of firearms by criminals. He noted that ATF officers, PBSO deputies, Boynton and West Palm Beach police officers are normally at the shows to spot any violations of county, state or federal law and have caught juveniles with hand guns, convicted felons and gang members with guns, and this quarter alone 4 or 5 state arrests and 2 people indicted federally and 3 others. The problem, Mr. Barborini said, is that the crowds have gotten bigger (between 2,000 and 5,000 people) because of good deals at the shows, making it harder for law enforcement to spot the violators. The increase also seems to be due to a scare of guns being confiscated because of the newly elected president. This ultimately causes a lot of violence on the streets, hence the need for additional resources.

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw noted that Mr. Kramer made an excellent suggestion at the January executive committee meeting to include the cost for over-time support and mandatory security into the fees for permits.

Mr. Kramer added that the CJC is lucky to be able to afford the \$49,000 price tag at this time, and suggested that going forward, the CJC seek a permit condition from providers of the venue that would pay for law enforcement necessary to protect the public in order to relieve the CJC of this funding fee.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe and Mr. Barborini concurred with Mr. Kramer to have the vendors cover that fee, but Mr. Barborini noted that it can be done as long as the vendors are not made aware of law enforcement under-cover people inside the show.

After further discussion on the matter, members unanimously approved an amount of up to \$49,000 for over-time to support the YVPP Gun Show Initiative after motion by Mr.

George Elmore and second by Mr. Randy Johnson.

X. Under New Business, the CJC:

- A. Unanimously approved recommendation for Mr. William Kramer to fill the vacancy of treasurer and executive committee member after motion by Mr. Randy Johnson and second by Mr. George Elmore.

Chairman Barr congratulated Mr. Kramer as the new treasurer.

Judge Baker administered the oath of office to Mr. Kramer as CJC's new treasurer.

- B. Unanimously approved recommendations for approval of membership on the Public Safety Coordinating Council for referral to BCC for appointment for the following seats after motion by Mr. Randy Johnson and second by State Attorney Michael McAuliffe.

- Director of County Probation to be appointed to a 4-year term;
- Director of a local substance abuse treatment program or his/her designee, to be appointed to a 4-year term; and
- Representatives from county and state jobs programs and other community groups who work with offenders and victims, appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners to 4-year terms.

The approvals are for: Ms. Maureen Ferrill-Brickous, Director of Pride Integrated Services, Inc.; Mr. Alton Taylor, Director of the Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County; and Mr. Patrick Cannan, Director of Public Affairs of the Workforce Alliance, Inc.

- C. Unanimously approved recommendations for approval of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council on referrals to BCC for official appointments to the following seats after motion by Mr. Randy Johnson and second by Mr. George Elmore:

- Director of any County Probation or Pretrial Intervention Program or designee; **(Mr. Charles Trotta, Manager PBC Pretrial Services)**
- Director of a local substance abuse treatment program or designee; **(Mr. Alton Taylor, Director of the Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County)**
- Director of a community mental health agency or designee; **(Dr. Linda De Piano, CEO Oakwood Center)**
- A primary consumer of mental health services; **(Mr. John McDermott)**
- A primary consumer of substance abuse services; **(Ms. Michelle Woodside)**
- A family member of a primary consumer of community based treatment services; **(Ms. Victoria Cury)**
- A representative from an area homeless program; **(Ms. Diana Stanley, Executive Director of The Lord's Place).**

- D. Mr. Rodriguez reported that Mr. Richman was unable to continue as the CJC's representative on the Education Commission, and the CJC was therefore seeking a volunteer to fill this vacancy. Major Joseph Bernadel volunteered to

represent the CJC on the Commission.

XI. Under CJC Initiatives/Updates:

- A. Ms. Cristy Altaro from Court Administration made a presentation on the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit court education liaisons.

Ms. Altaro noted that the court education liaison program came as an initiative led by Chief Judge Kroll Chief Kroll working with Dr. Johnson and upon realizing the complexity of issues facing the courts involving juveniles. As a result, Palm Beach County School District allocated personnel to expand the level of services provided for these youths. Court education liaisons with experience in dealing with more complex youths were later placed in the court houses. The liaisons are able to provide accurate detailed educational information to the judges, court personnel and other persons involved with youths. The liaisons also act as advisors to the parents and kids and assist with the transition into the school.

The liaisons are also engaged in special projects outside their responsibilities, namely: "Operation Hope" created by Dr. Angela Bess which brings faith partners together to provide service to the families that are at risk or at need. There is also a family and mentoring piece to it; Ms. Maxine DuPont is putting together a vocational program to assist with some youths with vocational training and working with Inlet Grove High School, Palm Beach Community College and construction businesses to provide some opportunities. The Delinquency Drug Courts also provide services and information.

Ms. Altaro said that the School District also placed a transition specialist at the Juvenile Detention Center and the Palm Beach County jail to assist youth with educational issues. A transition coordinator also works with youth returning from the Department of Juvenile Justice residential program into the school system.

She reported that from May to December 2008, the liaisons have provided records for and/or assisted 11,404 youths. She said the judges have provided positive feedback on the program.

Major Bernadel remarked that Palm Beach County has an alliance of about 40 charter schools, and noted that in the future, he would like to see that alliance with the School District. He advised that the charter school alliance meets regularly and promised to provide CJC with the contact.

Representative Sachs echoed Major Bernadel's sentiments, saying that it is very important that the charter schools have contact with the courts.

Ms. Cheives enquired if the program was designed by Palm Beach County, and requested information to share around the state as a member of the Blue Print Commission.

Ms. Altaro noted that Miami Dade County has a project also, and that Palm Beach County court education liaisons visited Miami over the summer to talk about how they are doing things and to exchange best practices.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout commented that it is a great program but that the most beneficial part is getting the children back in schools.

Judge Baker added that this might be one of the best programs that currently exist to assist juveniles.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe noted that the feedback received in his office on the program is overwhelmingly positive.

Mr. Davis enquired about the connectivity of the program with the youth empowerment centers. He will further discuss this with CJC staff.

- B. Mr. Rodriguez pointed to a letter being distributed regarding the commencement of the evaluation project to evaluate all CJC programs. He asked members to review the letter and provide feedback before the signed version is mailed out. The contents of the letter, he said indicates that some duties have been adjusted so that Mr. Damir Kukec can concentrate on the evaluation project, and that a commitment from each member is required, especially persons who are in charge of data.

- C. Chairman Barr referred to a document included in the agenda packet on the work that was completed at the annual planning meeting, where different groups discussed various areas relative to prioritizing the CJC programs and activities, particularly with regards to staff allocation and the budget constraints. He noted that the information is being used by the finance committee for the budget process. He reported that the finance committee met with CJC staff and the program directors, noting that the work will continue through the rest of the month with an effort to complete a preliminary budget and the final for submission the first week in March.

Mr. Rodriguez added that in addition to the budget discussion and approval for February's full meeting, Florida State University (FSU) will make a presentation on the second year's evaluation efforts for the Youth Violence Prevention Project (YVPP). He asked members to be prepared for an extension to the one hour for February's meeting.

Chairman Barr noted that the report from FSU will be very important to the budget process since \$2M was committed to the YVPP for the past three years. He said that CJC is very happy with the progress of the project and have been pushing very hard to further the efforts in Belle Glade.

Ms. Becky Walker added that the YVPP has been a part of the Attorney General's gang reduction strategy sessions around the state, and announced that the session for this region will be held at the Sunrise Civic Center on February 12, 2009 for Miami Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

- D. Chairman Barr invited members to read the committee/task force updates included in the agenda packet.

- XII. Under Members Comments, Mr. Gerald Richman commented on an article in the Palm Beach Post comparing Palm Beach County to Miami Dade County which speaks to a program being used in Miami Dade to weed out corruption which is supposedly successful. He enquired whether something of a similar nature should be done in Palm Beach County.

Representative Sachs noted that Palm Beach County has excellent law enforcement, but suggested that it be tabled and looked into it at another meeting, if it is an issue, instead of commenting at this meeting.

Commissioner Marcus added that the county's administration will be forced to look at it at some point, and noted that the CJC might be the group to explore it. She further stated that if it comes up at the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting, she would make that suggestion.

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw commented that while he is not sure how things are done in Miami Dade, the Inspector General does look a lot at how things such as contracts, the request for proposal processes and a lot of administrative activities are carried out, while the criminal aspect is left to the state attorney, the US attorney and law enforcement. He said if Miami Dade has an internal process that looks at how contracts are provided, he would not have a problem with that, but that he would not be too quick to look at how Miami Dade carry out their activities when they are looking at a model for Palm Beach County.

Commissioner Marcus noted that Palm Beach County has an Internal Auditor that is hired by the BCC, as well as outside audits that handles contracts.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe added that there is a distinction between the Auditor General and the Inspector General with subpoena powers and the ability to conduct investigation that might lead to criminal prosecutions. He thinks the CJC should allow what is happening to play out and pointed out that he has committed a full time senior prosecutor to do public integrity/public corruption matters to compliment and to work in cooperation with the federal authorities. He said that he is prepared to help in the efforts to change the climate in Palm Beach County, to be one of accountability from an educational and an enforcement perspective.

Chief Bush enquired if the State Attorney is coordinating with the US Attorney's office on public corruption, and how investigations are carried out to ensure that the efforts are not duplicated.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe responded that he came from the US Attorney's office and anticipates that both offices will have a close and professional working relationship, working together to decide on which matters get investigated and how they are investigated.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout added that there are a number of ethics initiatives going on around the county and that is the ground work on how to do business. There is also the other side of prosecutions for criminal acts versus ethics and violations etc. She said that she is not sure the CJC needs to be stepping in at this time but instead look at the ideas that have been put forward by the Inspector General and if it gets to that point then the CJC can revisit the issue.

Mr. Michael Driscoll added that Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) does a number of public corruption investigations throughout the state, and that if an elected official is involved, neither the US Attorney's office nor the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigates or prosecutes. He said the FDLE's executive investigation unit in Tallahassee is responsible for conducting investigations into elected

officials. Mr. Driscoll further stated that he does not think there is a reason to think the situation is out of control.

Chairman Barr thanked Mr. Richman for the comment.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:52 a.m.