

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Monday, October 25, 2021 – 8:00 a.m.

**ROBERT WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
MCEADDY CONFERENCE ROOM, 12TH FLOOR & VIRTUAL
301 N. OLIVE AVENUE, WEST PALM BEACH, FL**

Members Present

- V Marcia Andrews, PBC School Board
- V Barbara Cheives, Converge & Associates Consulting
- V William Dames, PBC Chiefs of Police Association
- V Rachel Docekal, Lyrae Group
- V Douglas Duncan, Roth & Duncan, P.A.
- P George Elmore, Hardrives of Delray
- P Lawrence Gordon, PBC League of Cities
- V Eric Jester, ASAC, FL Department of Law Enforcement
- P Randolph Johnson, Sr., Communications by Johnson
- P Reverend Kevin Jones, Clergy
- P Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
- P Dave Kerner, Mayor, PBC BOCC
- P Kathleen Kroll, Admin Juvenile Judge, 15th Judicial
- P Christina Morrison, Christina Morrison, P.A.
- P Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy
- V Gerald Richman, Fisher, Potter, Hodas LLC
- V Siva Sundaram, U.S. Attorney's Office
- P Gregory Starling, Chief Probation Officer, FL Dept. of Juvenile Justice
- V Lauren Whetstone, Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

Members Absent

- Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk of the 15th Judicial & Comptroller
- Frank Adderley, Police Chief, City of West Palm Beach
- Dave Aronberg, 15th Judicial State Attorney
- Ric Bradshaw, PBC Sheriff's Office
- Sheldon Burkett, Drug Enforcement Agency
- Matthew Fodor, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Carey Haughwout, 15th Judicial Public Defender
- Michelle Johns, Administrator, Dept. of Corrections
- Nellie King, Attorney, PB Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Christopher Orcinolo, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Stephen Stepp, Police Chiefs Association
- Matthew Willhite, PBC Legislative Delegation

Guests Attending

- V Dr. Angela Bess, PBC School Board
- V April Bristow, Judge, 15th Judicial
- P Craig Williams, State Attorney's Office
- V Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
- V Louis Tomeo, Clerk of the 15th Judicial & Comptroller's Office
- V Dave Bernhardt, PBC District 3
- P Sean Brammer, FAU Chief of Police
- V Dave Talley, PBC CareerSource
- V Victoria Nolan, PBC Legislative Delegation
- V Nick Tiscione, Toxicology Unit, PBSO
- V Keith Clinkscale, OFMB, Strategic Planning
- V Josephine Gom, PBC Resident
- V Nicole Bishop, Director, PBC Victim Services
- V Michelle Jacobs, PBC Economic Council
- V Latronda Hayes, PBC Public Safety Dept.
- V Vaughn Critchlow, Florida Atlantic University
- P Richard Radcliffe, PBC League of Cities
- P John Viola, Palm Beach County Bail Bonds Association
- V Eric Mercer, Palm Beach County Bail Bonds Association
- V Abigail Langweiler, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
- V Sarah Phillips, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

- I. Chairman Joseph Ianno, Jr. called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to Members and guests.
- II. Director Herring took roll call and she noted a quorum was present.

- III. Chair Ianno invited in-person guests to introduce themselves or attending online enter their names into the chat box; some of the guests appeared by telephone, and did not identify themselves by the number showing on the screen, or in the chat box.
- IV. Chair Ianno announced he would like to amend the agenda to add a vote on a renewal contract with Uprust LLC, the company that houses the Court Reminder texting program. A motion to approve the amended October 25, 2021 Agenda was made by Judge Kathleen Kroll, with a second by Mr. Randy Johnson; motion passed unanimously.
- V. A motion to approve the May 24, 2021 and September 27 meeting minutes was made by Reverend Kevin L. Jones, with a second by Mr. Randy Johnson; motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Chairman's Comments:
 - A. Chair Ianno announced that again the fall session of the Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy had been cancelled due to COVID-19; he was hopeful things will be better in the coming spring and we will try again to hold classes.
 - B. Chair Ianno said the first Strategic Planning Meeting was held last month; he named two members of the committee; Mr. Matt Pawlowski and Dr. Rachel Docekal, that have extensive business experience in this area and will help direct the committee. He said he looks forward to the progress that will be made.
 - C. Chair Ianno congratulated the PBC Public Safety Department Justice Services Division, for an award from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Woman to implement a Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence. He said the CJC had worked with them and the Justice Services Division to aid victims of domestic abuse, and hold offenders accountable through a coordinated committee response to domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Director Herring said Ms. Nicole Bishop, Director of Public Safety and her staff has been instrumental in bringing this project to life, along with CJC's Katherine Shover and the Law Enforcement Planning Council Chair Chief Sean Brammer.
 - D. Chair Ianno brought attention back to the new business item of the Uprust contract; see discussion notes under item X, New Business.
 - E. Chair Ianno introduced Chief Sean Brammer of the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Police Department. Chief Brammer is recognized for his work over the last year for his leadership and dedication to the CJC and the LEPC. Director Herring added that Chief Brammer stepped in to Chair the LEPC and has done a phenomenal job with the School Safety Initiative.
- VII. Executive Director's Comments:
 - A. Director Herring said on October 19, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved a contract with Legal Aid to fund the Community ID Program.
 - B. Director Herring acknowledged Mr. Bert Winkler and Mr. Damir Kukec along with Ms. Latronda Hayes of the PBC Public Safety Department, as co-winners of the 2022 Golden Palm Awards. They are recognized for all the work that has been put into the CJC's very successful Court Reminder Texting service, this year's Golden Palm recipients were recognized at a ceremony held at the PBC Convention Center.
 - C. Director Herring announced she and Public Safety Director Ms. Stephanie Sejnoha have been working on a series of Channel 20 productions focusing on public safety awareness. Some of the topics covered so far have been human trafficking, back to school safety, drowning prevention. Upcoming topics will feature crime prevention with Chief Brammer of FAU and Chief Sims of Delray Beach.
 - D. Director Herring announced Jacqueline Jackson's last day on the CJC Staff was October 7. She has taken a position at Public Safety as the Human Trafficking Coordinator.

- E. Director Herring announced she will be on vacation beginning Thursday, November 18 – 30, 2021 and she will not attend the November 22 meeting.

VIII. Old Business:

- A. Chair Ianno said at the last meeting Ms. Sarah Phillips and Ms. Abigail Langweiler, volunteers of the group Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America gave an overview of A Research Based Approach for Community Violence Intervention, which contains data collected on gun violence across America. As part of their presentation, they asked the CJC to consider creating a task force to study the effects of violence intervention that are community based; and a liaison position that would assist in gathering local data, community information and identify community agencies in need of support. Chair Ianno said we could create a task force, however creating a position would not be in the budget. Director Herring said we already have staff in place for the subcommittees; it would make sense to have the LEPC to look into this. Reverend Jones said he thinks intervention programs and strategies are very important for the community and the county in reducing violence. He said he would support looking further into the finding out what programs exist and what is working. Chair Ianno said he would recommend Ms. Phillips and Ms. Langweiler to work with the LEPC.
- B. Chair Ianno re-introduced Mr. Nicholas B. Tiscione, Toxicology Unit Manager of the PBSD Toxicology Unit. At the last CJC meeting, Mr. Tiscione shared a new bill co-sponsored by Senator Lori Berman and FL Representative Joe Truscillo about drug impaired driving. He showed some recent data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that addresses it is illegal to drive under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, opioids, methamphetamines, or any potentially impairing drug prescribed or over the counter, everywhere in America except for six states - including Florida - that do not have such a law. The DUI Law (F.S. 316.193) and Controlled Substances Laws (F.S. 893.03 & F.S. 877.111) cover driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages, chemical substances or any other impairing substance, or any combination thereof. The question now is should the CJC write a letter in support of the bill, Mayor Kerner said language added to define what an impairment substance is address those drugs not included in F.S. 877.00 & 893.00. Chair Ianno suggested Nick prepare a letter, circulate it through the CJC, and decide if it should come from the CJC or the BOCC. Mayor Kerner asked if the CJC typically supported a bill that the county already supports, he does not want to see dual tracks and conflicts. Chair Ianno said the best way is to go through the county legislative delegation; Mayor Kerner agreed, he said he would like to see a letter from PBSD that shows their perspective. It was recommended that Mr. Tiscione be put in contact with Mr. Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator. Mr. Tiscione said he was presenting to the Legislative Delegation later in the week.

IX. New Business

- A. Chair Ianno announced the CJC Nominating Committee recommendations for the 2022 CJC Officers as follows:
 - 1. Chairman – Rev. Kevin L. Jones
 - 2. Vice-Chair - Dr. Rachel Docekal
 - 3. Secretary - Ms. Christina Morrison
 - 4. Treasurer - Mr. Matt Pawlowski

Chair Ianno asked if there were any other nominations. As there were none, he called for a motion to approve the officers as nominated. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Randy Johnson, Sr., with a second by Mr. George Elmore, motion passed unanimously. Chair Ianno addressed the 2022 Meeting dates because some meetings on Mondays fall on a holiday, and the meetings are scheduled for the following business day. Director Herring asked if the December 28 CJC Meeting could be moved up because of the holidays. It was agreed that the December Full Session CJC Meeting would be moved up a week and the Bylaws committee would address the dates for 2022.

X. New Business

- A. Chair Ianno said the CJC has to renew the contract with Uptrust. Mr. Bert Winkler explained the details of Data collected so far, with possible expansion of adding Felony Probation for mandatory appointments. Ms. Christina Morrison voiced her support of the program. Chair Ianno asked for a motion to approve the renewal contract; Ms. Christina Morrison made the motion, with a second by Rev. Kevin L. Jones. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Taskforce & Committee Reports:

- A. Ms. Barbara Cheives reported on the progress the Community Engagement Team in partnership with community members and law enforcement, Pre-Trial Services, Public Defender and State Attorney representatives at each of the dialogues had to result in an action item. The first action item took place at the Carolyn Sims Center in Boynton Beach named "Connect to Greatness". The CET is considering taking some of these ideas from the community groups and sustaining them. Ms. Cheives said she felt people from the communities are getting a feel for the criminal justice system, Mr. Greg Starling said a lot of education is being given to the communities from officials; he said not all communities are equal in resources, and he feels this project is very valuable going forward.
- B. Mr. Douglas Duncan reported the Corrections Task Force (CTF) is focusing on why bail bonds are being forfeited, and why the forfeiture is being set aside, and does that have any impact on ensuring defendants show up for court. This will be the CTF's project up to the end of the year.
- C. Mr. Bert Winkler gave an update on the Court System Taskforce. The 20th Judicial Circuit Court is currently the only circuit in the state that is differentiating case management in criminal cases. He said he will be doing some research on this topic and will bring it to the taskforce at its November meeting. Mr. John Viola (guest) said that currently there is a statewide electronic notifying process where an offender can register with the clerk of court and he asked if Palm Beach County was utilizing it. Director Herring responded the CJC was not aware of such a system. He said there was funding for the clerk's offices that allows an offender to log into the system, and look up their case number; then they would be informed either by email or text of future court dates. Chair Ianno commented it was the PBC Text reminder service on a statewide basis by other methods. Director Herring thanked him for the information and said she would follow up on it.
- D. Chief Brammer updated the Commission on the activities of the LEPC: in June, the Boynton Beach Police Department sponsored a gun buy-back program. He said 133 guns were turned in off the street. The participants received 100.00 for each handgun and 200.00 for each long gun turned in. Additionally, the Palm Beach County School District has adopted the Safe Watch application; it serves as a panic alert system for teachers, parents, students and law enforcement. In September, the meeting focused on infectious disease. Palm Beach County's Dr. Casey Messer presented the needle exchange program, of which there are 52 participants, with 145 needles exchanged. The program is part of the overall campaign against opioid abuse. Chief Brammer also acknowledged Judge James Martz for leading The Aware & Care campaign since its inception. He said Captain Foley from PBSO is leading the effort to make sure operations are working within the law enforcement community. Captain Foley has also put together two new School Safety subcommittees dealing with intervention, prevention and response to school violence. The purpose of these committees are to identify what gaps exist in services at the preventative measures level, then progress to identify what is needed at the intervention level. The aware and care safety app leads into the Fortify Florida application, they are working with the various law enforcement agencies to ensure the applications are tying in to each other effectively. Elections for will be held this Thursday to officially elect Chief Sims as the incoming Chair.
- E. Reverend Kevin Jones said the Racial Equity Team would not meet until the first week of December. They need the time to complete data collection on who is in the jail. Mr. Damir Kukec and the Burns Institute are leading the project and the results will be brought to the RET for planning purposes. Director Herring added that going forward; racial equity perspective will be infused in all we do in studying the criminal justice system. It will be necessary to take a deeper dive into some of these systems. Director Herring acknowledged Judge

and Court Systems Task Force Chair April Bristow for having some great targeted ideas in case management, she has reignited the Court Systems Task Force and Mr. Douglas Duncan continues to lead the work of the Corrections Task Force; she said what the Community Engagement Team (CET) is doing is phenomenal work. Director Herring then asked Mr. Bert Winkler to update the members on the current activities of the Safety & Justice Challenge.

- F. Mr. Winkler stressed how collaborative a process the Safety & Justice Challenge has been and continues to be. As an example, he cited the Court Date Reminder System a collaborative effort between the CJC, the Clerk, PBSO, the Public Defender, Pretrial Services, County Attorney, Uptrust, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights organization, Dept. of Corrections Probation and MacArthur Foundation. He is anticipating the probation bus that will go into the community where there are high rates of Failure to Appear (FTA's), will be presented to the BOCC on December 7. The bus will be donated to the Department of Corrections Probation Division. Mr. Winkler explained how the bus will be set up and what staff will be available to help those clients that need job advancement skills. The FUSE Program goal is 25 clients, currently there are 21 and anticipate working with the LP to achieve that goal. Mr. Winkler gave statistics on the effect the FUSE program has had on stabilizing the participants. The program will end at the end of this year, but the data will be used to identify how to prioritize clients of various agencies. Other programs for future implementation include Pretrial Services clients will be offered peer mentoring, there will be an opportunity to apply for additional funding to serve as a sustainability grant.

XII. Adjournment

Chair Ianno adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.