



**Also sits as the Public Safety Coordinating Council and
Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council**

**Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, October 6, 2021; 12:00 PM**

- M I N U T E S -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Duncan, Chair, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
Ted Booras, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Cheryl Caracuzzo, Administrative Judge, Criminal Court, 15th Judicial Circuit
Daniel Eisinger, Public Defender's Office
Caitlin Fehrs, Coalition for Independent Living Options
Latronda Hayes, Court Services
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association
Alfonso Starling, Vice-Chair, Colonel, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
David H. Talley, PBC CareerSource
Alton Taylor, Drug Abuse Foundation
Louis Tomeo, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles Burton, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Sherri Collins, Administrative Judge, County Court, 15th Judicial Circuit
Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services, Inc.
Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections
Dave Kerner, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Craig Williams, Office of the State Attorney

GUESTS PRESENT:

Michelle Cruz, County Administration
Mike Edmondson, Office of the State Attorney
Colleen Farnsworth, DCF Legal
Josh _, South County Bail Bonds
Felicia A. Scott, Riviera Beach Civil Drug Court
Daniel Svec, County Administration
John Viola, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Bert Winkler, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

I. Welcome and Opening Comments, *Chairman Douglas Duncan*

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Participants signed in chat box in lieu of roll call and introductions of guests.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Agenda was approved without changes.

IV. Approval of September 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2021 minutes was approved without amendments.

V. Old Business

Bond Forfeiture Review: Initial Framework (Draft) – Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager, Criminal Justice Commission

Executive Director Regenia Herring provided a brief background on the issue. Damir Kukec first thanked Louis Tomeo and the Clerk and Comptroller's Office for sharing their data. Mr. Kukec presented and discussed data/charts on felony, misdemeanor, and criminal traffic cases filed between January 2015 to the end of September 2021, including: cases with a surety bond, cases where the surety bond resulted in certificate of bond forfeiture, and forfeiture outcomes in terms of actual number and percentage. Chair Doug Duncan asked Mr. Viola to explain what the typical case is where a bond is forfeited, and Ms. Herring to elaborate on the concern regarding bond forfeiture, particularly in terms of accountability or whether the bail bonds system is working. Mr. Tomeo chimed in and noted that the entire forfeiture process is guided by statute, and therefore not exactly subject to analysis. Chair Duncan reiterated that the purpose of the report is to look at the accountability of the bondsmen under the surety bail bonds system in terms of getting people to court, although he wondered if this is feasible. He therefore suggested that staff, Clerk's office, and the bondsmen to work together in studying the issue.

VI. New Business

Jail Data Dashboard: Introduction – Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager, Criminal Justice Commission

Mr. Kukec gave a brief overview of the jail data dashboard in the works which use a product by ESRI (Environmental Science Research Institute) in a GIS (Geographical Information System) platform. The dashboard came out of the Safety and Justice Challenge grant to create a public facing data dashboard which could produce automated data reports. Mr. Kukec is working with the county's ISS and GIS departments. He gave a cursory presentation on the dashboard, its features and characteristics, what data may be available, including activity by zip code, and individual level data e.g., criminal case type,

race and ethnicity, other socioeconomic characteristics, population diversity, etc. The dashboard is not yet operational, and still very preliminary stages.

VII. Program Updates

Update on the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge Grant
– *Regenia Herring, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Commission*

Ms. Herring talked about no cost extension requested for the next year to expand their work in the pretrial services up front. They are looking to implement two projects: 1) work with high utilizers that have been given time served or served 10 days or less and connect these individuals to services to hopefully reduce recidivism; and 2) look at the Public Defender's services to determine the impact of the program. Ms. Herring reported the approval to buy tablets for Pretrial Services staff to follow up with clients and do their work more efficiently and effectively. They were also approved to push back their sustainability application to next year. Lastly, Ms. Rosalind Murray gave an update on the racial equity work and some of the community work they are engaged in, including nine great projects in which they intend to continue getting the communities engaged.

VIII. Reports

A. Jail Population and In-House Arrest, *Colonel Alfonso Starling, PBSO*

Col. Starling reported their total population as of that morning was 1,874. The breakdown for the month was: 1,252 blacks; 974 whites. In-house arrest was 182: 138 adults; 6 juveniles; 41 county sentenced; 3 Probation. Pay n Go for September was 137. Individuals awaiting transport to prison was 76; individuals in custody for another jurisdiction was 5 for another county, and 8 for another state.

B. Pretrial Services, *Latronda Hayes, Palm Beach County Justice Services*

Ms. Latronda Hayes reported that as of September 30th there were a total of 845 defendants on SOR; 621 of these individuals were on SOR only; 224 were on SOR with a money bond. Of the 845 individuals on SOR, 81 remained in custody.

The total out of custody SOR population was 764; of which 11 (1%) failed to appear for court and 30 (4%) had new criminal activity. They had a total of 80 technical violations. For population that remained in custody: 40 were white, 41 black. For those granted supervised release by race: 469 were white, 376 black. Their numbers were down when compared to last month.

C. Juvenile Detention Center, *Major John Johnson, Dept. of Juvenile Justice*

No report was presented.

D. Misdemeanor Probation, *Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services*

No report was presented.

E. Felony Probation, *Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections*

No report was presented.

IX. Additional Comments

No additional comments.

X. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 12 PM.