

**M I N U T E S**

**MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION  
MCEADDY CONFERENCE ROOM  
ROBERT WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER  
301 N. OLIVE AVENUE, 12<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL**

**Members Present**

Dave Aronberg - *Virtual*  
Marcia Andrews - *Virtual*  
Barbara Cheives – *In-person*  
Rachel Docekal - *Virtual*  
Douglas Duncan – *In-person*  
Lawrence Gordon – *In-person*  
Carey Haughwout – *In-person*  
Joseph Ianno, Jr. – *In-person*  
Randolph Johnson, Sr. – *In-person*  
Michelle Johns - *Virtual*  
Kevin Jones – *In-person*  
Dave Kerner – *In-person*  
Nellie King - *Virtual*  
Kathleen Kroll - *Virtual*  
Christina Morrison – *In-person*  
Matt Pawlowski – *In-person*  
Gerald Richman -*Virtual*  
Gregory Starling - *Virtual*  
Lauren Whetstone – *Virtual*  
Matthew Willhite – *In-person*

**Members Absent**

Joseph Abruzzo  
Frank Adderley  
Ric Bradshaw  
Sheldon Burkett  
William Dames  
George Elmore  
Matthew Fodor  
Juan Antonio Gonzalez  
Eric Jester  
Krista Marx/Cheryl Caracuzzo  
Christopher Orincolo  
Stephen Stepp

**Guests Attending**

Dr. Angela Bess, PBC School District Judge  
David Bernhardt, PBC District 3  
Mike Edmondson, State Attorney's Office  
Craig Williams, State Attorney's Office  
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office  
Debra Oats, Court Administration  
Ralph Behr, Attorney  
Dave Talley, PBC CareerSource  
Louis Tomeo, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's Office  
Judge James Martz, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

### **Staff Present**

Regenia Herring, Executive Director -  
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant  
Jean Williams, Assistant County Attorney  
Jon Van Arnam, Deputy County Administrator

### **Staff Online**

Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Jacqueline Jackson, FUSE Program Coordinator  
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning  
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst  
Bert Winkler, Manager, Program Development – V

- I. Chairman Joseph Ianno, Jr. called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to Members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken by Director Herring and she noted a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Ianno invited guests to introduce themselves. Some of the guests appeared by telephone, so that only numbers showed who was calling in.
- IV. Approval of the April 26, 2021 Agenda: A motion was made by Mayor Dave Kerner, a second by Mr. Randy Johnson, Sr., and unanimously approved by the membership.
- V. Approval of the May 26, 2021 meeting minutes: Mayor Dave Kerner, a second by Representative Matt Willhite and unanimously approved by the membership, made a motion.
- VII. **Chairman's Comments:**
  - A. Chair Ianno announced this will be the last Full Session CJC meeting until September 27, 2021. The Executive Committee will continue to meet and they will hold a workshop for all members regarding issues with grants and other issues existing with the Safety & Justice Challenge (SJC).
  - B. Chair Ianno said on June 5, 2021, the City of Boynton Beach for the first time will sponsor a gun buyback program. The weapons must be fully functional, and the City will pay \$100 for a handgun and \$200 for a rifle; the event will be held at the Boynton Beach Church of God House of Kingdom Worship at 135 Northeast 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

VIII. **Executive Director's Comments:**

- A. Executive Director Ms. Herring announced Palm Beach County has relaxed the mask mandate to allow county employees and the public whom are fully vaccinated to enter the building; things are slowly returning to normal.
- B. Director Herring informed the membership of the retirement of Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnam on June 11, 2021. She said she appreciates the support and leadership he has given her. Chair Ianno said Jon is a truly valued employee and we will miss him. Mayor Dave Kerner said from his unique perspective among the senior administrative staff Mr. Van Arnam has been a quiet force. Mayor Kerner expressed his best wishes for the future and said it has been an honor to work with Jon.
- C. Director Herring said the CJC Staff is continuing to finalize the CJC 2020 Annual Report.

IX. **Presentation:**

- A. Aware and Care – Judge James Martz, Chair of the LEPC School Safety Initiative, gave a presentation on the new website [awareandcarepbc.com](http://awareandcarepbc.com), designed to ensure collaboration with all agency partners to improve the overall County safety systems. Judge Martz gave Kudos to Director Herring and Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst Katherine Shover for their hard work on the project. Judge Martz explained the committee wanted the site to work as a public awareness campaign. Working in conjunction with PBSO's grant, the campaign is expanding to include signs at bus stops, billboards, and a QR code scan capability with cell phones for automatic access to the site, courtesy of the FBI. Judge Martz gave the membership a tour of all the links available. Some examples are: The Warning Signs and Concerning Behaviors link that helps the public identify behaviors that might warrant immediate action; Fortify FL is a link to the State FortifyFL app where the public can report issues directly; and the Student Protect Palm Beach County is a link to the app for students to report directly. The site also supplies education on prevention and intervention, services and resources, current news, reports and other information. A goal of the School Safety Initiative Committee is to have the awareandcarepbc website a central site where service providers and other agencies can collaborate and identify additional information to help. Judge Martz also discussed the continuing work on the County 911 PSAP system. Some of the issues the committee is addressing is how not to lose an important caller, a way to handle the volume of calls and extract the best information, and the capability to make 911 video live. Florida Atlantic University staff Professors Vaughn Crichlow and Cassandra Atkin-Plunk and her husband Steven have been very important collaborators with the committee on these projects. Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst Katherine Shover added that some of the links on the site take a little time to completely download, and showed an example so the membership could understand and continue to search. Director Herring commented

on the serious commitment from Judge Martz and the willingness of the collaborative agencies. Judge Martz said another project to work on is to have every law enforcement officer take a guided walk through schools for further familiarity. He state that the initiative may be the path to follow in other areas of the nation, and also expressed his desire to complete these projects that further demonstrate the excellent commitment of Palm Beach County.

**X. Old Business:**

- A. Chair Ianno opened the discussion of CJC staff's recommendations to merge the SJC Core Team with the Corrections Task Force (CTF)/Public Safety Coordinating Council. The Executive Committee had approved the plan authored by Director Regenia Herring, to reorganize and reassess the CJC's existing committees and task forces to best utilize them for the work of the CJC. Director Herring said much of the SJC committees and Core Team work has been led by CJC staff, which should not be the case. The CTF and SJC Core Team are working on many of the same issues. CJC member Mr. Douglas Duncan has chaired the CTF for many years and the merge of the two committees will benefit greatly from his leadership, and help with sustainability issues in the future.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout commented she agrees with the streamlining of the committees, and clarified her opinion on other aspects of the SJC initiative that would work well on the Court Systems Task Force (CSTF). She said that issues forthcoming should be analyzed for content and placed within the appropriate subcommittee and subject-matter expertise. She voiced concern that the Emerging Issues/SJC Next Step Alignment document that outlines these recommendations will be adhered to as-is. Chair Ianno reassured Ms. Haughwout that the document is to serve as a living, breathing document, which is designed to be modified as needed. He agreed that subject-matter experts should be addressing the appropriate topics. Chair Ianno asked for a motion to merge the SJC Core Team into the CTF, with the understanding that there will be future recommendations to realign the various committees/taskforces and SJC Core Team. Mayor Dave Kerner made a motion to approve, a second was made by Ms. Carey Haughwout, motion passed unanimously.

**XI. New Business:**

- A. Director Regenia Herring said the CJC Executive Committee had approved sending a Letter of Intent to apply for additional funding from the MacArthur Safety & Justice Challenge. This funding opportunity will allow the Racial Equity Team (RET) to take a deeper dive into reducing the widening disparities that are occurring within the Palm Beach County jail population. Reverend Kevin L. Jones, Chair of the RET explained the need to go further in this process after working with the Burns Institute to ensure there are shared values and accountability within the RET membership. Director

Herring said she and Chair Ianno met with Mr. Craig Williams with the State Attorney's Office (SAO) who indicated his openness in hearing concerns in a CJC collaborative workshop which is set up to comply with the Florida Sunshine Laws. Chair Ianno requested a motion be made to ratify the Letter of Intent; a motion to ratify as made by Ms. Christina Morrison, second by Reverend Kevin L. Jones, motion passed unanimously.

- B. Director Herring and CJC Treasurer Dr. Rachel Docekal gave an overview of the meeting of the CJC Finance Committee in early May. A Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed Budget Summary was provided for members' review. Dr. Docekal expressed her thanks to CJC staff for their work on the budget. Director Herring said the budget had not changed from last fiscal year. With no member comments, Chair Ianno asked for a motion to approve the FY22 CJC Proposed Budget submission; a motion to approve the budget was made by Ms. Christina Morrison, second by Mr. Randy Johnson, Sr.; motion passed unanimously.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout commented that preparation should be made as the MacArthur Safety & Justice Challenge funding wanes; she said staff salaries need to be reviewed as too much money is being spent. Director Herring said next for the next fiscal year, looking forward to sustain SJC initiatives and programs, the CJC Annual Planning workshop would be appropriate to discuss staffing, strategic planning and other strategies to re-engage the public sector membership. Mayor Dave Kerner asked how grant-funded positions are handled at the end of a grant. Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnam responded placement of personnel often times would follow the program that was developed under the grant, or opportunities could be available within Palm Beach County.

Mr. Van Arnam explained the county annual budget process and various options for staff.

Mayor Kerner expressed his wish to be more involved in the review of staffing needs and funding sources.

**X. CJC Initiatives and Committee updates:**

- A. The Community Engagement Team Co-Chair Barbara Cheives said the preparation for the community dialogues with Everyday Democracy and Heathier Communities. She gave a brief overview of the structure of the dialogues. Ms. Cheives praised CJC staff and PBC Channel 20 for their work in the precursor Policing Forums. Ms. Cheives requested that Public Defender Carey Haughwout involve some of her staff in the project. Ms. Haughwout requested the dates as she said she has many people interested in the project, she suggested more public to lessen the police presence and allow people to be more open. Ms. Cheives also requested participation from the Department of Juvenile Justice, Florida Department of Corrections. She added she would have liked to see more participation from the municipalities' administrations at the Policing Forums.
- B. Corrections Task Force Chairman Doug Duncan gave an overview of the issues involving bond increases and the disparities in race at the jail. Chair Duncan gave Kudos to Research and Planning Manager Damir Kukec and Criminal Justice Analyst

Ms. Candee Villapando for their excellent work. He said there has been significant progress with the addition of videoconferencing rooms available now to private attorneys and their clients in the jail, and appointments schedule to better accommodate lawyer-client discussions. The CTF will address the dispute of increase of bonds at the next meeting in June; the invitees include the PD, SAO and Chief Judge.

- C. School and Community Safety Task Force Chair Judge James Martz gave Kudos to the CJC for all the support and work involved in the progress of all the task force's projects. Judge Martz also praised Chief Sean Brammer as an amazing leader of the LEPC.
- D. Law Enforcement Planning Council Chair Chief Sean Brammer was unable to attend the meeting so Senior Criminal Justice Analyst Katherine Shover provided the update in his stead. She stated in the last meeting held on December 2020, among many issues they focused on are Intimate Partner Violence, COVID-19, PBSO's Community Violence Prevention Grant and an FBI report on targeted school attacks. Ms. Shover said at the next LEPC meeting they would focus on non-opioid choices to prevent opiate addiction and the U.S. Attorney's office will discuss fake COVID-19 vaccination cards.
- E. Race and Equity Team Chair Reverend Kevin L. Jones and Program Development Manager Bert Winkler will give updates on the RET and SJC Core Team at the next CJC meeting, due to time constraints.

XI. **Member Comments:**

Chair Ianno acknowledged the Marjory Stoneham Douglas High School baseball team's first state title win.

XII. **Adjournment:**

Chairman Joe Ianno Jr. adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.