

301 N. Olive Avenue, 12th Floor
McEaddy Conference Room
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Monday, July 27, 2020 8:00 a.m.

- I. **Welcome and Opening Comments** – *Chairman Joseph Ianno, Jr.*
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Approval and/or Additions to the Agenda**
- IV. **Approval and/or Additions to the Minutes from July 7, 2020**
- V. **Executive Director’s Comments**
- VII. **Old Business**
 - A. Palm Beach County ***Virtual*** Town Hall Meeting – *Barbara Cheives*
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 - B. Police Policy Questionnaire – *Regenia Herring*
Questionnaire and Quantitative Results
 - C. Summary of Implicit Bias Trainings – *Barbara Cheives*
- V. **New Business**
 - A. Approval to create a Task Force on Policing as follow-up to Town Hall Meeting –
Regenia Herring
- VI. **Member Comments**
- VII. **Adjourn**

Next meeting scheduled Monday, August 10, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

M I N U T E S

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

McEaddy Conference Room & Virtual Participation
12th Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL

Members Present:

Dave Aronberg (virtual)
Rachel Docekal (virtual)
Joseph Ianno, Jr.
Randolph Johnson, Sr
Kevin Jones - *virtual*
Nellie King - *virtual*
Krista Marx - *virtual*
Christina Morrison
Gerald Richman (Ex-Officio) *virtual*

Members Absent:

Frank Adderley
Barbara Cheives
Carey Haughwout
Dave Kerner

CJC Full Membership Present:

Marcia Andrews - *virtual*
Michelle Johns - *virtual*
Kathleen Kroll - *virtual*

Guests Attending:

Mike Edmondson, State Attorney's Office - *virtual*
Dave Bernhardt, District 3 BOCC - *virtual*
Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety - *virtual*
Latronda Hayes, PBC Public Safety - *virtual*
Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety - *virtual*
Tyrell Slagl, PBC Resident - *virtual*
Jean Williams, County Attorney's Office

Staff Present:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst
Jonathan Hackley, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
John Port, Financial Analyst - *virtual*
Jacqueline Jackson, FUSE Program Coordinator
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Jon Van Arnam, PBC Deputy County Administrator
Bert Winkler, Manager, Program Development

- I. Chairman Joseph Ianno, Jr. called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to members and guests.
- II. Chair Ianno introduced the new Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) Executive Director, Ms. Regenia Herring.

- III. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present
- IV. Mr. Randy Johnson, Sr. motioned to approve the Agenda for the July 7, 2020 meeting, second by Dr. Rachel Docekal and unanimously approved by the Board.
- V. There were no Minutes to approve.

VI. Chairman's Comments

- A. Chair Joseph Ianno, Jr. gave a summary of the hiring process for the new CJC Executive Director. Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnam commented that Director Herring arrives at an opportune time with the issues surrounding COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement as a center of attention nationwide.

VII. Executive Director Comments:

- A. Director Herring gave a summary of her professional background. She said this is a challenging time for the CJC because of the national attention on issues of equity, fairness, and racial disparities. Director Herring said it is important now for the CJC to focus on more in-depth data research, to bring to the BOCC accurate recommendations in order to change and improve our local criminal justice system.

VIII. Member Comments:

- A. Chairman Ianno invited member's questions and comments. Members congratulated Ms. Herring and welcomed her.

IX. New Business:

- A. Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnam gave a briefing on criminal justice reform matters brought to the BOCC by the group Black Elected Officials (BEO), through Commissioner Mack Bernard. The BEO has created a series of nine recommendations pertaining to the BLM movement. The recommendations focused on issues of reforming policing practices, use of force, body cameras, a citizen's review committee to work with law enforcement agencies, and others. Commissioner Bernard along with Mayor Dave Kerner agreed to ask the CJC to help evaluate and vet the issues, to bring back to the BOCC for future discussions. Mr. Van Arnam said there was also discussion of holding a Town Hall meeting, similar to the Village Square format, to engage the citizens of Palm Beach County in the discussion. CJC staff has been tasked to organize and facilitate a series of these town hall discussions, utilizing the Racial Equity and Community Engagement Teams.

- B. Mr. Van Arnam and Director Herring explained the development of a questionnaire

based on issues brought up by the BEO. It was sent to the police chiefs in Palm Beach County. CJC Staff will collect this information and summarize it for the BOCC. CJC Secretary Ms. Nellie King commented she hopes the CJC takes a strong posture in developing best practices recommendations; she said many groups such as criminal defense attorneys are looking for leadership. Rev. Kevin L. Jones recommended the Town Hall format be held in different areas in the County. He mentioned the “8 Can’t Wait” reform movement and expressed hope that the police address chokeholds and how law enforcement handles public investigative stops. There was member discussion on County staff and agencies receiving training in racial equity. Deputy County Administrator Van Arnam asked Director Herring to report back at the next Executive Committee meeting on the results of the CJC’s Implicit Bias trainings done through the Racial Equity Institute (REI) last year, including groups trained and subsequent results. Director Herring responded she hopes to widen the training to other agencies and has talked to Ms. Garduque at the MacArthur Foundation for future expenditures of grant dollars to support more trainings. Mr. Randy Johnson, Sr. requested a copy of the survey based on the BEO letter be sent to CJC Executive Committee members. Chair Ianno asked for another Executive meeting with the CET/RED team co-chairs in two weeks for further discussion.

XII. Adjourn:

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



June 1, 2020

George Floyd's death at the hand of Minneapolis Police is a tragedy that continues a long pattern of police violence against Black people in the United States. As cities around our nation descend into chaos, the healing will be long and difficult. There can be no justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmed Aubrey, Trayvon Martin, Corey Jones, Freddie Gray, Sandra Bland, Walter Scott, Philando Castile, Tamar Rice, Michael Brown, Laquon McDonald, Eric Garner, Alton Sterling, Tony McDade and an endless parade of other Black women and men without systemic and institutional changes. We must demand reform and accountability.

The Palm Beach County Caucus of Black Elected Officials is insisting that the Florida Legislature along with local governments draft legislation and local ordinances preventing the use of excessive force such as choke holds, strangle holds or any extreme pressure to the throat or windpipe that could result in serious injury or death. Police officers should be required to wear body cameras and have them on whenever they leave their vehicle. Independent outside agencies should be called upon to investigate police involved deaths. We must have transparency about the previous complaints filed against any police officer involved in an event such as the killing of Mr. Floyd. Such officers should be fired and prosecuted, not suspended with pay.

It has been more than 50 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Black community is still forced to have conversations with our children, especially Black males, about how to behave when confronted by the police. We are tired of being told that we must be patient. This has got to stop right here and right now.

The Florida House and Senate along with local governments should look to a bill currently in the United States House of Representatives, authored by Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, titled the "Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act." This legislation amends Section 242 of title 18, United States Code, by forbidding "the application of any pressure to the throat or windpipe which may prevent or hinder breathing or reduce intake of air as punishment, pain or penalty." Similar language should be included in future excessive force prevention bills and local ordinances.

We believe that the Florida Legislature and local governments should also look to other states to see what they have done to foster a culture of accountability and prevention of unnecessary deaths at the hands of the police such as: (1) Colorado HB12-53; (2) Connecticut HB7013; (3) California AB953; (4) Tennessee' Deadly Force Law and Montana HB330.

As Black Elected Officials serving diverse communities in South Florida, we are willing and eager to participate in working sessions with all members of law enforcement, community leaders, activist and other stakeholders to ensure that the bills and ordinances reflect our mutual interest.

Furthermore, we (as individuals) hereby condition our future support for any elected official based on the outcome of this call to action. If you are not willing to take decisive action to safeguard the lives of our community, our ourselves and our children, we (as individuals) will not endorse or support your candidacy or re-elect efforts.

The Palm Beach County Caucus of Black Elected Officials
Lawrence Gordon, President
922 2nd St.
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 371-8584



*President
Town of Haverhill
Vice Mayor
Lawrence Gordon*

*1st Vice President
Port of Palm Beach
Commissioner
Joseph Anderson*

*2nd Vice President
City of Lake Worth
Commissioner
Omari Hardy*

*Secretary
City of Riviera Beach
Councilperson
KaShamba Miller-Anderson*

*Assistant Secretary
City of Westlake
Vice Mayor
Katrina Long-Robinson*

*Treasurer
Port of Palm Beach
Commissioner
Dr. Jean Enright*

*Historian
State of Florida
Senator
Bobby Powell*

*Chaplain
Town of Mangonia Park
Councilperson
Edward Earl Smith*

Meeting with County Administrator Verdenia Baker
Agenda
June 12, 2020

- I. Introductions
- II. Purpose for Meeting
- III. Suggestions for Police Policy Reform
 - a. Ban chokeholds, strangleholds to the throat/windpipe
 - b. Require police officers to report and intervene when they see unauthorized use of force
 - c. Body cameras on the entire time whenever they (police) leave their vehicle
 - d. Transparency about prior complaints filed against a police officer
 - e. Civilian review board with subpoena power to force appearance and testimony
 - f. Countywide database on police misconduct by requiring all municipalities to report all deadly use/bodily harm incidents to the county on a quarterly basis
 - g. Community policing
 - h. Independent investigation by outside agencies of police involved death
 - i. Increase police and racial sensitivity training
- IV. Other Recommendations
- V. Next Steps
- VI. Questions/Comments



Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
Police Policy Questionnaire

Date: _____

Law Enforcement Agency Name: _____

Agency Head responding to this questionnaire: _____

1. Does your agency have a policy that bans chokeholds, strangleholds or neck restraints?
 - a. If yes, can it only be used when deadly force is authorized.
 - b. If no, please explain why.

2. Does your agency require police officers to intervene and report to a supervisor when they believe another officer is using excessive or unnecessary force or engaging in other misconduct?
 - a. Yes
 - b. If no, please explain why.

3. Does your agency utilize body worn cameras?
 - a. Yes
 - b. If no, please explain why.

4. If yes (question 3), does your agency require officers to turn on their body worn cameras when they leave their police vehicle while on duty?
 - a. Yes
 - b. If no, when are officers required to turn on their body worn cameras?

5. If no (question 4), would your agency require officers to use their body worn cameras as noted above?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

6. Does your agency have a policy on tracking and providing public access to complaints filed against a police officer?
 - a. If yes, how are complaints tracked and what is the process to access these records and approximate turnaround time?
 - b. If no, please explain why.



7. As the Head of your Agency, would you support a civilian review board with subpoena power to force an officer's appearance and testimony?
 - a. Yes
 - b. If no, please explain why.

8. As the Head of your Agency, are you supportive of establishing a countywide database on police misconduct by requiring all municipalities to report all deadly use/bodily harm incidents (justified or unjustified) to the county on a quarterly basis?
 - a. Yes
 - b. If no, please explain why.

9. Does your agency actively engage in community policing?
 - a. Yes
 - b. If no, please explain why.

10. If your agency actively engages in community policing, how is community policing implemented within your agency/community?

11. How does your agency handle investigations that involve a civilian's death by a police officer?

12. Does your agency require officers of all ranks to participate in racial sensitivity trainings? If so, how often are these trainings offered?
 - a. Are there retraining requirements?
 - b. Please provide a list of the trainings?

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (561) 355-2314.

Respectfully,

Regenia Herring
Executive Director



CJC Systemwide
Racial Equity & Implicit Bias Training
 Sponsored by the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Grant
 Conducted by the Racial Equity Institute
 May through September 2019

Implicit Bias training for the Criminal Justice Community	DATES	Number of Attendess
Palm Beach County Clerk of Courts	May 23,30,31 and July 12, 2019	176
Palm Beach County State Attorney	May 24 and July 11, 2019	104
Florida Department of Corrections/Felony Probation	May 16 and 17, 2019	98
County Probation (Professional Probation Services, Inc.)	May 24,30,31, 2019	11
Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers & Office of Regional Conflict Council	August 15, 2019	7
Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Program	May 16,30,31, 2019	18
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Probation Officers	July 11, 2019	47
TOTAL		461
Trainings For the Public and Others		
2 Day Racial Equity Workshops (3 sessions)	August 5, 15 and September 9, 2019	120
Groundwater Racial Equity Presentation for the community at large (1 Session)	August 16, 2019	62
Palm Beach County Social Service Agencies (1 Session)	August 15, 2019	14
Palm Beach County Business Community (1 Session)	August 7, 2019	13
TOTAL		209
GRAND TOTAL		670