

**M I N U T E S**

**MONDAY, December 10, 2012**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION**

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

***Members Present:***

James Barr  
Vincent Demasi  
Douglas Duncan  
George Elmore  
Feirmon Johnson  
Randy Johnson, Sr.  
Nellie King  
William Kramer  
Gerald Richman  
Chuck Shaw  
Carmen Veneziano  
Lee Waring

***Members Absent:***

Peter Antonacci  
Roselyn Baker  
Mack Bernard  
Peter Blanc  
Sharon Bock  
Ric Bradshaw  
Steven Burdelski  
Mike Driscoll  
Rolando Garcia  
Carey Haughwout  
Kathleen Kroll  
John McKenna  
Valentin Rodriguez  
Robert Shirley  
Priscilla Taylor  
  
Barbara Cheives  
Ex-Officio/Past Chair  
  
E. Wayne Gent  
Ex-Officio Exec. Cmtee.

***Guests Attending:***

Cristy Altaro, Court Administration  
Ronald Alvarez, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (for Peter Blanc)  
Nelson Berrios, Crime Prevention Officers Association  
August A. Bonavita, Probation Advisory Board  
Michelle Dryer, Workforce Alliance  
Mike Edmondson, Children Services Council  
Pamela Eidelberg, County Attorney's Office  
Bernard Featherman, Palm Beach League of Cities/Reentry Task Force  
Sex-Offender Committee  
Michael Gauger, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (for Ric Bradshaw)  
Dave Kerner, Florida House of Representative  
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office  
Lawrence J. Leon, School District Police Chief

Shane McDonald (for John McKenna)  
David Shane, Florida House of Representative  
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office (for Clerk Bock)  
Annie Veneziano, Crime Prevention Officers Association/Student

**Staff Present:**

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director  
Arlene Griffiths, Administrative Assistant  
Shahzia Hashmi, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Katherine Hatos, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst  
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager  
Rosalind Murray, Criminal Justice Program Development Specialist  
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator  
Craig Spataro, RESTORE Initiative Program Manager  
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II  
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Douglas Duncan called the meeting to order and extended welcome to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Duncan invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Randy Johnson and second by Mr. George Elmore.
- V. The minutes of the November 26, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. George Elmore and second by Mr. Lee Waring.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Mr. Duncan:
  - A. Thanked Carmen Veneziano, Crime Prevention Officers Association (CPOA) for his years of service to the CJC and wish him well as he prepares to retire in May 2013. Welcome was also extended to incoming CPOA Representative Nelson Berrios.
  - B. Thanked members for their hard work throughout the year and wished all a great holiday.
- VII. Chairman Duncan presented a plaque to Carmen Veneziano on behalf of the CJC.
- VIII. Under Executive Director's comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
  - A. Announced the Palm Beach County 24<sup>th</sup> Criminal Justice Academy starting January 10, 2013 for 11 consecutive Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Venue is the West Palm Beach Police Department located at 600 Banyan Boulevard, West Palm Beach. Sessions will also be held at other locations including the West County Jail, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Headquarters, and the County Court House. The academy is free and open to the public, and persons interested may contact Rosalind Murray at 355-2332 for details.

- B. Informed members of the 2012 CJC Satisfaction Survey included in the agenda packet for completion and return to the CJC. He also noted that an email with a link to complete the survey electronically would be distributed shortly for members who prefer that option. Members were asked to contact Candee Villapando for any questions.

IX. Annual Recognition Presentation

Chairs of the Criminal Justice Commission's task forces and committees were recognized for their dedication and contribution.

- Ronald Alvarez, CJMHPA Committee on Juvenile Populations
- James Barr, CJMHPA Committee on Adult Populations
- August A. Bonavita, Probation Advisory Board
- Michelle Dryer, Reentry Task Force Employment Sub-Committee
- Bernard Featherman, Reentry Task Force Sex Offender Sub-Committee
- Rolando Garcia, Weed and Seed Steering Committee
- Carey Haughwout, Re-Entry Task Force
- Kathleen Kroll, Juvenile Reentry Workgroup
- Jennifer Loyless, Reentry Task Force Data and Evaluation Sub-Committee
- Lee Waring, Finance Committee & Evaluation Sub-Committee
- Clarence Williams, Law Enforcement Planning Council & Youth Violence Prevention Project Law Enforcement Work Group.

Carey Haughwout, Rolando Garcia, and Clarence Williams were unable to attend the meeting.

Executive Director Michael Rodriguez recognized Chairman Douglas Duncan for his contributions to the CJC and Corrections Task Force/PSCC.

X. Swearing in of 2013 Officers

Judge Ronald Alvarez of the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit administered the Oath of Office to the following officers:

- William Kramer – Vice Chairman
- Lee Waring – Treasurer

Carey Haughwout, CJC Secretary was in trial and unable to attend.

XI. Business Consent Item

There were no business consent items.

XII. Old Business

There were no old business items for discussion.

XIII. New Business

A. Sex Offender Treatment Conference

Mr. Rodriguez reported that the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) currently tracks a total of 962 registered sex offenders in Palm Beach County. Of these, 857 are considered sex-offenders, 101 are designated as predators, and four as juvenile sex offenders. At the time of the report 26 of the 962 offenders have absconded. He noted that since December 1, 2002 all sex offenders must register with the Sheriff's office.

Some highlights from the conference include the lack of empirical evidence to date, to indicate that residency restrictions have achieved the intended goals, protected children or prevented abuse. There is also no evidence to suggest that a larger buffer zone is more effective than a smaller buffer zone. He noted that the State's mandatory buffer zone is 1,000 feet, but that there are jurisdictions in Palm Beach County that made it 1,500 feet while some are extended to 2,500 feet. He reported that offenders who live closer to schools were **no** more likely to re-offend, nor does living further away diminish the probability for sex offenders to re-offend. He pointed out however, that residency restriction laws diminish the ability of housing and increase transient for sex offenders, thereby creating more burden for law enforcement.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that research has shown that stable employment and housing, and social support are important factors in facilitating successful community reentry for sex offenders as well as reducing recidivism. Of note is that the vast majority of sex abuse victims are molested by friends or family members. He reported that the rate the recidivism rate according to the Department of Justice is 5.3%, which he said is lower than commonly believed, as the majority of offenders do not repeat their crime. Risk assessment of sex offenders he said, is a key feature for the future. He said that some jurisdictions believe that clustering sex offenders together does not affect recidivism rate, but stated that it does increase arrest rate of adult offenders to a small degree.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that members of the Sex Offenders Sub-Committee voted at their last meeting to pursue the idea of having one countywide standard that conforms to the state standard of 1,000 feet.

At the request of Mr. Kramer, Mr. Rodriguez agreed to distribute the statistics from his report to members. Ms. Nellie King added that she too has done some research in the area and highlighted the importance of the educational component, noting that it makes the community less safe when you lose track of sex offenders. She further stated that nationwide, some of them are moving out of state.

Chairman Duncan advised that the report was a generalized one, as the issue is not yet on the CJC's agenda.

- B. Public Defender Carey Haughwout was absent due to court, and will further address the residency restrictions at the next CJC meeting.

#### XIV. CJC Initiatives/Updates

Mr. Rodriguez referred members to the Research and Planning Bulletin in the agenda packet showing the 2011 Correctional Populations for the U.S. The Bulletin highlights the reduction of incarceration rates for jails and prisons. He thanked the Corrections Task Force for assisting in this area.

#### XV. Member Comments

- A. Mr. Richman in his update on the Sunshine Law issue, reported on his discussion with incoming State Attorney Dave Aronberg regarding the best way to move forward. He said that Mr. Aronberg favors an amendment to an existing bill. Mr. Richman is also in discussion with Daniel Martell of the Economic Council as well as Representative David Kerner who has indicated his support, and his interest in sponsoring the bill. Mr. Glen Torcivia is also in discussion with the First Amendment Foundation.

Mr. Todd Bonlarron of the County's Legislative Affairs Office noted that he has some directions in moving forward to assist the CJC. He said that he is working with, and will meet with Representative David Kerner after the CJC meeting to review some ideas, thoughts, and strategies in moving forward with the Legislature in Tallahassee. Regarding the language, Mr. Bonlarron reiterated that Messrs Richman and Torcivia have approached the First Amendment Foundation to be sure that they are comfortable with the concept, and reported that the feedback was good. While he doesn't think that the CJC will get the First Amendment Foundation's support on the issue, he feels that they will remain neutral, recognizing that it is not outside the intent of the Sunshine Law. He further noted that the problem with an amendment in this case is that it is typically a standalone bill when amending the Sunshine Law and doesn't think this option is available at this time. He said that session starts in March and ends the first week of May so there is limited time. He also said that this is considered a general bill and would apply to other criminal justice commissions if there were any.

Mr. Lee Waring inquired if the CJC was able to reach out to other CJC's around the state. Mr. Rodriguez responded that he did, and was unable to find one, except for an entity in Sarasota that is the closest to a CJC.

- B. Mr. George Elmore inquired about the state wanting to use Palm Beach County vacant prisons, and questioned whether payment was involved.

Mr. Rodriguez was not aware of this. Deputy Michael Gauger of PBSO is also not aware of it, but mentioned that PBSO was negotiating with ICE to place low level detainees, and also that the state wanted to change the length of stay for inmates in the county jails which would cost the County close to \$4M.

#### XVI. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 a.m.