

M I N U T E S

TUESDAY, July 8, 2008 - 8:00 a.m.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
(SPECIAL CALL) MEETING**

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

Members Present:

James Barr
Stephen Barborini
Ric Bradshaw
Steven Burdelski
Delsa Bush
Barbara Cheives
Max Davis
Mike Driscoll
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Barry Krischer
Martin Millar
Gerald Richman
Stephen Stepp

Harry A. Johnston, II (Ex officio)

Members Absent:

Commissioner Burt Aaronson
Moses Baker
Roselyn Baker
Mitch Beers
Joseph Bernadel
Sharon Bock
Douglas Duncan
Rolando Garcia
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Wesley Lauer
Luis Perez
Debra Robinson
Maria Sachs
Richard Staudinger
Carmen Veneziano

Art Johnson (Ex officio
Exec. Committee)

Guests Attending:

Ed Alley, Gulf Stream Police Department
Cristy Altaro, Court Administration
Penny Anderson, LEX/ISS
Vince Bonvento, County Administration
Steve Bordelon, ISS
Leondrea Camel, City of Belle Glade YEC
Roger M. Crane, South Palm Beach
Mary S. Kendall, Vice Mayor, City of Belle Glade
Chief Frank Kitzerow, Jupiter Police Department
Chief Rick Lincoln, Lantana Police Department
Jeff Lindskoog, Palm Beach County Sheriff Office (PBSO)
Chief Phillip Ludos, Greenacres Police Department
Chief Robert Mangold, Anlantis Police Department
Dan McBride, Palm Beach County Sheriff Office (PBSO)
Scott Nugent, Palm Beach County Sheriff Office (PBSO)
Mary O'Connor, Boys and Girls Club
Robert O'Neill, Jupiter Police Department
Chief Jay Pickens, Palm Spring Police Department

Mary Quinlan, Court Administration
Nicole Saunders, PBC Justice Services
Chief Tony Strianese, Delray Beach Police Department
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller
Glen Torcivio, City of Belle Glade YEC
Chief Clay Walker, Manalapan Police Department
Garrett Ward, Gulf Stream Police Department
George Warren, North Palm Beach Police Department
Steve Wilson, Mayor, City of Belle Glade

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Journey Beard, Crime Prevention Project Specialist
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Jenise Gibson, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Glenna Nowalk, Clerical Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Kristie Slinskey, Student Intern
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Barr called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. He thanked members for taking time from their summer break to attend this special call meeting.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Barr invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Davis.
- V. The minutes of the May 27, 2008 full Commission meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Davis and second by Mr. Elmore.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Barr reminded members and designated speakers to use the microphone when speaking so that persons can hear you clearly and for recording purposes.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez reminded members and guest of the CJC's 20th anniversary celebration to be held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center on Monday, August 11, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. during the CJC Executive Committee meeting. He advised that additional details would be sent via email.

Chair Barr informed the meeting that in the interest of time, the meeting would be focusing on the budget issue (Agenda Item X), and Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center (Agenda item IX).

VIII. Business Consent item(s)

Misdemeanor Probation Contract, Damir Kukec

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

IX. Old Business

A. Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center, *Brenda Oakes*

B. Request for funding in the amount of \$50,000 for contract with an expert to support the Commission’s evaluation of select criminal justice programs in Palm Beach County, *Damir Kukec (Proposed Evaluation Plan included in final agenda*

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

X. New Business

Mr. Rodriguez provided an overview of the CJC’s budget consideration. He referred to the budget comparisons included in the agenda packet (see below), noting that all the Federal grant information has been received and indicates a 67% cut as anticipated. He pointed out that the \$2M earmarked for the youth violence prevention project and the Criminal Justice Reserve Fund were cut by 5% as requested by County Administration. The Drug Abuse Trust Fund was significantly reduced as the State Attorney can no longer provide funds from fees and fines collected by the county

CJC Budget Comparison			
	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
LLEBG grant	287,303	94,140	(193,163)
BYRNE grant	449,592	186,774	(262,818)
Criminal Just. Res. Fund	445,592	756,264	300,468
2 Million	2,000,000	1,900,000	(100,000)
Drug Abuse Trust Fund	611,910	189,423	(422,487)
Crime Prevention Fund	930,259	989,096	58,837
CJC Admin	654,140	606,372	(47,768)
			-
			(666,931)

Mr. Rodriguez noted that County Administration were looking to “cut” an additional \$150,000 from the \$1M fund. Following careful debate and review of the current programs funded by the CJC, senior CJC staff recommended that members consider no longer funding the LEX program. A list showing the various programs funded from the \$1M which highlights the impact of losing each program was provided to members, as staff recognize that the ultimate decision must be made by the Commission itself.

Sheriff Bradshaw inquired about the \$35,000 indicated for the Receptionist position at Drug Court, to which Mr. Rodriguez explained it is designated for treatment funding, not the receptionist. At this point Sheriff Bradshaw committed to undertake its expenses totaling \$60,000 for the PBSO Violence Against Women program.

Mr. Rodriguez outlined the programs currently funded from the \$2M the amount budgeted for each program among other details.

Chair Barr brought attention to a letter in the agenda from County Administrator, Robert Weisman to the BCC with additional recommendations for budget cutting. This includes the \$2m earmarked for the Youth Violence Prevention – Youth Empowerment Center project.

Mr. Bonvento, Assistant County Administrator added that the County is currently looking at allocations for next fiscal year and that unspent funds will be carried over to the county's carry over general funds. In relation to the letter from Mr. Weisman, he explained the process to be used by the BCC for cutting the budget.

Mr. Krischer commented that LEX is the only program that goes to the heart of what CJC is all about, noting that the CJC should be getting groups of law enforcement talking to each other for a better law enforcement, which is what the LEX program does. He further pointed out that over the years, there has been an attempt to accomplish effective law enforcement through social programs, which he said is right when money is available, but when there is no money and cuts are necessary, the core law enforcement resources need to be in place especially in difficult times. He said Palm Beach County has been ahead on this and that Broward and Dade counties are now looking at Palm Beach County's program as a model. He therefore thinks this is not the program to be eliminated.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout remarked that her understanding was that the LEX program was a project that CJC started but would not continue to fund.

Chair Barr confirmed that it was a project CJC got involved with several years ago, but that it has taken longer than anticipated, and that it should get to a conclusion when the program is available throughout the county.

Chief Bush commented that she has been chairing the funding committee for LEX and that they have had discussions over the past week. She requested the commission's approval for Chief Kitzerow to make a presentation on the program.

Chief Frank Kitzerow provided an overview of the LEX program, noting that it is a data sharing initiative and is described by many as the most effective cooperative law enforcement initiative ever undertaken in Palm Beach County. He said that all law enforcement agencies are now communicating with each other to solve crimes, coordinate investigations among other things. He also stated that it is far ahead of similar initiatives throughout the United States at a fraction of what most of these projects cost. He concurred with State Attorney Krisher that Palm Beach County is setting the standard and that many other regions are attempting to accomplish this but are unable to do so.

He pointed out that the project is not only important for the county, but that it is a Presidential mandate that law enforcement accomplish this mission throughout the country. He said that while we talk about the budget, we should look at the business value of the project, which he then outlined, stating that they compare with the CJC's objective. He also explained the wealth of information that is accessible to law enforcement agencies from their desktops,

noting the value of the coordination. He stressed the benefits to citizens of the county through the CJC's efforts in making LEX a valuable tool to the law enforcement community. He brought attention to the law enforcement professionals who attended the meeting in support of the project because they believe in and support it.

He asked for the CJC's continued support, stating that LEX is on the cusp of great success and is within a year of reaching beyond the initial objectives of the program. He said that while the budget is important, the program is a partnership and he urge the CJC's endorsement in this partnership and for financial support. He concluded that Palm Beach County is being viewed as a potential model for the region, and is well positioned to integrate into statewide efforts.

Mr. Randolph Johnson remarked that the LEX program seemed too important to have made that much investment and now eliminate it. He suggested reducing funding to a multiple of programs instead of eliminating any one program.

Chair Barr inquired about the vacant position at the Community Justice Service Center (CJSC).

Mr. Bonvento added that in the review process, the County Administrator specifically targeted vacant positions as far as budget cuts, and has so far eliminated over 300 of those positions.

Mr. Johnston observed that while attending a meeting at the CJSC, he spoke with Ms. Edith Bush, and concurred with Mr. Rodriguez that the Center needs a coordinator.

Sheriff Bradshaw inquired about using his resources to coordinate West Palm Beach CJSC as is now done for Westgate CJSC.

After further discussion on the coordinator's position, Chief Bush committed to using funds from forfeiture assets to fund the position for one year.

Public Defender Haughwout added that her office will no longer be able to staff the CJSC very soon, and that the same would be for the State Attorney's office, as he will no longer be in a position to provide a lawyer to the Center at the end of the year.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that if the coordinator's position is eliminated, it could not be reinstated.

Members unanimously approved the elimination of the coordinator's position at CJSC, representing over \$90,000 of the \$150,000 as well as \$60,000 assumed by PBSO for funding the Violence Against Women program after motion by Mr. Krischer and second by Mr. Elmore.

Under Old Business Roman Numeral IX A, Chair Barr recapped the discussion at the last meeting regarding the Belle Glade's inability to get the youth empowerment started.

Ms. Oakes noted in her update that since the CJC's last meeting, the center again had another false start. She stated that, following directions given by members at the last CJC meeting to meet with the county's legal department and explore sending a letter of termination which is required for the interlocal agreement with the City of Belle Glade, the meeting was held. A termination letter was subsequently sent to the mayor of Belle Glade, issuing a 30 day period to cure and a 60 day notice of termination. Since then, the city and CJC have had several meetings to arrive at an agreement for establishing the youth empowerment center in Belle Glade. A possible location was identified but again fell through, and CJC has not been able to reach an agreement with Clear Options, the City's identified potential service provider.

Hence, after 30 days of negotiation there is no agreement despite several suggestions and alternatives. Given the deadline and the need to identify an entity that will implement the program with fidelity, coupled with the financial implications and sustainability of the center, Ms. Oakes said that it is the staff's recommendation to move forward with the termination and work with the Sheriff's office as the primary agency as well as other community providers.

Chair Barr noted that after the last meeting, he asked Ms. Cheives to participate in some of the discussions given the critical timing.

Ms. Cheives reported that she has been involved in the meetings along with Ms. Oakes and remarked that from the meetings with the city commission, the city is passionate about taking the center and running it like the others have. She noted that following FSU's presentation to the BCC, Commissioner Santamaria visited Belle Glade, and that it was the first time that Belle Glade's sitting commission realized the time constraints at hand. She pointed out that the Clear Options as the choice for the service provider would not work and that she told the city commission that she would try to convince the CJC members to allow the city to run their center if a site was identified. She thanked the Sheriff and the Boys and Girls Club for agreeing to be the fiscal agents to take the project on and get it going.

Mr. Johnston questioned whether the CJC was at risk of losing the money from the BCC and if a time factor exists.

Sheriff Bradshaw commented that he volunteered to take the project on because it seemed that the CJC was at the point of losing the money. He further stated that if the city makes the commitment and identifies the location, he would be happy to provide the support needed to make it happen.

City Attorney, Glen Torcivia apologized on behalf of the city commission, noting that they were kept in the dark on the project by the city administration, but pointed out that Belle Glade is the most needed city, and thanked the CJC for the opportunity. He said that the service provider should not be an outside vendor, but rather someone in the community who is familiar with the community. He noted that Mr. Camel would be a good choice to lead the program with his experience as the Weed and Seed Coordinator. He presented a site which is owned by the city that would be convenient for the youth empowerment center, and said that the city is ready and willing to work with the Sheriff and other agencies to get the project going. He requested that the letter be rescinded and the city be authorized to move forward. He said that the mayor and vice mayor are very passionate about the project and has committed their support.

Ms. Mary Kendall, Vice Mayor of the City of Belle Glade thanked the CJC for the opportunity and for the hard work in getting the project to the city. She reiterated that the city wants to be the lead agency on the project and that they will make it work if given the resources.

Mr. Davis invited the mayor and vice mayor to visit one of the youth empowerment centers and see what exist there.

Mr. Johnston asked how much time would be needed to get the project going if the letter is rescinded.

Mayor Wilson said that it would be a matter of executing the agreement with the county and that the city would act immediately.

Mr. Torcivia added that Mr. Camel is already on board and is ready to start working now. He said that a request for proposal is already out for providers and a teen council meeting is scheduled to review the proposals and the youth will recommend the providers. A Memorandum of Understanding is also in place for the Sheriff and other providers, so they are ready to get the modular hooked up as soon as it is transported to the site.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that he met with the mayor over a week ago and that he has no doubt about their sincerity and passion to get the project but questioned the city's ability to sustain the project if the CJC moves ahead and establishes the center on the city's site and the BCC cease funding after next fiscal year.

Mr. Torcivia remarked that this was discussed with Ms. Wolf and that she as the custodian of the asset, needs to ensure that the asset must be used for the purpose for which it is intended, and that she will include language in the contract to protect the county's assets. He expressed his confidence in the agencies involved that the resources would be pooled together to make the project sustainable once it is viable and operating.

Ms. Cheives commented that during her and Mr. Barr's meeting with the county commissioners, they all share the same concern that the idea is great but that they are hoping it will not be reflected in the Sheriff's budget in the next two years. Also, she stated that she would like to have the city's commitment that in six months it won't be handed over to the Sheriff' office because of lack of sustainability.

Mr. Bonvento commented that his personal opinion is that the BCC will not eliminate the CJC's third year \$2M allocation that is on the list for board direction. As far as outgoing years, the budget projection is between \$50M and \$70M shortfall for the following year, and he is therefore not sure that the youth empowerment centers will be recommended for continuing funding, hence the \$2M may not be available in two years.

Mayor Wilson added that if the project starts in a couple months and proves successful, he does not think any of the CJC members would refuse to support it. He said while everything is based on funding, if Belle Glade is unable to provide funding and the project is working he doesn't see why it wouldn't be supported. He further noted that they are unable to project what will happen in the next two years and that Belle Glade will not commit that they will have the money in the next two years, but they will commit to providing the service and the human element.

Mr. Randy Johnson asked about the timing and where the CJC was at this time as far as the moving of the modular is concerned.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that arrangements are being made for moving the modular which may be moved to a temporary location until the permanent site is ready.

Mr. Davis thanked the mayor for attending and for his direct involvement with the project to make it happen. He also pointed out that FSU wants to take the project state and nationwide as a model.

Sheriff Bradshaw moved the motion for the establishing of the youth empowerment center in Belle Glade as well as rescinding the termination letter. Motion seconded by Mr. Duncan and unanimously approved by members.

Due to time constraints, no further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 a.m.