

Criminal Justice Citizen's Advisory Committee- CJCAC

October 20, 2010

MINUTES**ATTENDANCE**

Name	Position	Present
Mr. Alan Adler	District 1	YES
James Calvin Henry	District 2	NO
Mr. Dennis T. Brown	District 3	YES
Vacant	District 4	NO
Vacant	District 5	NO
Mr. Tom Bowers	District 6	NO
Mr. Anthony G. Scheer	Bar Association	NO
Ray Wilson	Charlotte- Mecklenburg Schools	NO
Ms. Jerry Mudge	Faith Community	NO
Ms. Carolyn Green Logan	Law Enforcement	YES
Mr. Mark T. Sumwalt	CJCAC Chairman	YES
Ms. Myra Byarm	Rehabilitation	YES
Ms. Karen L. Worrell	Substance Abuse Professional	NO
Michelle Lancaster	Mecklenburg County General Manager	NO
Janet Payne	Staff: Assistant to the County Manager	NO
Tom Eberly	Staff: Court Services - County Manager's Office	YES
Jamie Privuznak	Staff: Court Services - County Manager's Office	YES

HANDOUTS

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes from August

DRAFT Findings of CJCAC Report; and
2010 CJCAC Survey**Proposed Meeting Objectives:**

- Approve Meeting Minutes from September;
- Update Criminal Justice Status Report;
- Receive report on District Attorney debate;
- Review survey results; and
- Year II Transition Planning.

Meeting began at 5:30 PM.**Welcome**Mark Sumwalt
CJCAC Chair

Mark Sumwalt called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Group

The group did not have a quorum present at the October meeting to vote for and approve the meeting minutes from the September 2010 meeting.

Follow up Item: Approve September 2010 meeting minutes at the November 2010 meeting. The group did not have a quorum present at its October meeting to vote for and approve the meeting minutes from its September 2010 meeting.

Discussion Concerning Committee Attendance

Mark Sumwalt
CJAC Chair

Mark Sumwalt began the meeting with a discussion of attrition in the group and revisited the mandatory attendance policy. It was brought to the attention of the group that several committee members would have to be replaced due to attendance issues. The group ~~discussed agreed to move forward with~~ removing J.C. Henry, District 2, and Ray Wilson, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, which will result in leaving. ~~As a result, there are currently~~ 4 CJAC vacancies.

Continued Discussion on Report to Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

Group

The group was unable to meet via teleconference to complete the recommendations to the BOCC prior to this meeting; therefore, the group continued to discuss the following:

#3 - Inconsistencies in Crime Reporting

Although we have three recommendations for finding #3, the group continued to discuss the level of information given to the public and who makes that decision. Do we have a recommendation as to who makes the decision on what information is disseminated?

The County Manager's Office will standardize the reporting of crime statistics for public knowledge data to accurately measure crime trends throughout the criminal justice systemas it is made to the public.

- Procedure and protocol for the dissemination of information to the public
- Reporting of crime statistics for public knowledge

#4 - Greater Cooperation Between Agencies DA/Police

There was a discussion on a broad category of law enforcement agencies or specifically the police departments involved or under the jurisdiction of the BOCC. The group decided to be specific and point out the differences between the various police departments and the DA's office.

City and County Law Enforcement Agencies

There is a clear distinction in the roles of the police departments (i.e. arrests) and the district attorney's office (i.e. convictions); however, there needs to be greater (improved) cooperation between the various police departments in Mecklenburg County and the District Attorney's Office. This difference leads to dismissals, inefficient use of time and resources, and delays in case processing. The Task Force previously identified this as its second most important priority.

- Create a series of verbal agreements/(MOU's) memorandum(s) of understanding that defines the protocol to improve efficiency from arrest to adjudication.
- Develop an effective mechanism for the resolution of disputes between the police departments and the district attorney's office.
- Improved use of judge's time, docket scheduling and use of courtroom facilities.

#5 - Failure to Follow Up on Property Crimes

There is a disconnect between the reasonable expectations of the public and the practicalities of law enforcement to properly investigate property crimes. One of the biggest complaints of the public appears to be the failure of our various police departments to follow up on property crimes. There is a public perception of a lack of consistency from district to district in which property crimes receive face to face contact. While resources may limit the steps that can be taken by our respective police departments, there remains an appearance of indifference which undermines the public's confidence.

- Establish or Re-evaluate a policy to the extent practical requiring face-to-face investigation of property crimes
- Communicate clearly the policy regarding property crime to the public
- Analyze by district face to face contact versus telephone contact for individuals reporting property crimes. Evaluate discrepancies between contact methods
- Utilize Reserves, Citizens on Patrol, and others available as alternative resources to perform face-to-face investigations of property crime.

Revisions and edits to findings to be compiled and the edited version will be sent out for review. One person from the CJCAC will attend the BOCC meeting and Tom Eberly will speak on behalf of the committee.

Action Item: Revisions and edits to recommendations to be completed for group review. Someone from CJCAC (1 person) to attend the BOCC meeting with Tom Eberly who will speak on behalf of the committee.

Discussion of Additional Finding

Group

Remote Magistrate Capability – the group discussed whether to make this an additional finding which would include video conferencing for domestic violence orders and possibly for crimes not requiring a secured bond. It was decided that more information would be needed in order to make this recommendation and the group would revisit this item at the November meeting.

Follow up Item: Revisit remote magistrate capability at the November 2010 meeting.

District Attorney Candidate Debate

Carolyn Logan
CJCAC Law Enforcement Representative

Carolyn Logan, CJCAC Law Enforcement representative discussed her service on the panel during the debate between the two candidates for district attorney on October 14, 2010. She noted the following topics of discussion during the debate:

- The candidates expressed a desire to form outside committees to work with the public.
- The candidates expressed a desire to work with agencies closer.
- The candidates noted the large number of outstanding cases.
- The candidates stated the importance of upholding the law while disposing of outstanding cases.
- Public curiosity of the CJCAC.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15pm

Recap of Follow- up Items:

Follow up Item: Approve September 2010 meeting minutes at the November 2010 meeting. The group did not have a quorum present at its October meeting to vote for and approve the meeting minutes from its September 2010 meeting.

Follow up Item: Revisit remote magistrate capability at next meeting.

Recap of Actions Taken:

Action Item: Revisions and edits to recommendations to be completed for group review. Someone from CJCAC to attend the BOCC meeting with Tom Eberly who will speak on behalf of the committee.

