

Criminal Justice Citizen's Advisory Committee- CJCAC

January 19, 2011

MINUTES**ATTENDANCE**

Name	Position	Present
Mr. Alan Adler	District 1	YES
Mr. James Calvin Henry	District 2	YES
Mr. Dennis T. Brown	District 3	YES
Ms. Rene Barfield	District 4	NO
Mr. Sean Mulhall	District 5	YES
Mr. Tom Bowers	District 6	YES
Mr. Anthony G. Scheer	Bar Association	YES
Vacant	Charlotte- Mecklenburg Schools	NO
Vacant	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 December

2011 CJCAC Meeting Calendar

Annual Report to the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners 12_2010

Proposed Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from December;
- Update Annual Report and
- Priority Setting for Year II.

Meeting began at 5:30 PM.**Welcome and Introduction**

Mark Sumwalt
CJCAC Chair

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

Discussion of the Annual Report to the Mecklenburg County Commissioners

Group

Finding #3 - Inconsistencies in Crime Reporting

The meeting began with a discussion of the recommendations for Finding #3.

The group discussed the need for more adequate communication to the public regarding crime statistics and any changes regarding the method in which those statistics are calculated and reported. The group agreed to attempt to streamline the recommendation and decided on the following change:

- Communicate and educate the public as to the overall objectivity of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) crime data being collected and reported to build public confidence in reporting crime.
- To publish state and federal audit results of the reported crime statistics.

Finding #5 - Failure to Follow Up on Property Crime

The group discussed removing this recommendation and agreed to leave in both the findings and recommendations and decided on the following change:

To address the current public perception of inconsistencies in the investigating property crimes, more needs to be done to educate the public regarding the current or revised policies of the various police departments concerning the handling of property crimes.

- Communicate clearly the current policy to the public
- Utilize reserves, citizens on patrol and others available as alternative resources to perform face-to-face investigations of property crime complaints.
- Encourage feedback from the community to evaluate and improve the service provided (i.e. automated telephone survey.)

Finding #4 - Greater Cooperation between DA/Police

The group discussed the impact of the new District Attorney and the current public understanding of the criminal justice process (i.e., the difference between reasonable doubt/burden of proof). There was a discussion about the differences in how the DA operates under more stringent standards than law enforcement in that the bar of the standard of arrest is lower than the standard of conviction. The group decided that there should be a more specific distinction between the two in the findings, and point out to the public that the roles and standards of the respective departments. The following change was made:

There is a clear distinction between the roles of the various police departments in the county and the DA's Office. While police departments arrest based on probable cause, the DA's office prosecutes based on reasonable probability of conviction (i.e., beyond a reasonable doubt). This natural distinction can be managed to improve communication and cooperation among the agencies, which

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will lead to more efficient use of time and resources, and timely case processing. The Task Force previously identified this as its second most important priority, but it appears that more can be done to improve cooperation and align priorities.

- Continue to improve the communication and cooperation between the DA and law enforcement.
- Create a series of MOUs that define protocol to improve efficiency from arrest to adjudication.
- Develop an effective resolution mechanism for disputes between various police departments and the DA's office.
- Improve the use of judge's time, docket scheduling, and courtroom facilities.

Follow up Item: Review report for changes and advise any recommendations to Mark Sumwalt for final submission.

CJLEADS

Tom Eberly
County Manager's Office

CJLEADS will be a new resource which will provide a comprehensive view of an offender through a single application allowing for positive identification of an offender through a photographic database that captures all information about an offender, criminal charges, history, DMV information, DMV information, including a diagram that sees 1980-2011 where they have been (i.e. probation 2006, parole, 2007-2008, etc.) Mecklenburg County will be one of the first counties that will have access beginning Feb 2011.

Cjleads.nc.gov

Approve Meeting Minutes

Group

A motion was placed on the floor to approve the meeting minutes by Alan Alder, seconded by Carolyn Green Logan. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20pm

Recap of Follow- up Items:

Review report for changes and advise any recommendations to Mark Sumwalt for final submission.