

Criminal Justice Citizen's Advisory Committee- CJCAC

April 20, 2011

MINUTES**ATTENDANCE**

Name	Position	Present
Mr. Alan Adler	District 1	YES
Mr. James Calvin Henry	District 2	NO
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	YES
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 April and

Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Boards and Committees Handout

Proposed Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from April;
- Membership SubCommittee Update and
- Year II Priorities.

Meeting began at 5:40 PM.**Welcome and Introduction**

Mark Sumwalt
CJCAC Chair

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

Update

**Tom Eberly
County Manager's Office**

1. Tom Eberly provided an update on the possible closure of the Sheriff's Office Annex, a recommendation for next fiscal year. The rationale for closing the facility is due to the decrease in the jail population, a local and national trend. The Sheriff recommends a new use for the space as the temporary Arrest Processing location until current renovations are complete. Arrestees will be taken to the Annex for arrest processing during the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

2. Eberly relayed that Charlotte was selected by the federal government to participate in the Justice Reinvestment Program. He explained the purpose of the program and described the stakeholders involved.

3. CJAG has decided to implement the recommendation from the CJAC to try to improve the information that the community has regarding how arrests are recorded through UCR. They propose to create a website that the community can access that will have links to different information sources to be used as an educational tool that will explain how crime statistics are gathered and recorded, and to report county numbers vs. individual agencies.

4. Justice and Public Safety proposed budget, which is the state's budget to the Criminal Justice System. The proposed reductions include the:

- Elimination of D.A Victims witness advocates
- Elimination of trial court administrator position
- Elimination of Sentencing Services
- Stop misdemeanor offenders from serving time at the DOC
- No funding for technological advances

The group discussed the importance of the Trial Court Administrator position and the potentially devastating impact on Mecklenburg County if this position is eliminated. Members made the following suggestions to express their concerns to the BOCC:

- Add the budget cuts as an agenda item, draft letter to voice concerns to County Commission, copying the bar association. Also possibly submit this letter to the Charlotte Observer.
- Make direct contact by chair as voice of the committee to Taylor Batton and the chair of the criminal justice committee. CJCAC standpoint is someone weighing in on this in the observer
- Be familiar with the cuts in order to make an educated decision when the question comes back to us: What would be our suggestion to cut? Should we understand the County's budget in order to make decisions?

A motion was placed on the floor by Alan Alder to express the CJCAC's concern to BOCC Criminal Justice subcommittee on the TCA position elimination and inform the commissioners that this is an important position, encouraging them to fight against this elimination, to voice this concern to the appropriate authorities, and encourage the BOC to fund this position if it is eliminated by the state. The motion was approved by consensus.

Membership Subcommittee Update

Tom Eberly
County Manager's Office

Tom Eberly updated the group on the teleconference held to discuss potential membership expansion. There was a discussion about the creation of sub-committees to take on some of the CJCAC issues. He noted that BOCC generally do not favor expanding boards and the difficulty in getting people to serve. Tom Eberly offered the following suggestions:

- Bring on people to serve on committees who don't have to be voting members,
- Hold open forum in various communities once or twice a year. in front of a group to garner feedback without raising the membership of the current committee.

Tom advised the committee to pick one or two hot topic issues that we feel passionate about, hold forums to garner information from others on how to address these issues. and develop a single cohesive report to take to the BOCC. He revisited the idea of the justice reinvestment and becoming involved active participants in this initiative.

Year II Priorities

Group

The group discussed the issues that were outlined in the last meeting and deemed to be important. These issues were determined as the following:

- Magistrates need supervision/use of guidelines
- Bond and pretrial release
- Violence in CMS/Increased police presence in schools
- Home Invasions
- Technology /Advocating for increase penalties for repeat offenders/DWLR and DWI – insufficient penalties for deterrence
- Victim Advocacy in the northern suburbs
- Substance Abuse
- Programs to reduce crime in youth in schools/young adults. Punishment/consequence earned mismatch
- Reentry/Restorative Justice
 - Pilot program supporting Restorative justice initiatives

- Property Crime/Police Involvement
- Overall crime situation in Charlotte
- DWLR/DWI
- Bond and release issues
- Reentry programs and reducing recidivism
- Early intervention programs at CMS
- Repeat chronic offenders DWI/DWLR

The group then narrowed down the list of potential priorities to 5 major categories:

1. Chronic DWI/DWLR
2. Magistrates/Bonds
3. CMS/Early Prevention
4. Home Invasion
5. Reentry Programs/Substance Abuse/Rehabilitation

Follow up Item: Each member to gather information on the priority that they suggested to bring back to the next meeting for discussion.

Follow up Item: Email list of priorities to the group and each person weigh in with reasons as to why they feel that this should be a priority.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Group

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25pm

Recap of Follow- up Items:

Follow up Item: Each member to gather information on the priority that they suggested to bring back to the next meeting for discussion.

Follow up Item: Email list of priorities to the group and each person weigh in with reasons as to why they feel that this should be a priority.

Recap of Action Items:

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