

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2021, 8-9:30 am

Location: Virtual Meeting in Microsoft Teams

Meeting Called By Jill Hermanutz

Facilitator Catherine Johnson

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Toddrick Barnette, Tim Busse, Matt Clark, Phillippe Cunningham, Irene Fernando, Steve Fletcher, Michael Freeman, Jacob Frey, Tamara Garcia, Juan Hoyos, David Hutchinson, Catherine Johnson, Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer, Jeff Lunde, Jason Nelson, Rolf Sponheim, Mark Thompson, Eric Werner, Leah Kaiser, Julie Mass-Kusske
Guest Presenters: Shane Zahn, DID Director & Inspector Billy Peterson, Minneapolis Police Department First Precinct; Caitlin Gokey and interim Police Chief Mike Hartley of Bloomington Police Department
Staff: Jill Hermanutz
Notes: Cherie Nelson

Agenda Topics

Introduction, updates & approval of meeting minutes

Lead: Chair Catherine Johnson

- Introductions & welcome new members

Catherine Johnson welcomed attendees and introductions were made. Jill reported on a meeting of the Steering Committee, noting that the logic framework had been finalized and to be posted on the website. She said the potential framework and concept for the Juvenile Assessment and Triage had been vetted through all areas of Public Safety and a Human Services limited duration intern position was being added to engage the youth voice and work with kids booked at the JDC on a voluntary basis to engage services at the pretrial level.

Mark Thompson shared that an environmental scan of gun violence was planned as well as an anti-hate initiative that LA County was working on brought up by Commissioner Lunde. Commissioner Lunde said he had been working with community groups on all aspects of hate: investigation, prosecution and what victims should do. There is not much confidence in the system from the community.

- Approval of March 2021 meeting minutes
Motion to approve the minutes from the March 2021 meeting was made and seconded. With no objections noted, the minutes were approved.
- Check CJCC website for agendas and minutes

Integration of Public Safety & Human Services: Add Human Services Behavioral Health Representative to CJCC

Lead: Chair Catherine Johnson

Catherine Johnson proposed an amendment to the bylaws to include the Chair of the Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Initiative, currently Leah Kaiser, Human Service Senior Department Administrator, as a member of the CJCC. A motion was made and seconded, and motion was passed unanimously.

Downtown Summer Public Safety Strategies

Lead: Shane Zahn, DID Director

Shane Zahn provided an update on Downtown Summer Public Safety Strategies, noting there were 50 ambassadors working seven days a week. This summer there would be an investment in safety strategies and social outreach with the addition of a Downtown Outreach Social Worker and livability outreach team with Custom Mobile Coordination Support Center. Real time transportation will be available to 1800 Chicago when needed. The social worker attends community and outreach meetings, and coordinates with the First Precinct.

Planning was continuing for joint beats with the Sheriff's Office providing four deputies and one supervisor and four to six officers from the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). The goal is to entice people back downtown. Efforts are planned to run through Labor Day, but there is a push to continue through Halloween as crime doesn't typically decrease until cold weather moves in. It was mentioned that MPD had lost 270 sworn personnel. Security cameras with mobile lights were a key component to enhance safety and investigations. Recent problems involving guns and hot rodders were outlined.

Discussion noted:

- The Youth Coordinating Board is a resource to fill a gap of needing safe places to go and fun things to do.
- Bar closing time is an issue.
- Curfews had been considered and were still an option available but would not be taken lightly.
- It was noted that twelve officers had been assaulted downtown in the previous week.

- These conversations also need to be discussed with North Minneapolis in mind; issues downtown sometimes stem from what is happening elsewhere in the city. There are also ripple effects from downtown to the University and elsewhere in the city.
- The need is for additional uniformed personnel; they are drastically understaffed Friday-Saturday. This is not just a problem for downtown.
- There needs to be a real conversation as the justice system continues to deal with the same people.
- Violent criminals with handguns need to be arrested. – this is the only immediate fix. Long-term can then address broader social issues.
- Downtown needs to be reanimated with more people drawn in.
- Minneapolis has requested additional mutual aid to deal with attrition and more funds were being made available for violence prevention and making certain hot spots were covered in a more significant way with OT and assistance from other jurisdictions.

Mark Thompson shared statistics and provided historical perspective on the creation of the CJCC. Mark reported on a reduce jail population, increased gunfire in Minneapolis among other increases in crime. Further, in comparing sworn officers, similarly sized Denver has 1500 sworn officers while, as was noted, Minneapolis has less than 600. Mark concluded that it was painfully obvious that defunding police and using social workers in hot zones for responses wouldn't work; unions would certainly oppose. Law enforcement pursuing the 21st Century Policing model would be more effective.

Promote innovative and effective response models: Joint Community Police Partnership Presentation

Leads: Caitlin Gokey, Bloomington JCCP liaison

Caitlin Gokey and interim Police Chief Mike Hartley provided an update on the Joint Community Police Partnership, which includes Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Hopkins and Richfield. She described the focus on enhancing trust between police and the community implemented at the local level. She outlined four primary components:

1. A community liaison leads engagement effort in partnership with the city, police, and community leaders.
2. A multicultural advisory committee (MAC) including individuals who live, work or worship in the community. These have been essential and committed to helping police navigate local crises. An example of this was the bombing at a local mosque.
3. Diversity recruitment including Pathways to Policing – benefits and financial scholarships awarded to those considering careers in law enforcement.
4. Training: This is provided at roll calls or via departmentwide training. Training is also provided in the communities, including for new immigrants who are not familiar with local policing practices.

The program started in 2012 in Bloomington and focused on community listening sessions, police / community training and MAC policy review. New opportunities since 2020 have brought a renewed focus on transparency. A partnership with the Center for Policing (CPE) has brought a better understanding of disparities, particularly around traffic stops. They have developed a

National Justice Database, which will provide 5 years of data including use of force, community crime data, policies, population, and demographics. The report will identify racial disparities and gaps in the department's ability to collect data. Then CPE socializes findings in the community. Finally, Bloomington launched a data dashboard this year. Chief Hartley said that he looked forward to continuing to use JCCP; in 2021 they had tried to look at how BPD does business and were committed to being transparent. They will review numbers and see where there can be improvements.

Chief Hartley and Caitlin offered assistance to other law enforcement agencies and provided contact information:

Caitlin.gokey@hennepin.us
mhartley@bloomingtonmn.gov
612-327-5309
952-563-8824

Commissioner Lunde spoke in support of the efforts, noting that Coffee with Cops at the Mall of America had been well received. Sheriff Hutchinson said he appreciated the services that were provided in Bloomington and offered the assistance of the Sheriff's Office if ever needed.

Commissioner Lunde spoke about the recent shootings, particularly where children have been victims, saying he felt that if these victims had been in Excelsior or Edina, there would be a much stronger reaction. He added that he felt that the CJCC should really be tackling this problem. He is hearing so much concern from the community on what is going on, with some communities listening to gunfire all night long while it doesn't seem as if anyone cares. He is being asked why these criminals are back on the street. They have multiple charges including gun use. He asked how many victims would it take?

Mark Thompson said that in 1995 when Minneapolis became known as Murderapolis, key criminal justice partners including the Chief Judge, Mayor, City Council President, and others met to brainstorm on what as a system could be done. He added that caseload was delayed with the pandemic, but the justice system was moving cases as fast as possible in the circumstance. The bottom line is that when justice is slow, this creates more crime. If people have not been arrested, they are committing more crimes.

Chief Martin said she appreciated Commissioner Lunde's comments. She said the immediate need for Inspector Peterson and downtown Minneapolis was more sworn officers. She noted that law enforcement are preparing to submit budgets to their respective boards and they all need more resources, meaning FTEs. But typically, they make the requests and do not receive the requested resources and even get budget cuts. She reminded that Chief Arradondo had requested 400 additional police officers and only received 12. She asked elected officials to please consider requests from law enforcement and then give public safety the resources they need so they can get this situation under control. Sheriff Hutchinson agreed with Chief Martin's comments and said that the public wants law enforcement to be better. He thanked the

Hennepin County Board for funding a training facility for the Sheriff's Office. He said he receives calls every day with concerns on safety and community members thinking of moving out to the suburbs. He said law enforcement cannot do their job without adequate staff and training.

Catherine Johnson concluded the meeting by asking that members send any future agenda items to her or Jill Hermanutz.

Check website for updates

Time 9:25 | Agenda topic *Adjournment*

- Next CJCC Meeting is July 22, 2021

Relevant Links or Resources

[Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Website](#)