

# Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021, 8-9:30 am

Location: Virtual Meeting in Microsoft Teams

Meeting Called By Jill Hermanutz

Facilitator Catherine Johnson

## Committee Members/Representatives Present

Tim Busse, Matt Clark, Irene Fernando, Steve Fletcher, Michael Freeman, Tamara Garcia, Juan Hoyos, David Hutchinson, Leah Kaiser, Sarah Lindahl-Pfieffer, Jeff Lunde, Jason Nelson, Jim Rowader, Rolf Sponheim and Eric Werner  
Staff: Jill Hermanutz  
Notes: Cherie Nelson

## Agenda Topics

### **Introduction, updates & approval of meeting minutes**

*Lead: Commissioner Irene Fernando*

- Introductions

Commissioner Fernando welcomed attendees, noting that Chair Catherine Johnson was unable to attend the meeting.

- Approval of July 2021 meeting minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the July 2021 meeting was made and seconded. With no objections noted, the minutes were approved.

- Call for agenda items -came from previous meetings and questions posed

Suggested topics for future meetings can be forwarded to Jill Hermanutz; Leah Kaiser offered to provide an update on the 911 Mental Health Task Force and there was interest expressed in obtaining data on the number of young people who were victims of gun violence.

- Check CJCC website for agendas and minutes

## **Presentation on Juvenile Auto Theft & Car Jacking**

*Lead: Mike Freeman, County Attorney & Tom Arneson, Juvenile Division Manager*

Mike Freeman and Tom Arneson provided a presentation on Juvenile Auto Theft & Carjacking noting:

- The philosophy of the County Attorney's Office was outlined:
  - Multiple opportunities are offered to non-violent offenders.
  - The County Attorney's Office works with family, schools, and community agencies to change behavior, with a focus on school attendance.
  - Efforts are made to avoid out-of-home placements and keeping our youth in the state and community.
  - Only the most serious crimes are charged / petitioned, with aggressive prosecution for crimes of extreme violence.
- Trends and statistics were reviewed for robbery, auto theft and carjacking.
  - There is a perception that juvenile crime is exploding in every category; clarified with data
  - Homicides have already matched last year's total which is the largest concern.
  - Carjackings, seizure of a vehicle from a person with actual physical violence or threats, has increased by 33%.

Questions specific to the presentation can be addressed to Mike Freeman / Tom Arneson and the presentation material would be shared.

## **Solutions Discussion on Presentation**

*Lead: Commissioner Fernando*

Commissioner Fernando guided discussion:

- Much of juvenile crime is related to gang activity and gang initiation, and gang activity is a root cause.
- Concern was expressed that auto theft becomes a platform to greater crimes and is a step in indoctrinating kids into the criminal world.
- There is too much risk involved in pursuit unless meets SHARK criteria.
- It is best when stopped for youth not to be returned to the street within an hour or two.
- The Courts had initiated a pilot to expedite cases.
- Meaningful consequences are needed as soon as possible.
- The opportunity for diversion and cross agency collaboration was suggested.
- The possibility that trends were the result of changes due to COVID restrictions was noted along with the possibility of return to previous patterns as restrictions loosen.
- Police chiefs are feeling caught in a difficult situation; pursuit policies have been adjusted to minimize danger to the public, but at the same time the police are under pressure to do more to stop auto theft and robberies.
- It was agreed that a separate meeting would be convened for those interested in further discussion on these topics.

## **Presentation on Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach**

*Lead: LT. Willis Jacox, Deputy Joel Svenby and Abdi Mohamed*

Deputy Svenby and Abdi Mohamed provided a presentation on the Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Division and efforts of the Community Engagement Team, noting the following:

- The division started in 2011 with a goal of building community partnerships and securing trusting relationships.
- With a population of 1.3 million, Hennepin County has more than 450,000 residents who speak a second language.
- Messaging and communications include social media using targeted world languages (Somali, Spanish, Hmong) using email newsletters, pamphlets, and informational videos.
- COVID has reduced the opportunity for in person contacts, but behind the scenes efforts continue with support to multiple food shelves and distribution of school supplies, face masks and hand sanitizers among multiple.
- Public meetings with the community have been hosted to provide education about the criminal justice system and assist new Americans with cultural integration. One-day Citizen Academies are offered.
- Overviews of the Sheriff's Office provided to high schools and (safety) swimming classes offered have been very popular.
- CET provides support for community events, including the State Fair, National Night Out, city parades and other celebrations.
- It is felt that 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing is working with community policing and involvement.
- The Sheriff's Office has hosted international delegations with more than 30 countries participating in a two-way exchange of cultural information.

Commissioner Fernando concluded the meeting by asking that members send any future agenda items to Jill Hermanutz and those interested in participating in the continued conversation regarding juvenile crime contact Jill Hermanutz to be included.

Declare adjourned 9:30

*Time 9:30 | Agenda topic Adjournment*

- Next CJCC Meeting is November 18, 2021

## Relevant Links or Resources

[Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Website](#)