

COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2010 MEETING

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 739
Los Angeles, California 90012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Acting Chair: Steve Cooley, District Attorney

Cynthia Banks, Director, County Department of Community & Senior Services

Andre Birotte, U.S. Attorney

Peter Espinoza, Supervising Judge, Superior Court

Lois Gaston, California Contract Cities Association

Gigi Gordon, Directing Attorney, Post Conviction Assistance Center

Anthony Hernandez, Director, County Department of Coroner

Michael Judge, County Public Defender

Al Leiga, Chair, County Quality & Productivity Commission

Andrea Ordin, County Counsel

Scott Pickwith, President, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association

Calvin Remington, County Acting Chief Probation Officer

Richard Sanchez, County Chief Information Officer

Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, County Coroner – Medical Examiner

Greg Savelli, President, South Bay Police Chiefs Association

Patricia Schnegg, Assistant Supervising Judge, Superior Court

Michael Tynan, Judge, Superior Court

Mike Webb, County Prosecutors Association

ALTERNATES

*Damon Alexander for John Torres, Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

*Francesca Anello for Marvin Southard, Director, County Department of Mental Health

*Richard Barrantes for Lee Baca, Sheriff and Vice Chair of CCJCC

Bruce Brodie for Janice Fukai, County Alternate Public Defender

Susan Cichy for John Clarke, Superior Court Executive Officer

Xiomara Flores-Holguin for Trish Ploehn, Director, County Department of Children and Family Services

Pamela Hamanaka for Edmund Brown, California Attorney General

*Mary McElderry for Tim Landrum, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

William Montgomery for Tom Tindall, Director, County Internal Services Department

Michel Moore for Charles Beck, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

Steven Olivas for Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Earl Perkins for Ramon Cortines, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District

Robert Philibosian for Isaac Barcelona, Chair, County Economy and Efficiency Commission

Vicky Santana for Gloria Molina, County Supervisor for the First District and Chair of the County Board of Supervisors
John Viernes for Jonathan Fielding, Director, County Public Health Department
Jacqueline White for William Fujioka, County Chief Executive Officer

***Not a designated alternate**

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT OR REPRESENTED

Mark Arnold, Judge, Superior Court
Michelle Carey, Chief U.S. Probation Officer
Lili Hadsell, President, San Gabriel Valley Police Chiefs Association
Gabriella Holt, County Probation Commission
Sean Kennedy, Federal Public Defender
Richard Kirschner, Judge, Superior Court
Steve Lieberman, Acting Chief, County Office of Public Safety
Steven Martinez, Assistant Director in Charge, Los Angeles Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Charles McCoy, Presiding Judge, Superior Court
Michael Nash, Supervising Judge, Juvenile Court
Ezekiel Perlo, Directing Attorney, Indigent Criminal Defense Appointments Program
Richard Propster, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County
Darline Robles, Superintendent, County Office of Education
Miguel Santana, Los Angeles City Chief Administrative Officer
Stephanie Sautner, Judge, Superior Court
Greig Smith, Los Angeles City Council, 12th District
Thomas Sonoff, President, Southeast Police Chiefs Association
Warren Stanley, Southern Division Commander, California Highway Patrol
Dennis Tafoya, County Affirmative Action Compliance Officer
Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Human Relations Commission
Adam Torres, United States Marshal
Carmen Trutanich, Los Angeles City Attorney
Frank Venti, President, Independent Cities Association
Larry Waldie, Undersheriff
Mitch Ward, League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division

CCJCC STAFF

Mark Delgado, Executive Director
Kenna Ackley
Cynthia Machen
Craig Marin

GUESTS/OTHERS

Felix Basadre, Information Systems Advisory Body
Gerard Dauphinais, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
Victoria Evers, County CEO
Richard Fajardo, Second District, County Board of Supervisors
Ali Farahani, Information Systems Advisory Body

Anselmo Gonzalez, Sheriff's Department
Devallis Rutledge, District Attorney's Office
Karen Tamis, Vera Institute of Justice
Cheri Thomas, LAUSD
Jaclyn Tilley Hill, County Quality and Productivity Commission
Dominic Valencia, Sheriff's Department
Philip Ybarra, LAPD
Alex Yim, Sheriff's Department

I. CONVENE/INTRODUCTIONS

Steve Cooley, District Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley, Acting Chair for this meeting.

Self-introductions followed.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Steve Cooley, District Attorney

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting was seconded and approved without objection.

III. TASKFORCE FOR REGIONAL AUTO-THEFT PREVENTION (TRAP)

Captain Anselmo Gonzalez, Sheriff's Department

Captain Anselmo Gonzalez of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department appeared before CCJCC to present the Taskforce for Regional Auto-theft Prevention (TRAP) semi-annual progress report.

The mission of TRAP is to reduce the number of auto thefts, increase the recovery rate of stolen automobiles, identify trends and patterns of vehicle theft, provide training and expertise to participating law enforcement agencies, and coordinate a deterrence program with the private sector. TRAP is funded by a \$1 fee on all registered personal vehicles and \$2 on all registered commercial vehicles in Los Angeles County.

TRAP consists of representatives from various law enforcement agencies throughout the county. Partnerships have also been formed with other government and private organizations.

Since the last TRAP presentation to CCJCC in June of 2009, a bill to extend TRAP funding until January 1, 2018 was passed and signed into law.

There has been a continued decline in the number of investigators assigned to TRAP. The funding for TRAP is based on a fixed fee per vehicle registration, but the costs in terms of fuel, vehicles, vehicle maintenance, salary, and employee benefits have increased over time. Therefore, TRAP is not able to maintain the same staffing levels as in the past. This trend is expected to continue; while there were 50 investigators assigned to TRAP in 2006, there will be less than 20 by 2018.

On average, TRAP is responsible for about 500 arrests and 1,300 vehicle recoveries per year. The total value of the recovered vehicles averages about \$22 million per year.

Since the inception of TRAP in 1993, the program has been responsible for 8,475 arrests and 22,128 vehicles recovered. The total value of the recoveries is \$377 million.

TRAP is participating in reality television show entitled "Bait Car" that airs on TruTV and is beginning its second season. This show depicts individuals being arrested when they attempt to steal bait cars and is intended to serve as a warning to potential car thieves.

Three recent cases were discussed. In one case, a "chop shop" was uncovered through a Vehicle Code (V.C.) 2085 inspection¹. Evidence of 50 stolen vehicles was uncovered, as well as \$2.5 million worth of car parts.

A second case that was discussed involves the single largest "chop shop" that TRAP has uncovered. The location was discovered as a result of a LoJack hit on a stolen vehicle. A total of 16 stolen vehicles have been recovered along with a large amount of car parts.

A third case that was discussed is the largest case that TRAP has had. The second phase of this investigation has been ongoing for the past year. Thus far, five suspects have been arrested and 94 charges are pending. This case involved the theft of vehicles by conning individuals into purchasing them on the belief that they would be leased out to others. The buyers were led to believe that they would make a profit by leasing the cars at a monthly rate higher than their monthly payments. However, the thieves store the vehicles from the buyers instead.

Captain Gonzalez showed a clip from the Bait Car television show. TRAP participated in 20 episodes in the first season, and filming for the second season has begun. During the first season of the show, TRAP arrested 120 individuals.

ACTION: For information only.

¹ V.C. 2805 allows full-time auto theft investigators to inspect auto dismantling yards, repair and body shops, and other auto dealerships to determine if they are illegally chopping vehicles or are otherwise involved in fraud.

IV. INFORMATION SYSTEMS ADVISORY BODY (ISAB)

Michael Judge, Public Defender and Chair of ISAB

Michael Judge, County Public Defender and Chair of the Information Systems Advisory Body (ISAB), addressed CCJCC on the issue of selecting his successor as the Chair of ISAB.

Mr. Judge officially retired at the end of March of this year. However, he is continuing to serve as the County Public Defender until his replacement is appointed.

Mr. Judge has served as the chair of ISAB for several years. At the April 7th ISAB meeting, the members of ISAB unanimously voted to recommend Sheriff Lee Baca as the new Chair of ISAB. Sheriff Baca has agreed to serve in this capacity.

Per ISAB's charter, CCJCC must approve the ISAB recommendation for this to become official. Upon CCJCC's approval, this appointment is effective immediately.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation that Sheriff Lee Baca serve as the new chair of ISAB.

ACTION: The motion to approve the recommendation that Sheriff Lee Baca serve as the new chair of ISAB was seconded and approved without objection.

Mr. Cooley thanked Mr. Judge for his many years of service as the ISAB chairperson.

V. COUNTY JAIL RELEASE POLICY

Chief Alex Yim, Sheriff's Department

Chief Alex Yim of the Sheriff's Department appeared before CCJCC to provide an update on the jail release policy in the county.

As background, there are eight facilities in the county jail system and one of these houses federal detainees for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The remaining seven jails have a capacity of 22,500 beds.

The current jail population in the county is 17,033; this was down to 16,481 in March. Chief Yim noted that of the 22,500 beds, nearly 4,000 are unavailable due to various issues such a multitude of classification levels, special handling, maintenance issues, and a jail closure.

The current release percentage is 50%. That is, on average, inmates are serving 50% of their sentence before being released from the county jail system. This had reached 80% in February of this year, but the number has since declined to 50% due to a loss of jail beds.

Since the 50% policy was implemented on February 26th of this year, the Sheriff's Department has released 1,750 inmates.

Chief Yim emphasized that 50% is an average. Those inmates convicted of more serious crimes are serving 80% to 100% of their sentenced time.

The Sheriff's Department has been collaborating with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in terms of technology and the sharing of information. The state has also provided buses that assist in the transfer of inmates. This cooperation has reduced the overall state inmate population in the county jail system. As an example, there were 4,000 state inmates in the county jail system in April 2009, but this has since been reduced to just over 1,000 today.

There has been a recent trend of fewer bookings, which indicates a decrease in crime. In 2009, there were 27,000 fewer bookings than in 2008. (On an annual basis, there are typically 170,000 to 180,000 bookings in the county.) The decrease in bookings has continued in the first quarter of 2010.

Robert Philibosian of the County Economy and Efficiency Commission asked what percentage of county jail inmates are illegal immigrants. Chief Yim stated that approximately 13% to 17% of the inmates are illegal immigrants. He also noted that the Sheriff's Department 287(g) program, which has been active for over four years, has resulted in the detection of numerous criminal alien inmates through an interview process. In addition, ICE has two agents and a supervisor currently assigned to the Inmate Reception Center (IRC).

Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, County Coroner – Medical Examiner, asked how much it cost to house an inmate in the county jail system. Chief Yim stated that the average cost is \$100 per day for males and \$122 per day for females. However, this does not include medical costs. Inmates that require medical services can average \$1,000 per day.

ACTION: For information only.

VI. CRIMINAL JUSTICE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASK FORCE

Supervising Judge Peter Espinoza, Criminal Division, Superior Court

Judge Peter Espinoza, Supervising Judge of the Superior Court's Criminal Division, appeared before CCJCC to discuss reconvening the Criminal Justice Emergency Response Task Force.

A Criminal Justice Emergency Response Plan was developed following the 1992 riots to establish protocols for ensuring the orderly and timely processing of criminal defendants following an emergency. The plan was developed by the CCJCC Criminal Justice Emergency Response Task Force, which is chaired by the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court or his/her designee.

The plan was periodically updated following its drafting, but it has not been reviewed in many years. Therefore, the task force will be reconvened in order to determine what aspects of the plan, if any, require updating.

Judge Espinoza emphasized that the goal of the plan is not to supersede the respective emergency response plans of any agencies, nor is it intended to serve as a first responder effort. Instead, the plan is intended to facilitate effective interagency communication and coordination to address issues (i.e., mass arrests/bookings, statutory deadlines, unavailability of courthouses, etc.) that may arise during a civil disturbance, natural disaster, or other emergency situation.

In addition to the Superior Court's adult and juvenile criminal operations, other representatives on this task force include the Alternate Public Defender's Office, CDCR, California Department of Juvenile Justice, District Attorney's Office, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, LAPD, Probation Department, Public Defender's Office, and the Sheriff's Department. Those criminal justice agencies/organizations not listed but who wish to participate should contact Mark Delgado, Executive Director of CCJCC.

Judge Espinoza noted that the Criminal Justice Emergency Response Task Force requires executive level participation. Once the task force is reconvened and the plan is updated, the task force will continue to meet on an annual basis.

ACTION: For information only.

VII. OTHER MATTERS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Cooley welcomed Andre Birotte, the new U.S. Attorney for the Central District in this region, as a new member of CCJCC.

There were no additional matters or public comments.

VIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.