

COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2014 MEETING
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 739
Los Angeles, California 90012

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chair Pro Tem: Jackie Lacey, District Attorney and Vice Chair of CCJCC

*Kirk Albanese for Charlie Beck, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

*Greg Blair for Sherri Carter, Superior Court Executive Officer

James Brandlin, Assistant Supervising Judge, Criminal, Superior Court

Ronald Brown, County Public Defender

Daniel Calleros, President, Southeast Police Chiefs Association

*Vera Castillo for Cynthia Banks, Director, County Department of Community & Senior Services

Paul Cooper, President, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association

Mark Fajardo, County Coroner – Medical Examiner

Walter Flores for John Deasy, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District

Janice Fukai, County Alternate Public Defender

Eric Harden for Carlos Canino, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Christa Hohmann, Directing Attorney, Post Conviction Assistance Center

Mary Marx for Marvin Southard, Director, County Department of Mental Health

Georgia Mattera for William Fujioka, County Chief Executive Officer

Jonathan McCaverty for John Krattli, Acting County Counsel

*Holly McCravey for Jonathan Fielding, Director, County Department of Public Health

Terri McDonald for John Scott, Sheriff

Edward McIntyre, Chair, County Quality & Productivity Commission

Emilio Mendoza for Philip Browning, Director, County Department of Children and Family Services

Don Meredith for Cyn Yamashiro, President, County Probation Commission

William Montgomery for James Jones, Director, County Internal Services Department

Fred Nazarbegian for Richard Sanchez, County Chief Information Officer

Charlaine Olmedo, Supervising Judge, Criminal, Superior Court

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

*Susan Sullivan Pithey for Kamala Harris, California Attorney General

Jerry Powers, County Chief Probation Officer

*Janice Yu for Miguel Santana, Los Angeles City Chief Administrative Officer

***Not a designated alternate**

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT OR REPRESENTED

Don Knabe, County Supervisor for the Fourth District and Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, Chairman of CCJCC
Jeffrey Beard, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Andre Birotte, U.S. Attorney
Dan Bower, Chief, Southern Division, California Highway Patrol
Michelle Carey, Chief U.S. Probation Officer
Ling-Ling Chang, California League of Cities
Arturo Delgado, Superintendent, County Office of Education
Mitchell Englander, Los Angeles City Council, 12th District
Peter Espinoza, Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court
Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney
Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Eve Irvine, President, South Bay Police Chiefs Association
David Jennings, Field Office Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Sean Kennedy, Federal Public Defender
William Lewis, Assistant Director in Charge, Los Angeles Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Michael Nash, Supervising Judge, Juvenile, Superior Court
Ezekiel Perlo, Directing Attorney, Indigent Criminal Defense Appointments Program
Jeffrey Prang, California Contract Cities Association
Richard Propster, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County
Phillip Sanchez, President, San Gabriel Valley Police Chiefs Association
Joseph Santoro, Independent Cities Association
David Singer, United States Marshal
Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Human Relations Commission
Mike Webb, County Prosecutors Association
David Wesley, Presiding Judge, Superior Court
Anthony Williams, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Jackie Lacey, District Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey, Vice Chair of CCJCC.

Self-introductions followed.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Jackie Lacey, District Attorney

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the May 21, 2014 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2014 meeting was seconded and approved without objection.

III. STATE BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Lieutenant Wayne Bilowit, Sheriff's Department

Lieutenant Wayne Bilowit of the Sheriff's Department Legislative Unit appeared before CCJCC to discuss the state budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and its impact upon the criminal justice system.

Jail Issues

In Senate Bill 863 (SB 863), the budget provides \$500 million in lease revenue bonds to address jail needs statewide. This is similar to Assembly Bill 900 (AB 900) and SB 1022 in past years.

A problem in using this funding for building a new Mens Central Jail facility in Los Angeles County is that the county would have to issue bonds, but the state is funding the \$500 million from lease revenue bonds. Two bonds cannot be issued for the same site.

In response, the County CEO's Office worked with the State Department of Finance to add language into the budget through AB 1468 that would address this matter. In particular, Section 1(a)(3)(b) reads:

The Department of Finance, in consultation with the County of Los Angeles, shall identify options for ways the state may assist in addressing the mental health and health infrastructure needs of the County of Los Angeles jail system, and to report its findings to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on or before January 15, 2015.

This language directs the state to assist the county in determining how to finance the county's jail plan. One idea is that the county would issue a bond and the state would help to pay the bond debt.

Split Sentences

The budget includes changes to Penal Code Section 1170(h) to create a presumption that a county jail felony sentence will be a split sentence, unless the court finds that a straight sentence is in the interests of justice.

It is not known at this time what impact this may have on the county's jail population or on the use of felony probation.

Court Security

AB 1468 provides \$1 million statewide for additional court security needs resulting from new courthouse construction. In Los Angeles County, this will provide funding for security at the Long Beach Courthouse.

Alternatives To Custody

At the request of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Penal Code Section 1170.06 was added to allow the Sheriff's Department to establish a voluntary alternative custody program in which offenders would be confined to a residence, residential treatment program, transitional care facility, or mental health clinic or hospital in lieu of confinement in a county jail.

Participants will receive the same sentence reduction credits as if they had served their sentences in a county jail. The authority is for male and female inmates who have been sentenced to a county jail for misdemeanors or AB 109 felonies (N3), excluding inmates that are deemed to be at high risk for future violence, have a history of escape, or are required to register as a sex offender.

The Sheriff's Department can now place into alternative custody eligible inmates with substance abuse and/or mental health issues, providing that the bed space is available. These individuals tended to not be appropriate for the non-1170.06 methods for alternative custody (e.g., work release or work furlough, electronic monitoring with home detention, etc.).

This new authority applies to Sheriff's Departments throughout the State of California.

Lieutenant Bilowit noted that Section 1170.06 is similar to authority that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has for female inmates.

Realignment Growth Funding

The total AB 109 funding for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 is estimated to be \$934.1 million, which is less than the \$998.9 million allocated in Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

AB 109 growth (based on the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget) is estimated at \$50.8 million (referencing a growth in sales tax revenue).

VINE System

The budget provides \$1.8 million per year for the next two years from the Victim Witness Assistance fund for the statewide Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system. VINE notifies victims of changes in custody status.

Recidivism Reduction Fund

Under SB 105, the Recidivism Reduction Fund (RRF) was established to be funded by any savings to the state based on receiving an extension from the federal courts, which will help to eliminate the need to buy as many out-of-state beds to meet the population cap. Due to the Court granting a two-year extension, the \$91 million in savings to the RRF will include (but is not limited to) the following spending:

- Mentally Ill Offenders Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grants – The budget contains \$18 million in one-time competitive grant funds for adult and juvenile authorities to improve outcomes for offenders with mental health issues. Funding will be allocated in the first year, but can be used over three years, and provides \$9 million for adult offenders and \$9 million for juvenile offenders, distributed by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). It is expected that the BSCC will release an RFP in December or January.

Counties may apply for an adult MIOCR grant, juvenile MIOCR grant, or both. The application process is described in Penal Code Section 6045.2.

- Community Recidivism Reduction Grants – The budget contains \$8 million in one-time funding to county boards of supervisors to work in collaboration with Community Corrections Partnerships (CCPs) to create a competitive grant program for non-government service providers in the community. The size of the county will determine individual grant awards to providers and 5% of the county allocation can be used for administrative services by the county or CCP. The Controller will send out grant applications and information in August or September. The BSCC will send out guidelines.

It is expected that Los Angeles County will receive about \$1.6 million and that the county can award up to \$100,000 per group.

This item is addressed in Penal Code Section 1233.10.

- Community Reentry Facilities – The budget contains \$20 million in one-time funding for inmate reentry prior to release in the community. This funding could also be used for transitional housing or intermediate sanctions for probationers. There is broad authority for CDCR to develop the program.

It is not yet clear if the County of Los Angeles will be eligible for this funding, but it potentially may be.

- Grants To Cities With The Highest Rates Of Serious Crimes – This provides one-time funding of \$2 million to provide three grants in equal amounts to the cities with the highest rates of murder, rape, and robbery.

SB 678 Funding

The spending plan funds SB 678 (Community Corrections Performance Incentives Act) at \$128 million in Fiscal Year 2014-2015, which represents an increase of \$86 million.

City Law Enforcement Funding (SB 852)

The budget includes \$40 million to cities for front line law enforcement activities. Under this program, the BSCC allocates funds to individual cities within each county that receives funds. This is an increase of \$12 million.

Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST)

The budget includes \$27.8 million to address the IST backlog (currently at about 300 persons) by increasing Department of State Hospitals (DSH) bed capacity by 105 beds. The budget also provides \$3.9 million to expand the restoration of competency program by 45 to 55 beds in county jails.

Judicial Branch

The budget includes \$222 million to augment the Judicial Branch's budget. This also includes \$15 million payable through the Recidivism Reduction Fund for collaborative court programs.

State Mandated Reimbursements

The state owes local governments \$900 million in reimbursable mandates that accrued prior to 2004. To speed up the repayment of the monies owed, the budget provides for \$100 million in debt repayment and that any additional revenues that the state gets that exceeds the Governor's budget will go to paying down the \$800 million in pre-2004 mandates.

CCP Implementation Grants

A total of \$7.9 million is appropriated in the FY 2014-2015 budget year to go out to the counties that report on their realignment efforts to the BSCC.

SB 833

This law, which was sponsored by the Sheriff's Department, allows the Sheriff's Department to offer a voluntary program to inmates that are about to be released from a county jail. Specifically, this law would permit the inmates to stay in a custody facility for up to 16 additional hours, or until normal business hours, whichever is shorter, so that the inmate may be discharged to a treatment center or during daytime hours.

As an example, if an inmate were to be released at 2:00 a.m., this would allow the individual to delay the release until daytime when it would be safer for the person to be discharged.

Lieutenant Bilowit thanked Assistant Sheriff McDonald for bringing this issue to the attention of the Legislative Unit.

Questions

District Attorney Lacey asked if Penal Code Section 1170.06 is limited to individuals that are mentally ill or have a substance abuse disorder. Lieutenant Bilowit stated that it is not, and that any eligible inmate could participate in the alternative custody program. However, he noted that it was designed to be used by those with mental illness or substance abuse issues. There exist other alternatives to custody programs for otherwise healthy inmates, such as work release, work furlough, fire camps, and electronic monitoring.

District Attorney Lacey inquired as to whether there is a role for CCJCC in any of these budget issues that were reviewed. Lieutenant Bilowit replied in the affirmative. In particular, he noted that the MIOCR grants require the involvement and partnership of different departments and organizations to determine how to best utilize the funding.

Judge Charlene Olmedo, Supervising Judge of Criminal in the Los Angeles Superior Court, inquired as to whether there will be notice given to the Court and the attorneys when individuals are placed into alternative custody programs. Lieutenant Bilowit was not sure if that had been included in the law, but he expressed his view that this could be resolved in a clean-up bill.

Assistant Sheriff McDonald added that this is an issue that can be resolved administratively.

Lieutenant Bilowit stated that there is a mechanism in the current law dealing with the use of electronic monitoring that addresses this issue. Language that mirrors that provision can be utilized for providing notice for the alternative custody program.

District Attorney Lacey asked if there is funding for law enforcement training in any of the grants. Lieutenant Bilowit stated that there may be a little under recidivism reduction, but it is not a lot.

Mark Delgado, Executive Director of CCJCC, inquired as to whether there is an opportunity to help inform the language in the guidelines and solicitations for the various funding sources, or if they will be open ended. Lieutenant Bilowit stated that, with some funding sources, there may be opportunities to provide input.

District Attorney Lacey observed that the Drug Court Oversight Subcommittee, a standing subcommittee of CCJCC, may be able to offer assistance to the Court in addressing issues concerning collaborative courts, depending upon the direction that the Court wishes to proceed in.

Mr. Delgado noted that Judge Victor Greenberg and Judge Michael Tynan, both present at this meeting, serve as co-chairs of the Drug Court Oversight Subcommittee.

Judge Olmedo reported that the Mental Health Court will be relocated to a new facility and expanded to handle a larger workload. She added that the Court is in the process of equalizing workloads in the wake of last year's Court consolidation that was required due to budget reductions. Following that, the Court will focus on needs and capabilities in light of the existing caseloads.

District Attorney Lacey asked for clarification on the use of funding for those found to be incompetent to stand trial. Lieutenant Bilowit confirmed that the funding for use in county jails would have the inmates working with a clinician and receiving treatment so that they could be competent to be in a courtroom setting.

Assistant Sheriff McDonald added that the Sheriff's Department and the Department of Mental Health have been in discussions with the state hospital concerning this program. She stated that this has proven to be successful in other counties.

It was noted that the funding is for adults only.

ACTION: For information only.

IV. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT JAIL POPULATION MANAGEMENT REPORT

Assistant Sheriff Terri McDonald, Sheriff's Department

Assistant Sheriff Terri McDonald provided an update to CCJCC on the Sheriff's Department Jail Population Management Report.

The County CEO's Office has been reviewing the Sheriff's Department Jail Population Management Report that was produced in April following meetings by the Jail Overcrowding Subcommittee. As discussed at the CCJCC meetings in March and April of this year, the report contains a number of short-term, medium-term, and long-term bed management solutions.

Some of the proposals will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for consideration following the CEO's cost analysis. This will be in keeping with the direction from the Board of Supervisors on May 6, 2014 (in conjunction with approval of the jail plan), in which the CEO was asked to report back with a preliminary cost analysis of the alternative custody programs in the Sheriff's report.

The report back to the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for July 29, 2014.

Assistant Sheriff McDonald reported that the Sheriff's Department has revalidated its internal inmate classification system. This may result in more inmates being eligible for community based programs.

The Sheriff's Department has also received approval to work with the University of California at Irvine on an automated risk assessment tool known as Los Angeles Risk Assessment (LARA).

Assistant Sheriff McDonald requested that the Jail Overcrowding Subcommittee be reconvened at earliest convenience to coordinate and work through issues that have arisen since the last meeting.

One matter that needs further discussion involves the use of risk-based methodology for the early release of inmates due to capacity challenges.

Robert Philibosian of the County Economy and Efficiency Commission inquired about the ability to track the number of reoffenders among those inmates that are released early. Assistant Sheriff McDonald noted that CCJCC has released an RFSQ to identify vendors that are qualified for a Master Service Agreement.

As discussed at the CCJCC meeting on April 16, 2014, the Master Service Agreement will contain a listing of eligible vendors that can provide research, analysis, and evaluation services for the county's criminal justice system. Once approved, a vendor on the list can be selected to assist the Sheriff's Department with tracking recidivism among early releases as well as evaluate the effectiveness of early release methodologies.

Mr. Delgado stated that the submissions from the vendors are due in mid-August. It is anticipated that the Master Service Agreement will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval in early Fall of this year.

In response to a question concerning the early releases, Assistant Sheriff McDonald stated that all of the AB 109 N3 inmates, with the exception of a very small group in treatment, are serving their full sentences. However, some of the traditional inmates (those non-AB 109 individuals that are sentenced to County Jail) are being released early due to jail capacity issues.

One issue for the Jail Overcrowding Subcommittee to determine is if there is a better methodology for determining early releases. For example, some traditional county inmates that are being released early may be a higher risk than some AB 109 N3 individuals that are serving their full sentences.

Assistant Sheriff McDonald reported that the Sheriff's Department is working with the Department of Mental Health on an alternative custody program in which 42 N3 males would be placed in a gateway facility named Normandy Village. The individuals would

be placed in the facility 60 days prior to release and would receive reentry planning services. If funding is secured to proceed with this program, a Sheriff's Department security officer will be stationed at the location.

District Attorney Lacey inquired as to the current population in the jails. Assistant Sheriff McDonald replied that the population has stabilized at about 19,000 after having increased noticeably due to AB 109 inmates. The stabilization may be due in part to enhanced credit earnings and a change in sentencing laws.

The Sheriff's Department has established a jail population management bureau that will provide expertise in managing the county's inmate population.

ACTION: For information only.

V. LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT MID-YEAR 2014 CRIME SNAPSHOT
Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese, Los Angeles Police Department

Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) presented a report on mid-year crime data in the City of Los Angeles.

The LAPD recently released its 2014 mid-year crime report. The report focuses on Part 1 crimes, which includes homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assaults, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny. (Part 1 crimes are classified as such according to the Federal Uniform Crime Report.)

The number of homicides in the first half of 2014 is 133, which is a decrease of 1.5% from 2013, but a decrease of 33.2% from 2008. Deputy Chief Albanese added that, as of this morning, there have been 138 homicides in the city as compared to 155 on this day last year (a decrease of 11%). The total number of homicides in 2013 was 251, which was the lowest number since 1964.

The number of rapes in the first half of 2014 is 540, which is a 1.3% decrease from the previous year. The Federal Uniform Crime Report changed the definition of rape this year to include certain crimes that were previously classified as Part 2 crimes. This may result in the numbers increasing by the end of the year.

There were 3,603 robberies in the first half of the year, which is a 5.7% decrease from 2013, and 4,334 aggravated assaults, which is an *increase* of 12% over 2013.

The Part 1 property crime categories are down 7% overall from 2013. There have been 6,670 burglaries, down 14.6% from 2013, 6,384 motor vehicle thefts, down 7% from 2013, and 25,561 larcenies, down 4.8% from 2013.

Overall, the Part 1 crimes are down 5.4% from this time last year, with a total of 47,225 crimes. By way of comparison, there were about 200,000 Part 1 crimes in the City of

Los Angeles at the turn of the century, and this decreased to 100,521 for 2013. The decrease in Part 1 crimes has continued every year from 2002 through 2013.

The notable increase in crimes this year is with aggravated assaults, which, as noted above, are up 12% from 2013. In attempting to determine the cause of this increase, it was found that shots fired and the numbers of shooting victims are both down from last year, with a decrease of 7.7% and 12.1%, respectively.

It has also been determined that gang crime does not account for the increase in aggravated assaults either. Gang-related crimes are down 13.1% from 2013, and aggravated assaults by gang members are down 9%.

Deputy Chief Albanese reported that the LAPD and Sheriff's Department are working closely together in training and efforts to combat gang crime. He surmised that this has contributed to the reduction in gang-related crimes.

At this time, it is still not clear what is driving the increase in aggravated assaults, but the LAPD is focusing on other issues that may contribute, such as domestic violence, child abuse, and other miscellaneous violent altercations that may occur.

In response to a question from District Attorney Lacey, Deputy Chief Albanese confirmed that Part 1 violent crimes are up 2.9% overall due to the increase in aggravated assaults.

In response to a question from Mr. Philiposian, Deputy Chief Albanese stated that the increase in aggravated assaults is citywide and not restricted to a particular division or bureau. He added that as Part 1 crimes have decreased for the past 11 years, the city may reach a certain level in which it will be difficult to decrease the crimes any further. The increase in aggravated assaults may be a reflection of that.

District Attorney Lacey inquired as to whether the LAPD has broken down the aggravated assaults by type of assault. Deputy Chief Albanese stated that the department is currently working on that breakdown.

ACTION: For information only.

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

Captain Randal Stover, Sheriff's Department

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

TRAP is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional auto theft task force that was formed in 1993 to combat complex auto theft rings in Los Angeles County. TRAP personnel are

comprised of representatives from the Sheriff's Department, LAPD, and other participating law enforcement agencies.

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 one dollar from every vehicle registration fee paid in the county.

Captain Stover provided an overview of auto theft statistics for the region and locally. He stated that FBI preliminary statistics for 2012 and 2013 indicate that auto thefts have increased 3% in the western region of the United States, while other regional areas have experienced a decrease.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) statewide preliminary statistics for 2012 and 2013 show a total of 174,457 auto thefts in 2012 and 171,036 in 2013, which is a decrease of 2%.

CHP preliminary statistics for the County of Los Angeles show a total of 43,071 auto thefts in 2012 and 41,811 in 2013, which is a decrease of 2.9%.

In 2012, TRAP was responsible for 332 arrests, 83 warrants served, 258 Vehicle Code Section 2805 business inspections¹, and 435 vehicle recoveries. The value of the recoveries was \$11,403,155.

In 2013, TRAP was responsible for 262 arrests, 82 warrants served, 199 Vehicle Code Section 2805 business inspections, and 476 vehicle recoveries. The value of the recoveries was \$13,849,990.

In the first six months of 2014, TRAP has been responsible for 149 arrests, 18 warrants served, 22 parole/probation visits (including AB 109), 107 Vehicle Code Section 2805 business inspections, and 366 vehicle recoveries. The value of the recoveries is \$4,605,453.

As previously noted, the funding for TRAP comes from one dollar from each vehicle registration fee, and this has been set since the program began in 1993. The budget for TRAP is therefore fixed based upon the number of registered vehicles in the county. In real terms, the budget has been shrinking in the past twenty years due to increases in salary, costs of equipment, and other expenses necessary for the task force to function.

¹ Vehicle Code (V.C.) Section 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.

As a result, TRAP has had to downsize its staff and operations over the years. In 2005, TRAP consisted of 7 regional teams, 7 sergeants, and 49 investigators. Currently, there are 3 regional teams, 3 sergeants, and 23 investigators.

Assembly Bill 1404, which was signed into law in September 2012, authorizes the county to increase the funding to two dollars from each vehicle registration fee. The impact of such a fee increase is currently being reviewed by the Auditor-Controller's Office.

If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the increase would permit the task force to expand to 5 regional teams with 5 sergeants and 45 investigators.

Captain Stover provided additional information concerning the Vehicle Code Section 2805 business inspections and the locations that they are responsible for inspecting.

He reported that there are 11,971 licensed auto repair facilities in the county. It is estimated that unlicensed auto repair facilities in the county constitute an additional 15% of that number.

Many of the unlicensed facilities have been found to have violations of various kinds, ranging from serving as chop shops for stolen vehicles to labor code violations.

There are 4,461 new and used auto dealerships in the county.

There are 4,773 facilities that fall under the classification of rental and broker companies, recycling, dismantling, tow yards, and other related businesses.

Not counting the unlicensed auto repair facilities, this totals 21,205 locations that need to be inspected.

Captain Stover reported the following trends with respect to auto theft:

- Traditional auto theft is down, but financial based auto theft is on the increase;
- Auto theft is increasingly a more organized and sophisticated crime;
- Social media is facilitating more auto related crimes; and
- Cases are complex and require more time and investigative resources.

The trend in auto thefts is to obtain the vehicle through fraud. There are ongoing investigations in which some dealerships have lost multiple vehicles in this manner.

Due to anti-theft devices and new ignition switches, the theft of vehicles is becoming increasingly difficult and more complex. A result of this is that auto thieves may attempt to steal a vehicle from a repair shop, a car dealership, or through fraud rather than straight from a homeowner's driveway.

Social media, such as Craig's List and E-bay, have also been utilized by criminals to facilitate auto related crimes.

The complexity of the thefts requires a greater commitment of time and resources to solve a case. This, in turn, results in more paperwork and follow-up activity.

Captain Stover noted that TRAP is working with rental car companies to combat the use of fraud and identity theft to steal automobiles. He stated that this problem is becoming systemic.

District Attorney Lacey inquired as to how many of the theft by fraud cases are due to criminal activity by company employees. Captain Stover replied that many of the cases involve employee misconduct, but many other fraud cases involve customers that obtain the vehicles on long-term leases and work with organized crime groups.

In response to a question concerning the use of identity theft and fraud to obtain luxury vehicles, Captain Stover discussed an example in which organized crime used identity theft to steal several expensive vehicles from rental car facilities in one night. In these types of cases, the vehicles may already have been shipped overseas by the time the companies or the identify theft victims realize what has happened.

ACTION: For information only.

VII. OTHER MATTERS/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.