



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Administration of Justice Sub-Committee

MINUTES

OF

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

WORKGROUP

February 5, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Administration of Justice

Workgroup

February 5, 2008

4:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Administration of Justice Workgroup taken on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Administration of Justice Sub-Committee

John Jolly, Chair

Frank Mackesy, Member

Michael Weinstein, Member

Howard Maltz, City of Jacksonville Staff Representative

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIR & MEMBERS:

JOHN JOLLY, Chair

FRANK MACKESY, Member

MICHAEL WEINSTEIN, Member

PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

HOWARD MATLZ, Office of General Counsel

STAFF:

RENEE STOLTZ

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mark Caliel, State Attorney's Office

Assistant Chief Rick Graham, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

PROCEEDINGS

February 5, 2008

Administration of Justice

4:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman Jolly called the meeting to order at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Due to scheduling matters, Chairman Jolly suggested, and committee members agreed, to change the beginning time for the Administration of Justice Subcommittee meetings to 4:15 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Mackesy moved to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2008 meeting, seconded by Mr. Weinstein. All members approved said minutes.

2. Purpose of Meeting. Mr. Jolly began the meeting by introducing guest speakers, Mark Caliel of the Duval County State Attorney's Office (SAO) and Assistant Chief Rick Graham of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO). Mr. Jolly gave a brief synopsis of the January 22, 2008 meeting for Mr. Caliel and Mr. Graham, identifying the information that committee members were seeking from them.

Mr. Graham began discussion of the "Operation Safe Streets" (OSS) initiative. Mr. Graham serves as the Assistant Chief of the Crimes Against Persons division of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and is the Incident Commander of OSS. Mr. Graham provided information concerning the development of OSS, which evolved out of the Violent Crime Task Force that was formed in 2004 in response to a significant increase in violent crime on the eastside of Jacksonville. The Violent Crime Task Force was

successful in removing offenders from the streets. Mr. Mackesy offered that six criminal organizations were eliminated, of which approximately 42 unsolved murders were attributed to, as a result of the work of the Violent Crime Task Force. The JSO, in conjunction with the SAO and state and federal law enforcement agencies, began organization of OSS following an increase in murders in the city during the month of January, 2006. OSS was publicly announced on May 15, 2006.

As part of the OSS initiative, areas of the city were identified based on gun-related violence, incidents of illegal gun possessions, and location of violent criminals. Additionally, a "watch list" of the most violent offenders in the city was compiled based upon a number of criteria including prior contacts with the police and criminal history.

Mr. Caliel offered information concerning the development of the prosecution team that works in conjunction with OSS. Mr. Caliel and another Division Chief level ASA personally prosecute the most violent OSS cases, and manage a team of prosecutors who work on other OSS cases in addition to their other duties. Mr. Caliel confirmed that there is a process in place with JSO to notify the SAO when an offender is on the "watch list" enters the system.

A discussion was held as to the effects of sentencing guidelines and statutory mandatory minimum sentences on offenders in the criminal justice system in Duval County. Mr. Caliel opined that the judiciary in Duval County appears to support the OSS initiative in that offenders are receiving longer jail or prison sentences. Mr. Caliel advised that there is coordination with

federal prosecutors when an offender could potentially be charged under either state or federal law to determine which jurisdiction could result in the most lengthy sentence. The offender is then prosecuted accordingly in an effort to remove that individual from the streets for as long as possible.

Mr. Jolly posed the question to Mr. Graham and Mr. Caliel as to whether additional SAO resources would benefit the OSS initiative.

Mr. Graham, Mr. Caliel and Mr. Mackesy voiced agreement that additional SAO resources would greatly enhance the work that is being done by OSS. Mr. Caliel discussed the large caseloads being handled by the SAO, and agreed that additional prosecutors working directly with OSS would be beneficial.

Mr. Caliel advised that, since its inception in May of 2006, OSS has resulted in prosecution of roughly 200 cases, approximately 90 of which are currently active.

Following the presentations of Mr. Graham and Mr. Caliel, Mr. Maltz provided additional statistical information to the Committee which had been requested at the conclusion of the January 22, 2008 meeting, including JSO organizational chart, rated capacity for JSO corrections facilities, average daily inmate populations for JSO facilities, data concerning unsentenced inmates, data concerning inmates in Duval County who have been charged with murder, SAO organizational chart, and data concerning the number of people admitted to prison by county.

A discussion followed concerning the information provided regarding inmates currently being held in JSO correctional facilities which have been charged with murder but have yet to be

sentenced. Of significant concern is that there are a large number of pre-trial murder inmates who have been incarcerated for lengthy periods. Discussion followed as to potential reasons for such lengthy incarcerations prior to trial and sentencing.

3. Action Items

The committee determined that additional information was needed as follows:

Additional information was requested.

Mr. Maltz will attempt to coordinate a guest speaker from the SAO to address organizational issues to determine whether there are resources and/or programs that could be reallocated to allow the SAO to return to its core function of prosecuting criminal matters.

Mr. Weinstein will review the JSO organizational chart and determine whether a subject matter expert from JSO is desired to address similar organizational concerns.

Next Meeting. The next Administration of Justice Subcommittee meeting will be Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 4:15 p.m.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.