



**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey**

**Law Enforcement & Deterrence Sub-Committee**

# **AMENDED MINUTES**

**OF**

# **LAW ENFORCEMENT & DETERRENCE**

# **SUB-COMMITTEE**

**February 14, 2008**

# **The Jacksonville Journey – Law Enforcement & Deterrence**

## **Sub-Committee**

**February 14, 2008**

**9:30 a.m.**

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Law Enforcement & Deterrence Sub-Committee taken on Thursday, February 14, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 9:30 a.m.

### **Law Enforcement & Deterrence Sub-Committee**

**Paul Perez, Chair**  
**Ed Hearle, Member**  
**Joe Henry, Member**  
**Bishop Howard, Member**  
**John Jolly, Member**  
**Henry Luke, Member**  
**Frank Mackesy, Member**  
**Isaiah Rumlin, Member**  
**Lanny Russell, Member**  
**Joe Stelma, Member**  
**Melissa Nelson, Member**  
**Michael Weinstein, Member**

## APPEARANCES

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:**

PAUL PEREZ, Chair  
ED HEARLE, Member  
JOE HENRY, Member  
JOHN JOLLY, Member  
FRANK MACKESY, Member  
MELISSA NELSON, Member  
ISAIAH RUMLIN, Member  
LANNY RUSSELL, Member  
JOE STELMA, Member  
MICHAEL WEINSTEIN, Member

### **EXCUSED ABSENT:**

BISHOP HOWARD, Member

### **PROFESSIONAL STAFF:**

Howard Maltz, Office of General Counsel

### **STAFF:**

ADAM HOLLINGSWORTH  
PAM MARKHAM  
SUSIE WILES  
STEPHANIE BARNETT  
ALICE CHECORSKI

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Maria Coppola  
Terry Lorince  
Mike Sigler  
James Richardson

**PROCEEDINGS**

February 14, 2008

Law Enforcement & Deterrence

9:30 a.m.

**Call to Order and Comments.** Chairman Perez called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m.

**Purpose of Meeting.** Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Law Enforcement & Deterrence Sub-Committee.

Chairman Perez welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the sub-committee to review the minutes from the January 24, 2008 meeting for approval at the end of today's meeting.

**2. Discussion Items**

Mr. Perez said he would review the Ad Hoc meeting held two weeks ago and preview the Ad Hoc meeting that will be held this afternoon. He stated that all the committees that reported indicated they were meeting and breaking up into sub-committees (workgroups) the way this committee is. Some sub-committees are already providing action items to the Mayor.

Chairman Perez stated he is of the view that given the nature of our committee, which is data-driven, we are not going to be presenting any significant action items until closer to our 120-day appointment, sometime in April. We will use the February and March sub-committee meetings to do the real work and have the experts come speak to us. In April, we will solidify our recommendations. Mr. Perez will let the Ad Hoc committee know this is the approach of the Law Enforcement and Deterrence Sub-

committee.

At this time, Chairman Perez asked each of the workgroups to report as we come into focus.

Lanny Russell, Chair, Police Presence Workgroup stated the members of this committee met this morning, prior to this meeting. He prepared a memorandum with the help of Adam Hollingsworth regarding the group's focus and will identify exactly what it is they are trying to do. They have identified some speakers.

Chairman Perez summarized the memorandum with the following three areas of focus:

1. Adding officers
2. Adding technology - Sheriff Rutherford addressed the Ad Hoc committee regarding COMPSTAT vs. CRIMES and how they are different. CRIMES is the JSO version.
3. Community Policing - Defining what it is and seeing how it can be enhanced to support neighborhood programs.

Mr. Russell indicated that the memorandum included attachments.

John Jolly, Chair Administration of Justice workgroup stated they met about a week and a half ago and tried to narrow the focus and have identified three or four areas:

1. They are looking at the ability to have cooperation between police and prosecutors for violent criminals. Assistant Chief Rich Graham talked with Mark Caliel, State Attorney's Office regarding Operation Safe Streets. The Sheriff's Office has identified those who are committing violent crimes. The State Attorney's Office has focused on the highest group of violent felons. Both mentioned they do not

have enough resources to do an effective job prosecuting these violent felons. The workgroup will look into the resource issue.

2. Jails are overcrowded and case counts are at a historical high. Some divisions have caseloads approaching 300. The jail population also takes resources.

2. a. Focus on transparency in government. Mr. Jolly stated that we do not keep historical data on case counts. Should the public be looking at those numbers?

3. Diversion: are there duties and responsibilities currently being carried out by JSO and the State Attorney's Office that are not core police functions? We should look for another agency or funding resources that could take care of those duties and responsibilities.

Chairman Perez said that Mr. Jolly mentioned the transparency issue and the sub-committee discussed this as a community issue. We have to educate the community that under the umbrella of the justice system, transparency is the way to go. Other committees are thinking about utilizing a Web page where the public can look at real-time data. For example, we have gone from a 100+ to 200+ felony count per division. Overcrowding in the jails has a ripple effect on the Sheriff's budget.

Joe Stelma stated that having commanded the JSO's Records Section for many years, he saw how many people are in the jails because they cannot post their bonds for bad checks, etc.

Undersheriff Frank Mackesy stated there are 80,000 outstanding warrants, many of which are for worthless checks. The majority of

the population in the jail is filled with violent felons. Information on the jail population was provided previously to Howard Maltz. Mr. Jolly stated that even though there are worthless checks warrants, a lot of those cases are criminal in nature. Mr. Mackesy stated that the worthless check prosecutions are a revenue source for the State Attorney's Office. With identity theft increasing, the warrants aren't always issued to the offenders.

Mr. Stelma stated there are diversion programs, but no funds.

Mr. Maltz stated that currently out of the 2,050 unsentenced cases, 400+ were misdemeanors and 1,600 were felons.

Frank Mackesy said with regard to the issue of jail overcrowding, many criminals are doing county time when they should be doing state time. We need to get them out of our system quicker.

At this time, Chairman Perez asked Adam Hollingsworth to address the housekeeping issues.

Mr. Hollingsworth mentioned a scheduling issue - March 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayor Michael Bloomberg, New York City, will be here at the Library for the Mayors Against Guns on the Streets initiative, which he funds. About a dozen mayors and police chiefs from the state will be attending. The time has not been set as yet.

Mr. Hollingsworth reminded the committee that we operate under the Sunshine Law and therefore should not engage in conversations outside of the confines of the public noticed meeting. If anyone wants to meet, they should contact the staff to have the meeting posted for the public.

Joe Henry, Chair, School Safety workgroup reported that one of the

primary goals of this committee was to make sure there was no duplication. He met with the Truancy workgroup and discovered they were looking at much of the same ~~think~~ thing we are looking at. Mr. Henry wanted to create a board to work with school officials to review existing safety plans. Three schools have been identified as a pilot to look at the need for technology, video cameras, duties and responsibilities of SROs, enforcement protocols for special events, etc. Mr. Henry said if we could place responsibility and hold people accountable, we thought that would be a solution. Additionally, they are recommending training and educational seminars to educate students, teachers and parents regarding violence, guns, snitching, etc. The workgroup feels we are missing an opportunity to influence the children.

Chairman Perez agreed that bringing the people together and raising accountability is important.

Chairman Perez stated that Bishop Howard, Chair of the Getting Guns Off the Street sub-committee is out of town. Adam Hollingsworth stated that a lot of data is being gathered by Jon Phillips. Both workgroup members are taking the lead, but they are out of town today. They are looking at the histories of murder criminals who have prior convictions and how to more aggressively process for gun crimes. In summary, the workgroup is focusing on:

1. How to engage in more aggressive gun crime prevention
2. Technology that will immediately alert us to the firing of a gun for rapid officer deployment
3. Chronic back log in the crime analysis lab

Ed Hearle stated the committee will meet next Tuesday to discuss:

1. Consideration of implementation of Stop and Frisk policy in defined areas.
2. Posting in defined areas higher penalties for carrying a gun.
3. Consider higher judgments in J-1 court. Ask for additional resources.
4. Posting pictures of "bad dudes".

Chairman Perez commented that in terms of identifying federal resources, he wanted to bring the district attorney to address the sub-committee. He is interested in continuing the relationship with JSO in identifying the "worst of the worst" and putting more resources here. Chairman Perez will try to get the district attorney to address the group at the next meeting along with Judge Moran.

Bill White, Public Defender, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit requested an opportunity to speak. He stated that he called Steve Diebenow, Mayor's Chief of Staff when he saw the *Jacksonville Journey* initiative and told him the Public Defender's office would like to help. He stated we try to keep patrolmen on the streets a little longer. To that end, through video technology, attorneys can interview clients at the jail from their desktop. Rather than drive to the Public Defender's Office, we are working with the Undersheriff to have video capability installed at stop stations. Caseloads have gone up 14% in the past year and will continue to increase. Mr. White stated while law enforcement and the courts have gotten a significant increase in funding, the State

Attorney's Office and Public Defender have not. Mr. White stated it costs the same amount of money to keep someone in jail as it does in state prison. There is a statute that mandates a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, whose primary goal is to look at the population in the jails. Additionally, there was an administrative order about early release for non-violent offenses.

It is waiting in the courts and it needs to move to take the pressure off the overcrowding. If we could get the judges to move on that, we could save a considerable amount of money and time for the JSO. Mr. White stated we will have to take a look at the Stop and Frisk idea, but we stand ready to help in anyway we can.

Paul Perez said he hoped Mr. White or a representative from his office will make it a point to come to our committee meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the work. He was invited to work with John Jolly's Administration of Justice workgroup.

Isiah Rumlin stated he thinks part of the *Jacksonville Journey* is to come up with ways to reduce violent crime in the community.

How can what the Public Defender said reduce violent crime?

Mr. White responded by getting police presence on the street and focusing on violent crime and diverting alcohol and drug offenses.

He also said that mentoring helps. We have resources to communicate with people who have first-hand information about what causes them to commit crime. His office can assist in this area.

Mr. Rumlin said that what relates to the entire makeup of the committee is that people who are experiencing this issue are not part of the overall committee. Mr. White said this is a committee that can do some good as we have members who are involved in the

community who do understand the level of the problem. We could use more input from that sector.

John Jolly asked Mr. White if he had a quick answer as to why we have seen the explosion of case loads in the divisions. The reply was it is economic.

Chairman Perez said the Sheriff addressed the Ad Hoc Committee a few weeks ago. We are pleased to have him come and address this committee and make himself available for questions as well. At this time, he invited Sheriff Rutherford to make a presentation. The Sheriff said he appreciated this opportunity. Right after he got into office, he spoke with the Mayor and the City Council. He is not going to bring statistics to justify why we need additional officers. We have to run JSO like a LEAN business. He stated they created a Continuous Improvement Division and shaved millions of dollars off of the budget. They created a Community Service Officer Program to use as a force multiplier without guns or badges. They asked for an external audit (Matrix Consulting Group from California). The Matrix Audit stated "this Sheriff's Office has developed a program of excellence". It reflected what JSO has built over the years. If we are not the best, at least the second best due to well-trained and well-disciplined personnel although in fact, we are short on resources.

The Sheriff gave a PowerPoint presentation (available on the JSO Web site). Sheriff Rutherford stated the City is divided into 6 major zones, all of which are short of officers.

The Matrix Audit found every city should have between 40-50% pro-activity time for patrol (to knock on doors, instruct the public,

etc.) Although they recommended that Jacksonville be at 40%, we are asking for 45% (an additional 69 officers and 11 supervisors will bring us to that level). Additionally, traffic enforcement is short of officers. Last year we had 174 traffic fatalities and 123 murder victims. Everything else the Sheriff is requesting is recommended in the audit.

The Sheriff stated we are short 124 officers in the Department of corrections. The number of officers per 1,000 population is also short of the 2.27 average. If we get all 225 officers we are asking for, we will jump to 2.21 per 1,000. Our ad valorem property tax is 18% below the next closest county. Sheriff Rutherford pointed out that over 7 years, our murder rate has gone up 55.7%. **We have not added one new police officer.** [The

Undersheriff said he thinks the Sheriff qualified that statement with a time frame. After an explanation that in the last five years under the Glover and Delaney administration, there was a COPS Grant applied for and awarded in April or May 2003 for 30 officers. Those officers hit the budget after the current Sheriff and Mayor took office. There was also a Parks Officer hired. The qualifying statement should read "We have not added one new police officer in the last four years."]

In addition, the presentation provided statistics on the murder victims, 62% of which are African-American, which represent only 29% of the population. Murders are being committed in concentrated areas. (8, 9 and 10) It takes manpower to reduce the murders in these areas. Murder is an intra-racial crime.

With regard to education level, 58% of murder suspects did not

finish high school.

The Sheriff referred to the C.R.I.M.E.S. Program (Create Education by Intervention and Management of Enforcement Strategies), which is JSO's version of COMPSTAT.

Adam Hollingsworth asked if COMPSTAT allows for or drives real time re-deployment, does C.R.I.M.E.S. use data every two weeks to re-deploy? The Sheriff replied that they use re-deployment every day. Paul Perez asked if re-deployment is within the same zone.

Sheriff Rutherford said some officers are re-deployed across the city. Our Operation Show Down is not as effective as it was because we have to move those officers to all areas due to being so short staffed. Operation Safe Streets is basically Operation Show Down "on steroids". This program resulted in a 40% decrease in violence in Springfield. The SPAR group was a tremendous partner.

Undersheriff Mackesy said that the Sheriff mandates we set up community meetings to show how they can assist in our efforts. Based upon a partnership with enforcement, we do see improvement. The Sheriff stated the importance of partnering with the community is the difference between protection and oppression. We have knocked on 31,000 doors and provided literature on how to engage the public. Our tips went up 252%. SHADCO membership grew by over 400. We understand that enforcement is not the only answer. Our formula is PIE (Prevention-Intervention-Enforcement).

A slide was presented showing Federal and State grant funding from various sources including the Department of Justice, Fugitive Task Force, Non-UASI and UASI.

The Sheriff stated the Matrix Audit recommendations and the JSO's "ask" is for a total of 225 sworn officers, 124 corrections officers and 84 civilians.

Joe Henry asked how the new legislation would impact JSO and since the "black on black" crime rate is so high, is it a priority to hire more black officers?

The Sheriff said the need did not change because of the passage of Amendment 1. That is why the *Jacksonville Journey* is so important. Regarding increasing the number of African-American officers, there is a four-year degree requirement that hurts our recruitment. That is why the Community Officer Program has helped us recruit. We can help these officers work toward getting a degree.

At this time, the Sheriff provided copies of the 2007-08 JSO Annual Operating Budget, a 2003 vs. 2008 Comparison and a document on Community Policing projects.

The committee reviewed and discussed the information.

Paul Perez stated that the Sheriff has answered most of the questions. With regard to school safety and jail overcrowding, the committee will focus on what they can do in terms of freeing up resources.

The Sheriff stated that the judiciary rejected the proposal to reduce jail overcrowding through a criminal justice coordinating committee.

Mike Weinstein asked how many officers JSO loses each year to retirement and how many officers can you bring in through the Police Academy each year? Sheriff Rutherford replied that they

lose about 2 per month through attrition. It is a 2-year program to bring new officers on board. He wants to hire 40 officers as soon as possible because it takes 11 months to go from police recruit to officer riding alone on the street.

Lanny Russell commended the Sheriff and his staff for their professionalism. He referred to the Matrix, Slide 1 which addresses JSO's ability to handle calls. **The Sheriff stated 20% of the calls get handled by the reporting officer.** [The Undersheriff said what he believes the sheriff said was that JSO had a goal of 20% for call diversion]

Call diversion can be controlled through more reliance on the Community Resource Officers. A 2.4% increase in calls for service is anticipated this year. One of the recommendations of the Matrix Audit is to continue with 12-hour shifts.

Chairman Perez thanked the Sheriff and stated some of the committee's focus areas are right on target.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2008 meeting. John Jolly had one amendment, page 6, first paragraph, last sentence: "The sub-committee's aim is to effectively improve the quality of life in Jacksonville by identifying violent ~~juveniles~~ **felons** and by trying to rehabilitate **more effectively target** these individuals."

Lanny Russell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and John Jolly seconded the motion.

### **3. Action Items**

Chairman Perez would like to invite the District Attorney and Judge Moran to speak at the next meeting on February 28, 2008.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.