

**Sanford "Sandy" Krasnoff New Orleans
Criminal Justice Council Meeting
October 20, 2010 Minutes**

The October 20, 2010 meeting of the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) convened at 10:32 a.m. in the 8th floor Homeland Security Conference Room in City Hall. The roll was called by Ms. Chetta. The following persons were present:

Criminal Justice Council

Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Chairman
Supt. Ronal Serpas
Councilmember Susan Guidry
Hon. Arthur Morrell
Judge Julian Parker
Judge Ernestine Gray
Mr. Seung Hong
Ms. Nanette Jolivet-Brown
Judge Paul Sens
Sheriff Marlin Gusman
Mr. Wesley Bishop
Hon. Leon Cannizarro
Mr. Derwyn Buntton
Ms. Melanie Talia

Absent

Rev. Lester Shaw
Councilmember Jackie Clarkson
Mr. Jason Rogers Williams
Councilmember Arnie Fielkow
Ms. Angela Koenig
Judge Dennis Daneel
Dr. Frank Minyard
Mr. Andy Kopplin
Ms. Pearlie Elloie
Mr. David Kent
Ms. Susan Lindsey

Staff

Maria-Kay Chetta
George Lawrence
Rodney Dejoie
Susanna Martin Breaux
Dalmer Blanchard

Mayor Landrieu called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Ms. Chetta called roll.

Ms. Chetta asked that the minutes from the July 14, 2010 meeting be approved.

Mayor Landrieu moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting; Mr. Wesley Bishop seconded.

Mayor Landrieu thanked attendees and noted that this meeting would serve as the Public Hearing and review of the application for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) ARRA Supplemental Stimulus Funds in the amount of \$1.3 million from DOJ. He noted that 11 agencies submitted requests in excess of \$8 million and that the programs selected had the greatest impact on the Criminal Justice System as a whole and demonstrated working in partnerships.

Mayor Landrieu turned the meeting over to Deputy Mayor Sneed for further discussion of the application.

Col. Sneed asked if there were any questions on the application.

Judge Sens asked Criminal District Court who wrote their submission.

Mr. Peter Brandt responded that several individuals were involved with their application narrative.

Judge Sens asked for the removal of last two sentences on page 2 of the second paragraph of the Criminal District Court application, as he felt they were a misstatement of fact. He also asked what resources were going to Criminal District Court and noted that Municipal Court did not receive any resources.

Judge Sens asked about the VAWA grant reduction as listed in the City Budget.

Judge Sens commented on the shift in prosecution for DV cases, noting that Municipal Court continues to handle residual cases and cases which are classified as other but are actually "disguised DV cases."

Judge Parker stated that he was unfamiliar with that term and noted that he could not tell Supt. Serpas how to handle the Police Department. He suggested to Judge Sens that he send over any cases he thought should be handled as DV cases.

Judge Sens asked what authority he had to transfer cases.

Judge Parker noted that his court didn't decide how cases are charged and suggested Judge Sens work with the DA.

Ms. Chetta clarified the VAWA grant question, noting that there was a State VAWA grant handled by Mr. Lawrence and the OVW grants that Ms. Blanchard handles which is a direct award from the federal government.

Ms. Blanchard explained the reduction in funds and the role of the Family Justice Center.

Mayor Landrieu asked Judge Parker about the 2 lines of his application which Judge Sens wanted removed.

There was a motion to delete the 2 lines in question and it was approved by the Council.

Sheriff Gusman noted that the Sheriff's Office received nothing in the application and explained that the City also removed funding from a program run by Delgado which assists in adult education at the Sheriff's Office. He noted that their work done in inmate libraries had an 86% success rate.

Col. Sneed answered that we went back and forth with DOJ during the application process and that he strongly advocated for that program to be considered.

Mayor Landrieu explained that DOJ reached out to us and that there were certain requests from DOJ on the way in which the funds could be utilized.

Sheriff Gusman stated that if you are saying DOJ denied my application, then I accept that but lose confidence in DOJ.

Mayor Landrieu clarified that what he stated was not exactly accurate.

Col. Sneed stated that there were certain requests made by DOJ that had to be included.

Sheriff Gusman stated that he was disappointed he was not a priority.

Judge Sens clarified that he was asking for funds for the City Attorney.

DA Cannizarro stated that there were currently about 600 open DV cases.

Judge Parker clarified that he referred to the total number of participants in the DV program.

DA Cannizarro stated that resources are limited now.

Sheriff Gusman asked DA Cannizarro to explain the “disguised DV cases.”

DA Cannizarro explained that NOPD may make an arrest for criminal damage to property, but once the case comes to trial facts emerge that someone’s significant other keyed her car after a dispute.

Sheriff Gusman noted that crimes need to be named correctly.

Supt. Serpas noted that he had not heard of this term before, but found it to be pejorative.

Judge Sens stated that was his term.

Mayor Landrieu suggested that the DV issue be considered at a separate time when it can be discussed further. He suggested the November 3rd, 2010 meeting as a forum for further discussion. He further suggested that these funds be approved today, as they could be threatened by a delay. He asked for any other concerns regarding the application.

Councilmember Susan Guidry asked if the funding was only for one year and if we were looking into the future and how to keep people around.

Mayor Landrieu noted that we should.

Col. Sneed added that this has been a problem.

Mayor Landrieu stated that we need to decide if it is better to have funding for a year or not at all.

Councilmember Guidry suggested that short term funding be directed to equipment and asked about the large amount of funds allocated to the Customer Service Survey.

Mayor Landrieu stated that this was a mandate from DOJ and referred to Supt. Serpas for further explanation.

Supt. Serpas explained that DOJ has to create metrics and measures to ascertain what changes have occurred. It is important to do it early on in the process.

Col. Sneed explained that this was a priority which was inadvertently left off the initial letter from DOJ.

Councilmember Guidry inquired about the Court Notify System.

Ms. Melanie Talia explained this project, which is handled by the New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation.

Mayor Landrieu asked if there were any further questions or concerns.

Judge Sens moved to approve the application. Mr. Wesley Bishop seconded.

Mayor Landrieu introduced Mr. Joey Watson, Executive Director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement

Mr. Watson stated that he assumed this role in January of this year and brought along Mr. Robert Mehrrens. He explained that he came today because he had made a promise to himself to visit all nine districts in the state. He explained the funding process and noted that New Orleans receives about 20% and Jefferson Parish receives 15%. Over the last five years, over \$50 million has come to New Orleans through our agency and we want to continue to support the Criminal Justice System. LCLE is fighting to keep their personnel, despite State budget cuts.

Mr. Watson asked Col. Sneed for his support and noted that LCLE is your partner; we depend on this relationship and communication from you. Mr. Watson asked if anyone had any questions for him.

Mayor Landrieu thanked him for coming.

Ms. McKinley compliments LCLE for their grant funding.

Mayor Landrieu excused himself at 11:25 and handed the meeting over to Col. Sneed.

Col. Sneed introduced the VAWA plan change.

Ms. Chetta reminded the members to please vote their sheets for the ARRA application and explained the VAWA plan change which was discussed in a previous meeting.

Ms. Nanette Brown asked if this had to be done today.

Mr. Mehrtens stressed that the funds had been sitting dormant and there is a federal end date pending. If the VAWA Plan Change would not have occurred, New Orleans would have lost the funds and LCLE would have had to forfeit those funds to the Feds, which could impact future funding.

Col. Sneed asked for questions.

Ms. Chetta asked the members to vote and sign their sheets and asked the ARRA recipients to stay after the meeting.

Col. Sneed asked for questions and new business.

Ms. McKinley discussed the use of the \$5,000 in Hurricane Relief funds to jumpstart an education program at the Sheriff's Office. GED testing has been done and of the 44 tested, 38 passed. They have been working with teachers at Delgado on this and low-literacy programs with outstanding results.

Sheriff Gusman again expressed his frustration over the denial of his application since it was such a small request.

Col. Sneed stated that as of now, there is still not a Criminal Justice Coordinator in place, but that it is a top priority.

Supt. Serpas motioned to adjourn. Judge Gray seconded.

Meeting is adjourned at 11:34 a.m.