

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Crime Advisory Committee

July 2, 2018. 12:30pm

4th Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 1100 Frederick Avenue

Committee Members Present: Michael Meierhoffer, Chair, Bob Eaton, Vice Chair, Mayor McMurray, Bruce Woody, Chief Connally, Brad Kerns, Ron Holliday, Dr. Bob Corder, Drew Brown, Linda Dotson, Pat Grove, Mike Cazel, Mark Laney and Sgt. James Langston

Chair Michael Meierhoffer called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

Gary Hammond, CEO of Family Guidance Center presented to the committee.

- Supports the concept of early release of inmates back into the community.
- Buchanan County residents only.
- It is harder to find staff. (Baby Boomers are retiring).
- The US has the highest incarceration rate in the world.
- 1987-2007 population tripled to 2M.
- Suicide rate: Nationally 24% growth, Missouri 30% growth (higher in rural areas).
- We need to destigmatize mental health problems. It is a health issue.
- Family Guidance Center has applied for a grant for 9th and Felix locations.
- Only four counties involved.
- Metrics – stable housing

Mark Laney (Mosaic) stated that this is a community issue. The new program is a good effort.

Sean Cates (Drug Strike Force) stated that social media gives the public the wrong impression and makes it seem worse than it is.

Narcan is a nasal spray that is much more widely distributed now.

Ron Holliday (Assistant Prosecuting Attorney)

- Community based solutions are important and needed.
- Crime perception is higher than actual crime rate.
- Overall, crime is actually down. Gun violence grabs attention and raises fears.
- Prison is the last step. We struggle to keep the number of people out of prison.

Chief Connally stated that actual crime numbers are down from last year in most all of the categories.

Bob Eaton - We aren't communicating enough. Get the information out now. Use a mobile command center, park in a Walmart parking lot and meet people and share information. That is also very important east of 28th (on the Belt Highway).

Chief Connally – invited the group to America's Night Out Event on August 7 at 5pm in Civic Center Park.

Chief Connally made a presentation to the group regarding Bank Fraud (Skimming/Credit-Debit Card theft). There was a handout distributed.

There was no discussion public comment.

Mayor McMurray inquired about a volunteer to take the minutes of the meeting. There were no volunteers.

Next meeting: Monday, July 30, 12:30pm, City Hall, 4th Floor Conference Room

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