



Board of Director's Meeting Report

April 22, 2021

WebEx Meeting, 3:30 p.m.

The Crime Commission Board of Directors meeting was called to order by board of directors' chairman Ben Adams. The January 28th board report was approved.

MOVING TO IN-PERSON BOARD MEETINGSs

Bill Gibbons indicated that future board meetings will be moving to in-person. Pastor Keith Norman (board member) has offered the use of First Baptist – Broad for board meetings. This location provides the necessary space for social distancing.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBER, KIMBERLY CONLEY

Bill Gibbons introduced the new member to the Crime Commission staff, Kimberly Conley. He indicated that Ms. Conley has the skill set necessary to boost outreach and that she will work to foster community input in reaching the objectives of the new Safe Community Plan.

APPROVAL OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New board members presented:

- Acting U. S. Attorney Joe Murphy
- Interim MPD Director Mike Ryall

The above candidates were presented; a motion was made, seconded, and approved to admit these members to the Crime Commission board.

UPCOMING UNITY WALK AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

The "Unity Walk Against Gun Violence" will take place April 24th at 10 a.m. This walk will begin and end at MLK Prep Academy, 1530 Dellwood in Frayser. District Attorney Amy Weirich encouraged board participation. She also stated that she would recruit speakers that would highlight the purpose of the walk.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021 MILESTONES/OUTCOME INDICATORS

Crime Stats for period January – March 2021

Bill Gibbons stated that major violent crime in the city of Memphis increased 24.7% and 22.6% in Shelby County compared to 2020. Robberies in the city of Memphis decreased 24% and 23.8% in Shelby County compared to 2020. Aggravated assaults increased 41.1% and 38% in Shelby County compared to 2020. Bill Gibbons also stated that reported violent incidents in Memphis involving guns increased 30.1% compared to 2020. The number of reported offenses in Memphis involving guns in Memphis increased 51.8% compared to 2020. Mr. Gibbons further explained that one incident can include multiple offenses. On a positive note, overall crime in the city of Memphis is down 5.8% and 5.2% compared to 2020.

DISCUSSION ON SPECIFIC SAFE COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE: Hire and retain more law enforcement personnel.

Bill Gibbons stated that there has been a net loss in personnel in the Sheriff's department and Memphis Police Department. Mayor Strickland stated that the number of police recruits is gradually increasing but due to the pandemic, classes have been reduced. It is the city's plan to increase the size of the classes. However, there has been a larger number of police retirees this current year.

OBJECTIVE: Focused Deterrence Initiative

District Attorney Amy Weirich discussed the status of the Focused Deterrence Initiative. Dist. Atty. Weirich stated that call-ins from February of this year have increased by almost one hundred the number of chronic offenders in the initiative. Atty. Weirich is also exploring adding a juvenile component to the Focused Deterrence Initiative. Currently, juveniles are being released from John S. Wilder Youth Dev. Center and sent home with no notification to the police department or Juvenile Court. The change Atty. Weirich proposes is to have juveniles released, report to Juvenile Court, and have a call-in with the District Attorney's office and law enforcement to establish accountability.

OBJECTIVE: Establish a system of assessment and follow up services for non-violent juvenile offenders.

The Youth Assessment Center is still in the works and the city has deeded the old Raleigh branch library for its usage to Shelby County. The library is currently being renovated, and it is the desire to have this space up and running and available by July 2021 to the 38127 and 38128 zip codes.

Furthermore, this space will not be utilized by just law enforcement but anyone who believes a juvenile can benefit from its services.

Youth Villages is also utilizing its resources to create a diversion program for low level offenses. It is focused on the Austin Peay precinct.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW “REFRESHED” SAFE COMMUNITY PLAN

Bill Gibbons stated that focus was lost on a previous Safe Community Plan due to the lack of parameters and that this was addressed in developing the current plan. The current Safe Community Plan has these parameters:

- The Objective is requested and/or supported by the relevant “owner(s)” of the Objective.
- The Objective is evidence-based or evidence-informed.
- The Objective can have a near-term impact on the violent crime rate in particular (appreciably measurable during pendency of the plan).
- The Objective is criminal justice system involved.
- The “owner(s)” of the Objective are agreeable to an independent evaluation of both their processes and outcomes.

The Board will discuss in July the parameters for the new Safe Community Plan.

Dorcas Young stated that the needs of the family should be considered when the up-coming Safe Community Plan is reviewed and that it shouldn’t necessarily just be evidence based or evidence-informed. Flexibility should be considered. Bill Gibbons noted that the term evidence – informed could be interpreted to provide considerable leeway.

Bill Gibbons stated that a community input group would be meeting in May to provide insight on the ways to obtain community input into the new Safe Community Plan. This beginning group will be spearheaded by Kimberly Conley. Mr. Gibbons stated that any members of the board are welcome to participate.

FINANCIALS

Louis “Bo” Allen provided the February 2021 financial statement along with the Crime Commission’s current financial standing. Mr. Allen stated that the final payment has been made

on the police recruitment/retention bonuses. This resulted in a current Crime Commission net balance in the amount of \$350,000.

Chairman Ben Adams stated that twenty-eight (28) board members have committed financially personally or through their organizations and further reiterated that any donation of any size would be appreciated. He also stated that efforts will be made to increase fundraising. Dave Slott stated that he will provide more details on the up-coming fundraiser (golf tournament) in the July board meeting. Mr. Slott also stated the target date for the golf tournament is August 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned...

Presented by:
Sharon (Sam) Walker
Executive Assistant

Memphis Shelby Crime Commission Board Meeting
April 22, 2021

Attendance:

1. Ben Adams
2. John Dudas
3. K. B. Turner
4. Joe Murphy
5. Tom Cleves
6. Essica Cage-Rosario
7. Dave Carlson
8. Amy Weirich
9. Greg Duckett
10. Louis "Bo" Allen
11. Amber Mills
12. Floyd Bonner
13. Dan Michael
14. Dave Slott
15. Dorcas Young-Griffin
16. Jeff Warren
17. Jeffrey Higgs

18. Jim Strickland
19. John Campbell
20. Lee Harris
21. Mike Ryall
22. Mike Palazzola
23. Paul Morris
24. Vinessa Brown
25. Doug Korneski
26. Blair Taylor
27. Henry Hooper
28. Coleman Thompson
29. Stevie Moore

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

1. Kari Hall
2. Don Crowe
3. Janine Heiner
4. Chief Jeff Cox
5. Kim Conley
6. Linda Russell
7. Jeff Cox
8. Bill Gibbons
9. Joy Touliatos
10. F. Quein