

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Citizens Crime Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, September 13 at 12:30pm

Meeting at City Hall, 1100 Frederick Avenue, St. Joseph, MO

Committee Members Present:

Mike Cazel, Bill McMurray, Ron Holliday, Captain Clark Stratton, Whitney Lanning, Jennifer Gentry, Chief Chris Connally, Sheriff Bill Puett, Ron Holliday, Bryan Carter, Drew Brown, Brad Kerns, Dr. Robert Corder, Linda Dotson

Call to Order:

Committee Chair, Mike Cazel called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

Mission Statement:

Mike Cazel restated the mission statement of the Crime Committee.

Minutes of Last Meeting: June 14, 2021

Dr. Corder motioned to accept, Brad Kerns 2nd

Updates:

Chief Chris Connally: (Chief of Police) CAP/Family Guidance work with police department. Aggravated assaults up, simple assaults down, robbery down (lowest year since 1990's so far), burglary down, same, motor vehicle theft, down, DWI up, Neighborhood watch groups- PD attends their meetings. 3 new watch groups. Carol Flury is Neighborhood watch Coordinator in City Hall. Community Events – All academics and high turnout – successful. Many panhandling complaints. Homeless complaints. Staffing shortages are a problem.

Sheriff Bill Puett: (Buchanan County Sheriff) National rhetoric does not necessarily apply to St. Joe. New sales tax starts in January, new budget in works now: significant raises, going to implement step increases, structure pay for different groups in department, incentive for education to continue. Adding staff: new officers for patrol, new investigator for cyber intervention. Sheriff trying to give the Department hope and motivation with the new salary numbers.

Numbers are consistent in all areas of crime. Strike Force aggressive, Partnership with PC and state police helicopter to help fight crime. Jail numbers are high. Narcan grant is being renewed. 2nd Amendment Preservation Act prohibits state and local cooperation with federal officials that attempt to enforce any laws, rules, orders or actions that violate the Second Amendment of Missourians. Drug section: can not work with Fed drug agencies.

Captain Clark Stratton: MO Highway patrol. Helicopter operations are a success. Fatality rates in NW Region up 24%. Down 2 Troopers in NW Region. Working with Buchanan County Sheriff on vehicle wrecks. No money for DWI check points.

Prosecuting Attorney Ron Holiday: Court System moving slowly but moving. Four jury trials since May. Covid is being used as an excuse to avoid going to court. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Kristina Zeit is taking over domestic violence cases. Prison population has declined. Courts are working on alternative methods to keep people out of prison.

Dr. Corder: Agrees court system is working to keep people out of jail.

Jennifer Gentry: Family Guidance: is working with all law enforcement agencies. Family Guidance is providing assistance to those with mental health issues. Trying to intercept people to keep them out of law enforcement. Working with juvenile office. School Resource Office working with Family Guidance.

Whitney Lanning: Working with police on homeless people.

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CITY CLERK

Committee Priorities for 2021 – Discussion & Suggestions

Public Comment

Next Meeting: Monday, December 6 at 12:30pm (Corder moved and Brown seconded)

Adjourn: 2:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Notes taken by Ms. Linda Dotson and prepared by Ms. Stacey Hill