

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)
MINUTES
FOR
THURSDAY, October 25, 2012 MEETING**

Members Present: Chairman Michael Lawlor, *Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM*; Judge Carroll, *Chief Court Administrator, Judicial Branch*, Pat Rehmer, *Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*, Reuben Bradford, *Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection*; Kevin Kane, *Chief State's Attorney*, Leo Arnone, *Commissioner, Department of Correction*; Erika M. Tindill, *Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles*; Laura Cordes, *Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Center (CONNSACS)*; Dennis Murphy, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor*; Susan O. Storey, *Chief Public Defender*; Dan Bannish, *Director of Behavioral Health, Department of Correction*; Bill H. Carbone, *Executive Director, Court Support Services Division (CSSD) (Judicial Branch)* Laurie Deneen, *Public Member*.

I. Welcome Mike Lawlor, Under Secretary, OPM CJPPD

Chairman Lawlor convened the meeting at 9:18. Chairman Lawlor discussed the preparations that were underway for Hurricane Sandy and the steps the state was taking to prepare for the storm.

Chairman Lawlor announced that many of the CJPAC members who were present at the meeting represented several of the first responders. Chairman Lawlor also recognized the Department of Corrections and the significant role they played in last year's storm in helping with aftermath of the storm and the logistics.

Chairman Lawlor also discussed the Monthly Correctional Indicator Report prepared by Ivan Kuzyk of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division. Chairman Lawlor highlighted some of the statistics, which were a follow-up to last month's indicator report, which focused on recidivism reduction. Some of the highlights included a drop by 15% from August to September 2012; the number of releases has been dropping from August to September by 14% and the most significant was the number of arrests, which dropped by 18%. One of the statistics that does stand out is the number of inmates in the pretrial population and that number is unusually high in the recent months. Chairman Lawlor indicated that CJPPD is going to work with the Judicial Department to try and identify reasons why and possible solutions to address the increase.

II. Introductions

Members introduced themselves and stated what agency they represented.

III. Commission Correspondence

There was no commission correspondence.

IV. Presentation by Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane & Hartford Police Chief Rovella: Innovative Collaborative Efforts to Reduce Urban Violence

<http://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?ID=8427>

Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane

Chief State's Attorney Kane discussed an initiative that started back in 2008 when the state police were asked to come into Hartford because of the increase in violence, especially during the summer. This step had many short-term benefits in driving down some of the crime and visible activity. However, the violence would very quickly begin again or continue just not as visible or on the streets.

Many conversations started to take place among criminal justice agencies. It was decided that the main focus was going to be on the more violence crimes in Hartford, which is typically caused by a very small percentage. The concerns that surrounded this initiative were people not being arrested. They were arrested on charges that couldn't be proved when the case got to court. There may have been probable cause, but when the case was looked at more closely, both sides concluded that there was a high probability of losing the case. Therefore, both sides would negotiate and would end with a plea agreement.

All of this contributed to too many problems. The non-fatal shootings in Hartford started to be examined more closely. Hartford had such a high number of homicides at this time that non-fatal shootings were being overlooked. The state and local police, the criminal justice community and the Department of Corrections and closely analyzed reasons why such violence crimes were happening in Hartford. However, little information was available because victims and witnesses were reluctant to cooperate.

A year later, after resources were brought into Hartford, there was a noticeable drop in homicides and shootings. Due to the positive outcome, surrounding towns started to get involved.

In 2011, the Hartford Shooting Task Force was created and it reported in August that it made more than 200 felony arrests, more than 50 misdemeanor arrests and seized 76 firearms since its inception.

Hartford Police Chief Rovella

Chief Rovella thanked the Commission for their dedication, commitment and allocating resources to the city of Hartford. He acknowledged the appreciation the Task Force had

for the manpower and everyone getting on the same page and having the same goal. Chief Rovella discussed the dramatic results produced by the Hartford Shooting Task Force.

Chief Rovella outlined the composition of the shooting task force, which was comprised of every state agency that was involved with law enforcement. Chief Rovella discussed the success of the shooting task force just after one year and the benefits to many of the agencies that CJPAC represents. Chief Rovella asked that the CJPAC members look at the shooting task force as an investment portfolio. Chief Rovella thanked Ivan Kuzyk for his analysis of all the felons in Hartford.

Chief Rovella discussed the partnership with probation, with over 7000 city residents on probation and 650 sexual offenders. He thanked Bill Carbone and CSSD for their continued commitment in trying to help the probationers and their family succeeds. Chief Rovella thanked Commissioner Arnone with the Department of Correction commitment to the task force. He was pleased to discuss that DOC is seeded in the Hartford Police Department assisting with the task force.

Chairman Lawlor thanked Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane and Hartford Police Chief Rovella for their PowerPoint presentation. Chairman Lawlor followed-up with his comments stating that the three mayors in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport are all committed to reducing violence in the large cities. It is now expanding to New Britain, with the possibility of Norwalk being in line to adopt the reduction in violence initiative as well.

Chairman Lawlor discussed the key to success is focusing on the ones who could be shot or conducting the shooting. Many of these individuals are already under the supervision of the criminal justice system and it gives the people who are working in the criminal justice system an opportunity to produce better outcomes.

Chairman Lawlor stated that the results speak for themselves. The impact is very real. Prevention in shootings has a real impact in the community, state government and the criminal justice system and we can save a lot of lives in the process.

Chief State's Attorney Kane believes the initiative can't spread itself too thin. It needs to stay focused in order to have the most success and impact.

Bill Carbone Presentation

Mr. Carbone discussed the statistics that indicate a reduction in recidivism among the adult and juvenile population is due to the cooperation that is happening in the large cities and between the agencies and the police departments.

Court Support Services Division began tracking recidivism rates in 2007. CSSD tracks them from the first day adult probation begin and continue 24 months out.

Agency Updates

Members went around the table and updated the Commission on each of their agency activity. A detailed update of each agency can be found online at <http://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?ID=8427>

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. The next CJPAC meeting will be Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1C