

**LOUISVILLE METRO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Thursday, October 19, 2006**

**Members Present:** Judge Kathleen Voor Montano, Chair; Judge Donald E. Armstrong, Jr.; John Aubrey; Dwayne Clark (Designee for Tom Campbell); William DeNardi; Elisa Freeman-Carr; Judge Stephen George; Leo Smith (Designee for Dan Goyette); Roger Henderson; Tom Dyke (Designee for David Huber); Richard Lewis; Judge Steve Mershon; Tony King (Designee for Richard Badaracco); Dave Stengel; Tim Vize; Lt. Col. Winstead (Designee for Chief White); Clarence Williams; and Louis Willis.

**Excused Members:** Reverend Charles Duncan.

**Guests Present:** Major Troy Riggs (Louisville Metro Police Department [LMPD]); Peggy Whitehouse (LMPD); Debbie Linnig Michals (LMPD Citizen's Advisory Board); Tina Lentz (Office for Women); Julie Hayes (District Court Administrator); Peggy Kidwell (Criminologist); Carla Kreitman (Circuit Court Administrator); Billy Herman (Intern - Criminal Justice Commission); and Gabriela Romero.

**Staff Present:** David Nicholson; Stephanie Stidham; Faith Hartlage; Bruce McMichael; Barbara West; and Billy Herman (intern).

**I. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER**

Judge Montano called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance, and introduced guests, Gabriela Romero (former intern with the County Attorney's Office, Domestic Violence Intake Center); Billy Herman (intern for the Criminal Justice Commission); Tina Lentz (Office for Women); and Debbie Linnig Michals (Chair, 574-LMPD Citizen's Advisory Board). She also thanked Dave Stengel for chairing the September Board meeting in her absence.

**II. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 MEETING**

The meeting summary of the September 21, 2006 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

**III. PRESENTATION**

**Major Troy Riggs, Chief of Staff, LMPD** - provided a presentation on the "574-LMPD Crime Tip Hotline." The *hotline* was initiated in October 2004, with a public announcement asking citizens for assistance in providing leads on the unsolved homicides. The *hotline* is anonymous and callers have the opportunity to speak directly to a detective on the case in question. There were approximately 120 calls the first month of operation resulting in the arrest of 15 individuals. The second month, 80 calls were received resulting in ten arrests. The monthly figures have continued to rise. There have been 19,000 calls since the inception of the *hotline* resulting in 600 arrests and 18 solved homicides. The homicide clearance rate for 2006 is 68%.

The project has required no Metro Government funding. A marketing plan was created by MBA students from Sullivan University. Along with multiple corporate sponsors and the guidance of a Citizen's Advisory Board chaired by Debbie Linnig Michals, the program has been very successful. Corporate sponsors have assisted with free advertising through billboards and

public service announcements, as well as graphic art designs. Through partnerships with corporations, churches, newspapers, and other organizations, the *Crime Tip Hotline* has been publicized throughout the community.

LMPD has already looked for ways to expand the program. On Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. there are Spanish speaking call takers on duty to assist with the Latino community. Through a partnership with Sun Graphics, the *hotline* logo is being put on TARC buses and LG&E McGruff trucks. Citizens may also register for "Citizen Observer" email notifications to receive crime alerts to stay informed about crimes and other safety issues in the community. Local businesses can participate in a similar notification known as the "Business Alert Network."

*Hotline* call takers are also referring appropriate callers to the new Metro United Way 2-1-1 number for service information. The 2-1-1 call takers are reciprocating by providing information on the *Crime Tip Hotline*.

#### **IV. INTRODUCTION**

Tina Lentz was introduced as the newly appointed Director of the Louisville Metro Office for Women. Ms. Lentz stated that the focus for the office will remain quality of life issues for women. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity to introduce herself and looks forward to the continuation of working relationships with Commission members.

#### **V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

David Nicholson asked the Chief Judges of their respective courts for any updates. Judge Armstrong, District Court, mentioned the domestic violence enhanced supervision docket being conducted by Judge Angela Bisig. The concept is modeled on drug court. Judge Bisig conducts the family supervision docket on Thursday mornings. There are currently some 23 individuals participating. It is a voluntary program and appears to be working very well.

Judge George, Family Court, discussed the importance of Senior Status Judges and the invaluable service they are providing to the courts. The legislation enacting this status is scheduled to sunset December 31, 2008. Judges must meet a requirement of 75 years (combination of years of service and age). They are not paid but are able to draw an enhanced retirement by serving 600 days in five years. They may serve at any level, with the exception of the Supreme Court, and may travel anywhere in the State. This service enables courts to run with experienced judges at minimum costs to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Judge Armstrong mentioned that Judge Henry Weber is the longest sitting Drug Court judge in the United States and for the last four years has provided his expertise as a Senior Status Judge.

Judge Mershon, Circuit Court, also reiterated the importance of these judges at the Circuit Court level. Additionally, McKay Chauvin was recently appointed to fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court bench.

David Nicholson stressed the importance of communicating with your legislators on the issue of Senior Status Judges, as the continuation of this program would require a legislative change.

David introduced Bill DeNardi as the chair of the Commission's Legislative Subcommittee. Bill reported that the subcommittee membership has been established, they have met once and reviewed some 20 proposals. The next scheduled meeting is October 25<sup>th</sup> in the Commission conference room. The Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinating Council (DVPCC) has asked

for the assistance of this subcommittee to review domestic violence legislation with the guidance of State Representative Joni Jenkins.

David extended an invitation to Commission members to utilize the "Crime and Justice Show" as a resource for their respective agencies. Anyone interested in being taped for the show should notify the Commission staff. Additionally, members were encouraged to notify staff of requests for grant opportunities to explore.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Judge Montano advised that the transition committee approved at the September meeting to assist in the transfer of Drug Court from the County Attorney's Office to AOC is in the works and will conduct its first meeting in the near future.

## **VII. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in the Crown Room of the Judicial Center.