

**LOUISVILLE METRO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Members Present: Judge Kathleen Voor Montano, Chair, Dondi Albritton (designee for Paul Vido), Judge Audra Eckerle, Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh, Richard Badaracco, Tom Campbell, Sheriall Cunningham, Walker "Critt" Cunningham, Lt. Col. Tim Emington (designee for Chief Robert White), Roger Henderson, Mike Hettich (designee for Sheriff John Aubrey), Richard Lewis, Marjean Martin, Judge Steve Mershon, David Munden (designee for Patricia Combs), David Nicholson, Leo Smith (designee for Dan Goyette), Clarence Williams, Tim Vize, and Louis Willis.

Excused Members: Rev. Charles Duncan, William DeNardi, Judge Stephen George, and Tracy Reinhold.

Guests Present: Omar Ayyash, Director, Office of International Affairs and Khalid Kahloon, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney.

Staff Present: Kim Allen, Cheryl Cooper, Faith Hartlage, Bruce McMichael, and Stephanie Stidham.

I. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Judge Montano called the first meeting of 2007 to order, welcomed all in attendance and called for introductions. She welcomed Kim Allen back as the Director of the Criminal Justice Commission and noted that Kim previously served as a member of the Commission staff from 1984-1998 and as Director from 1990-1998. Judge Montano welcomed two new members, Chief Judge Audra Eckerle, Jefferson District Court, and Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh, Louisville Metro Council representative. Lapel pins were given to the new members. Judge Montano recognized Marjean Martin, who is retiring on February 16th and presented her with a framed certificate commemorating her 23 years of service to the criminal justice community.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 17, 2006

The meeting summary of the November 17th meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Judge Montano reported that an executive session was recently held with staff to discuss possible new initiatives and activities for the Commission in 2007. She reported that the first initiative will be conducting a baseline survey of stakeholders in the criminal justice system to identify emerging issues and priorities for action. She called attention

to the draft survey in the agenda packet and requested that members review and provide feedback to staff by e-mail.

Judge Montano recalled that a motion passed at the September 2006 meeting to establish a Drug Court Transition Committee. She reported that the Commission will be forming a Drug Court Transition Work Group and that Kim Allen has agreed to serve as chair. The work group will include Drug Court Judges and representatives from the prosecution and defense. The work group will be charged with monitoring the transition and advocating for measures to maintain the quality of the program.

IV. PRESENTATION

Omar Ayyash, Director of International Affairs, presented a synopsis of Louisville's immigrant population with the following findings: 1. *Louisville's immigrant population growth is much faster than the nation's.* 2. *Louisville has a lower share of immigrants who are undocumented (18%) than the U.S. (27%) and most other Southeastern communities.* 3. *Most of Louisville's immigrant groups are highly educated.* 4. *Louisville's immigrants have more diverse origins than immigrants nationally.* 5. *Louisville has a high share of refugees, due to its large federal refugee resettlement program;* and 6. *Educational attainment and income vary widely across the different immigrant groups.* Omar briefly reviewed recent research involving immigrants and their impact on crime. He noted that Commission staff had copied several of these articles and included them in the agenda packet.

Khalid Kahloon, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney provided additional comments about the immigrant population in Metro Louisville and noted that many immigrants have not had positive experiences with law enforcement and harbor many misconceptions. They are also fearful of being deported. He noted that most immigrants are unaware of their rights as defendants or victims of crime and as a call to action, identified the need to better educate the immigrant community on these issues.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/STAFF UPDATES

Kim Allen presented the Director's report and began by calling attention to the updated list of Commission activities in the agenda packet. She noted that related projects of the Public Protection Department had been added to the list.

Kim reported that she participated as a member of a local team on a recent site visit to Maryland to observe a model pre-release services program operated by the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. Additional team members included Judge Donald E. Armstrong, Jr., Jefferson District Court, Ann Schiavone Dyke, Assistant County Attorney, Linda Zundel, Social Worker, Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC), and Matt Veroff, LCSW, consultant to LMDC on treatment programming. Kim provided a brief overview of the visit and called attention to a summary of the highlights in the agenda packet.

Stephanie Stidham reported on current legislation of interest to the criminal justice community and discussed ways to provide tracking information in a more meaningful way. Attempts will be made to gather background information on criminal justice legislation rather than just provide information from the Legislative Record. She asked members to notify her regarding any bills of interest so they can be added to the list. Mike Hettich, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, reported that the Sheriff's Department is adamantly opposed to Senate Bill 88 because it may limit local funding received through forfeitures. Following brief discussion, David Nicholson moved that a Resolution opposing SB 88 be sent to members of the Jefferson County Delegation at the earliest opportunity. Mike Hettich seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

VI. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING

With no further business before the Commission Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. in the Crown Room of the Judicial Center.