

Sanford “Sandy” Krasnoff New Orleans Criminal Justice Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Stevens.

II. Roll Call

Chief Judge Ranord Darensburg	Juvenile Court	Absent
Chief Public Defender Danny Engelberg	Public Defender	Present
Jennifer Greer	Probation and Parole	Designee present Tobie Lamy
Councilmember Leslie Harris	City Council	Designee Present Alison Poort
Sheriff Susan Hutson	Sheriff	Designee Present Debra Hammons
Judge Bobby Jones	Judge	Present
Asya Howlette	Office of Youth and Families	Designee Present
Darren Lombard	Clerk of Court	Absent
Dr. Dwight McKenna	Coroner	Designee Present
Gilbert Montaña	Chief Administrator	Designee Present Shelbi Flynn
Vice President Helena Moreno	City Council	Designee Present Sayde Finkel
Chief Judge Robin Pittman	Criminal District Court	Designee Present Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier
Commissioner Tenisha Stevens	Mayor’s Office	Present
Councilmember Oliver Thomas	City Council	Designee Present Wesley Bishop
Donesia Turner	City Attorney	Absent
Ms. Nikita White	State Office of Juvenile Justice	Present
District Attorney Jason Williams	District Attorney	Designee Present
Superintendent Michelle Woodfork	NOPD	Present
Ms. Thelma French	Total Community Action	Absent
Ms. Elizabeth Boh	Chief Executive Officer	Present
Mr. Troy Rhodes	Citizen Representative-Reentry	Absent
Mr. Greg Ravy	Citizen Representative-Equity	Absent
Ms. Margaret Washington	Citizen Representative-Victims/Survivors	Present

Ms. Melissa Sawyer	Citizen Representative- Youth Advocacy	Present
Dr. Rochelle Dunham	Citizen Representative- Mental Health	Designee Present Lakisha Mamon

III. Opening Remarks

Commissioner Stevens welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Mayor Latoya Cantrell and the late First Gentlemen Jason Cantrell. Commissioner Stevens informed everyone of what was on the agenda for the meeting.

IV. Consideration & Approval of the Minutes from June 28, 2023

Commissioner Stevens asked the councilmembers if there were any corrections to the minutes for the meeting of June 28, 2023. Seeing there were no corrections, a motion was sought for the adoption of the minutes as written. Judge Bobby Jones made a motion for the adoption of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Margaret Washington and approved by voice vote.

V. STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Allocation of \$148,018.00

Commissioner Stevens gave a run through of the STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Allocation and how it will be distributed. She stated that this grant is intended to enhance the capacity of law enforcement, so it is divided between New Orleans Police Department and District Attorney Office. Commissioner Stevens then introduced the New Orleans Police Department, Detective Reuben Henry gave the presentation for the NOPD. Commissioner Stevens opened the floor for questions to NOPD. She then asked the DA's office to come up, Grants Administrator Olie Godwin gave the presentation for the DA's Office. Commissioner Stevens opened the floor for questions to the DA's Office. Commissioner Stevens then opened the floor for discussion among the council members. There was a motion moved by Judge Bobby Jones and a second by Kevin Hill to divide the STOP VAWA Allocation between the New Orleans Police Department and District Attorney Office. A voice vote was held in favor of the grant being split 50/50 between the NOPD and DA's Office.

VI. Grant Subcommittee Update

Ms. Jenny Alber talked more about the Grant subcommittee and thanked Melissa Sawyer for assisting with getting things together to move the Grant subcommittee forward. She also informed everyone that the BJag Grant allocation will be held on October 18th. Melissa reiterated on what Jenny Alber said and gave a little more explanation on the roles of the Grant Subcommittee.

VII. Racial Equity Cohort Project Update

Commissioner Stevens introduced Kate Hoadley to give a presentation on the Racial Equity Cohort Project. Gave a presentation regarding what was done this summer regarding racial justice along with our partners TCA. Community engagement sessions will be starting and will be community wide. Kate stated that there will be more updates moving forward from Ms. Thelma French.

VIII. Agency Update

A. New Orleans Police Department – Michelle Woodfork states we are 23 percent down on murders 44 percent down on car jackings. We still have some challenges on property crimes due to being short staff. Currently there are 66 recruits in the academy with a graduation on tomorrow. She states they are still recruiting and getting applicants daily to get more boots on the ground. Ms. Woodfork states there are 7 community engagements coming up soon. She states they are still in compliance with the consent decree. Hurricane plan has been forwarded to Homeland Security. As of Friday, August 18th the total workforce is 1,242, which includes 892 Commission Officers, 66 Recruits and 284 Civilians.

B. Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office – Keith Lampkin states they have set at a round table with GNO and area universities to talk to them about what they can do to be more visible on campuses. Also looking to set up programs for law enforcement to potentially hire. A Vertical Prosecution Unit are setting up a specialty homicide unit to focus on crime and closing cases. Mr. Lampkin states they will start having monthly public meetings in October.

C. Orleans Public Defenders – Danny Engelberg mentioned they are also working on a recruit plan as well as a hurricane preparedness plan for potential evacuation. He states there will be eight lawyers starting after the Labor Day holiday. Client services division is working diligently and moving things along. Trials have gone from 0 trials to 20 trials in a short period of time. Commissioner Stevens bought up an idea that was discussed to get people to volunteer for Jury duty.

D. Criminal District Court – Tracey Flemings-Davillier states they are submitting their budget for Pretrial services today. Ms. Davillier spoke about salary increases for programs and personnel. She states that COOP is for the hurricane evacuation plan or any type of emergency disaster declaration that's being prepared and will be submitted to Commissioner Stevens office. In conjunction with pretrial services, they have been working with the Sheriff's office on first appearances so in custody defendants can now come over to Magistrate court. They have been doing domestic violence training, which includes a specialty training that was done in criminal court. They had an increase in case managers over the summer from 2 to 6.

E. Orleans Criminal District Court – no updates at this time.

F. Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office – Debra Hammond gave an update for the sheriff's office.

IX. Councilmember Updates

Judge Bobby Jones gave updates on Community Court and their recruitment efforts. Adrienne Tobler gave updates for councilmembers and mentioned the workflow workshops. Commissioner Stevens gave updates for councilmembers.

X. Community Updates

No Community updates were given.

XI. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Commissioner Stevens adjourned the meeting.