

Sanford Krasnoff New Orleans Criminal Justice Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 26th, 2022

1:30-3:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order (1:34)

The meeting was called to order by Elected Co-Chair Melanie Talia who thanked the members for their attendance and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

II. Roll Call (1:35)

Sierra Thompson	Orleans Parish Public Defenders Office	Designee Present
Nakita White	Office of Juvenile Justice	Absent
Hon. Ranord Darensburg	Juvenile Court	Absent
Hon. Paul Sens	Municipal and Traffic Court	Absent
Shaun Ferguson	NOPD	Designee Present
Leslie Harris	City Council	Designee Present
Jennifer Greer	Probation and Parole	Present
Susan Hutson	Sheriff's Office	Designee Present
Hon. Robin Pittman	Criminal District Court	Designee Present
Doneisa Turner	City Attorney	Absent
Dwight McKenna	Coroner	Designee Present
Gilbert Montano	Chief Administrator	Designee Present
Helena Moreno	City Council	Designee Present
Darren Lombard	Clerk of Criminal District Court	Absent
Oliver Thomas	City Council	Designee Present
Tenisha Stevens	Mayor's Office	Present (Arrived at 2:15 p.m.)
Jason Williams	District Attorney	Designee Present
Emily Wolff	Office of Youth and Families	Absent
Thelma French	Total Community Action	Absent
Melanie Talia	Police and Justice Foundation	Present
Troy Rhodes	Community Representative	Present
Margaret Washington	Community Representative	Present

III. Opening Remarks (1:38)

Elected-Co-Chair Melanie Talia thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked the Sheriff's Office for hosting. Ms. Talia explained that Commissioner Stevens was tied up in an earlier engagement but that she would be arriving shortly. She also reviewed the agenda noting

that the group would hear presentations from NOPD, the Ethnic and Racial Disparities Working Group, and the delegation that attended the Safety and Justice Challenge Network meeting.

IV. Consideration & Approval of the Minutes from the August 24th Meeting (1:41)

Melanie Talia asked the members for corrections or additions to the minutes previously distributed. Two corrections were made correcting the presence of Brian Lapeyrolerie as designee for Dr. Dwight McKenna and correcting the name of Council President Moreno's designee, Sayde Finkel.

A motion for approval of the minutes of the August 24th meeting as corrected was made by Ned McGowan and seconded by Diedre Pierce. There were no oppositions, the motion passed.

V. NOPD Progress/ Retention – Deputy Superintendent Jonette Williams (1:45)

Deputy Superintendent Williams gave an update and overview of the progress made by NOPD in the recruitment and retention effort. She noted Class 195 recently graduated with 18 officers and class 196 began with 12 new recruits. NOPD has relaxed personal appearance standards and lowered re-test window for applicants from 6 months to 30 days on the second test attempt. A lateral recruitment program was instituted, which shortens the length of the academy from 26 weeks to 10 weeks for lateral recruits. Seventy-five new vehicles were purchased. NOPD continues to advance civilianization efforts by hiring for Police Investigative Specialists and Police Intake Specialists, as well as deputizing an estimated 20 City employees to handle citations.

VI. Racial Equity Cohort Work Plan – Kate Hoadley, OCJC (1:54)

Kate Hoadley gave an overview of the Racial Equity Cohort grant work. In January 2022, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation invested in four sites poised to go deeper on eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal legal system. The City of New Orleans and Total Community Action were selected as a partnership to implement a theory of change for racial equity and reimagining safety and justice in New Orleans. The grant will comprise of three phases: 1) empowering change agents through a collective leadership curriculum 2) listen and learn sessions and 3) an action forum.

VII. Grant Updates- Jenny Alber, OCJC Grants Director (2:05)

Jenny Alber, Grants Director, gave an update on grant matters. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding applications were due December 8th. The Grants Division staff conducted a training on grants administration on October 12th.

VIII. Safety and Justice Challenge Network Meeting Update (2:07pm)

Hon. Tracey Flemings-Davillier, Deputy Chief Judge for Orleans Criminal District Court, provided an overview of a workshop that she facilitated during the Safety and Justice Challenge Convening. The workshop was titled, “Engaging with Local Elected Officials to Identify and Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Legal System.” Judge Flemings-Davillier discussed efforts made the Ethnic and Racial Disparity Working Group, the Pretrial Services program, and the Public Safety Assessment to advance equity in the Orleans Parish criminal legal system.

IX. Member and Community Updates (2:18)

Councilmember updates included: Probation and Parole has a new location at 1250 Poydras on the 10th Floor and Sierra Thompson has been named the Interim Chief Public Defender.

There were no community member updates.

X. Closing Remarks & Adjournment (2:27pm)

Commissioner Stevens sought a motion to adjourn. So moved by Brian Lapeyrolerie.