

District 5 CAB Oaklawn Sunview Senior Center, 2907 E. Oaklawn Dr.

April 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Board Members in Attendance:** David Sowden, Liz Loera, Tanya Jacobucci, John Nicholas, Janet Theoharis, Olivia Hayse, Joseph Elmore

**County Representatives:** Commissioner Jim Howell, Sheriff Jeff Easter

1. **Call to Order:**
   1. David Sowden called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm
2. **Invocation:**
   1. Fred Pinaire led the invocation
3. **Flag Salute:**
4. **Roll Call:**
   1. David Sowden, Liz Loera, Tanya Jacobucci, John Nicholas, Janet Theoharis, Olivia Hayse, Joseph Elmore,
   2. Quorum was present
5. **Approval of Minutes:**
   1. David Sowden moved to approve the March 4th, 2021 meeting minutes. John Nicholas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Public Agenda:**
   1. No public agenda
7. **New Business:**
   1. **Sheriff Jeff Easter Presentation**
      * 1. Number one response is for accidents
        2. Number two is burglary
        3. Number three is larceny
        4. Violent crime is steady in the County
        5. Property crime and accidents are the two big activities
        6. Drugs are driving a huge amount of the property crime
           1. 5 drug death overdoses recently
           2. Our numbers are going to sky-rocket this year
        7. Homicides are a result of the drug trade
           1. Gangs are fragmented, but they are killing each other over drug disputes
        8. We do spend time on mental health care
           1. Most of our mental health involvement is providing assistance to COMCARE
        9. Sheriff’s department was involved with ICT-1
           1. But, most of the work was in the City and have left the program
        10. We are 93 people down in the jail
            1. The staffing issue would make it difficult for the Sheriff’s office to get reengaged with ICT-1
            2. Every Sheriff’s employee works a shift in the jail

Including the Sheriff

* + - 1. We had 13 people apply for 8 positions
         1. We used to see 150 people apply for a position
         2. Not a lot of people are interested in law enforcement
      2. There have been no complaints regarding the gun resolution
         1. There have been good responses from those involved
      3. We are adding more court rooms
         1. Which means we will need more deputies
      4. Our budget for medical is $6.8 million
         1. It is expensive and it takes a lot labor
      5. Recruitment and retention are the greatest needs of the department
      6. The quality of the applicants is not great
         1. Last spring we had 100 people apply
         2. It was reduced to 64
         3. Only 5 passed the test
         4. Only 4 were hired out of the 100
      7. Juvenile justice reform has created some violent crime issues
         1. Juveniles are involved in some of the violent crime
         2. There are 14 juveniles that are held for murder
      8. The biggest issue face by the law enforcement in the area involves drugs/mental health issues
      9. We are not going to win the war on drugs
         1. We need to think outside the box treatment wise
      10. Pinaire asked about transgender inmates
          1. They are housed based on anatomy
      11. Sheriff’s deputies will assist ICE
          1. Will not/ cannot arrest people for immigration violation
          2. This is important because we need to work with these people

They are often victims/witnesses

* + - * 1. This is important because it maintains a working relationship with an important part of the community
      1. Commissioner Howell spoke about the utility of a County ID
         1. The Sheriff agreed that a County ID would be very useful
      2. There was a question about “porch pirates”
         1. Howell clarified the details of the law
         2. Sheriff Easter agreed that this could be a helpful tool
      3. Howell asked Sheriff Easter about medical marijuana
         1. If it is actually medicine, why not treat it like medicine?
         2. Marijuana today is not the marijuana of the past

Very potent

Very dangerous

* + - * 1. Medical treatment is not bad—but, it never is just medical marijuana
      1. Howell noted that the Sheriff’s Department exists to keep us safe and protect our rights.
      2. Howell noted that the Sheriff has been very pragmatic in his requests and he has done a great job
      3. Howell stated that the Sheriff starts out paying well and it is a good opportunity for young people to start a career
  1. **Commissioner Howell Presentation**
     1. He wanted to reflect on the Sheriff’s presentation
     2. The youth he was killed at Town East had been previously caught with a gun
        1. Juvenile reform meant he was released from custody
     3. Illegal substance abuse is the genesis of our crime, homelessness, and mental health issues
        1. Drugs are at the root of this
     4. Pinaire wanted to know where faith based programs come in
        1. Howell noted that faith-based programs exist
        2. But, they are all voluntary
     5. There have been cultural changes and some policy changes can be used to address these changes
     6. We’ve received $100 million in ARPA money
     7. There is a lot of money out there that is going to a variety of communities/organizations
     8. We shared CARES funds
        1. But, other communities/organizations are directly receiving money
        2. That is why ARPA money is mainly internal
     9. Every citizen is benefiting with our ARPA fund usage
        1. Every dollar of ARPA we spend is a dollar of tax money that we are not using
     10. Sowden asked about the “pay per mile” program. What is the hold up?
         1. There has been no discussion as a Commission about the program
         2. A long time ago Commissioner’s picked a mile a year
            1. Then it became a mile every other year
         3. This is an earmark program
            1. I’ll vote yes for you if you vote yes for me
         4. It would add $2 million to the budget
            1. The budget cannot withstand that
         5. Earmarks have negative connotations
            1. But, it is not necessarily bad
     11. Sheriff Easter complimented his response to the text messages
         1. Sheriff Easter is ethical and acted very well
         2. We are investigating every case that the sheriff’s deputies were involved with
         3. Much better than WPD
         4. This is a big deal and will get bigger
         5. There are people in prison who may be released because of this
         6. Jeff Easter did a great job with this situation
     12. WPD changed the answers on the intake paperwork at JIAC
         1. CJ should never been at JIAC
         2. The officers essentially lied
  2. Sowden Update
     1. Multi-CAB meeting
        1. Still in play
        2. A number of CABS are still discussing it
        3. He wants to consider hosting in a more central location
     2. SB 367 needs to be discussed further
     3. Criminal activity needs to be further discussed
     4. He wants the members to bring two ideas to the next CAB meeting

1. **Adjournment**
   1. Next meeting will be May 6th, 2022
   2. Meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.