

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Law and Justice Council**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Benton County Justice Center**

**Present**

Dave Neher – City of Richland Deputy Police Chief  
Dave Wheeler – Benton County Probation Manager  
Eric Eisenger – Benton County Prosecutor  
Ryan Brown – Benton County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Jennifer Azure – Benton County District Court Judge  
Thomas Grego – West Richland Police Chief  
Tiffany Runge – Superior Court Administrator  
Joe Burrowes – Superior Court Judge  
Jon Amundson – City of Richland City Manager  
Josie Delvin – Benton County Clerk  
Chris Guerrero – Kennewick Police Chief  
Matt Rasmussen – Deputy County Administrator  
Cameron Fordmeir – Citizen Member  
Fred Brink – West Richland Mayor Pro Tem  
Jon Law – Benton County Undersheriff  
Diana Ruff – Superior Court Judge  
Kevin Kennedy – Citizen Member  
John Trumbo – City of Kennewick Council Member  
Brian Ace – Citizen Member  
Jerry Martin – Community visitor  
Drew Florence – City of Richland Assistant City Manager

**Called to order by Chief Guerrero at 12:00**

**Approval of Minutes:**

- February 8, 2023 – approved, no issues

**New Business**

**Jurisdictional Needs and Allocations**

Chief Chris Guerrero discussed that City of Kennewick currently funds 15 officer positions, cadet, equipment with those associated, utilize funds for technologies in station, audio visual technology improvements, 2.5 police support, prosecutor – recommend 3/10 for Kennewick – spent 19 million

Chief Greggo discussed that West Richland – wants to remain status quo – funds 3 police officers and 1 office staff includes training and equipment – projection for 2024 – 818,000 would support that and increases each year

Deputy Chief Neher discussed that City of Richland has 12.5 positions 8 uniformed, 3.5 non uniformed – city manager asking for funding for 911 dispatch

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen discussed that Benton County has 72.09 positions as well as sheriffs' vehicles, body cams, superior court judges, 28 fully funded deputies. Boys and girls club – maintain level of funding if we kept 3/10, one-time purchases would go away

Chief Chris Guererro started the discussion about what is this council's main purpose. Commissioners should ask for recommendations and this council provides it.

Chief Chris Guerrero asked the council if we prepared to make a recommendation as a group?

Judge Burrowes stated that we can't make a recommendation, but we can speak to our needs. We have more needs than money. Backlog in the court system.

Citizen member Cameron Fordmeier made the recommendation for 3/10 and no sunset clause

Deputy Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated he will urge the Commissioners to be asking for the recommendations from this council at the coming board meetings

Citizen member Brian Ace suggested that the next step for a citizen's council is to decide if 3/10 is a good recommendation and we need to identify what we will fund vs. what we do fund.

Judge Burrowes agreed that we must acknowledge what we are going to fund, not just what we do fund

Clerk Josie Delvin stated that we need to make clear to the public what we will lose, if we don't pass this, this is what will happen because we can't fund it without PSST

Citizen member Brian Ace suggested that we maintain or provide something that is understandable, clear and concise

Judge Burrowes stated that he wanted to correct the record that there is not a huge surplus, we will use the funds, we owe that to be able to tell people

City Manager Jon Amundson stated that Richland has a community relations team, they would be happy to offer that team to create a one-page document.

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated that the County has hired a firm out of Spokane to assist with that. They want to approach it from a regional perspective. They will help develop social media stuff.

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated he will get a list of questions that they would like recommendations on, and he will send out the packet from the community relations group to members of this council

Prosecuting Attorney Eric Eisinger asked how the citizens group was formed and stated that he had a few people say they are interested in

Clerk Josie Delvin stated that they reached out to citizens they knew that helped form the committee

City Manager Jon Amundson asked if it would be helpful to have a handoff to the citizens committee

Kennewick City council member John Trumbo state that we have someone attending today that was involved and introduced Jerry Martin

Community member Jerry Martin asked if there will be a committee and if so, he would like to be on it

Chief Chris Guerrero asked the group about having a meeting next week and stated he would send out an agenda

### **Old Business**

- 1. Information from Yakima about their strategy/plan for passing a resolution to discuss with Commissioners**
- 2. Status of Benton County Courts update**
- 3. Current Department openings**
  - a. Superior Court
  - b. Clerk's Office
  - c. WRPD
  - d. KPD
  - e. RPD
  - f. BCSO
- 4. Community education fact sheet – Commissioner McKay update**
- 5. Previous PSST strategy – Sheriff Croskrey update**

### **Other Business**

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:00**