

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Law and Justice Council**  
**Wednesday, May 17th, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Benton County Justice Center**

This Council meets about, and takes action on, issues pertaining to local criminal justice matters. This includes but is not limited to: Issues regarding jail management and DOC coordination, local crime trends and availability of criminal justice resources, sharing of information, personnel and infrastructure to reduce duplication of efforts and facilitate policing and supervision efforts to reduce recidivism and enhance responses to offender violations.

**Present**

Dave Wheeler – Benton County Probation Manager  
Eric Eisinger – Benton County Prosecutor  
Ryan Brown – Benton County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Jared Kelly – West Richland Police Commander  
Brian Ace – Citizen Member  
Josie Delvin – Benton County Clerk  
Chris Guerrero – Kennewick Police Chief  
Rob Guerrero – Benton County Corrections Chief  
Cameron Fordmeir – Citizen Member  
Tiffany Runge – Superior Court Administrator  
Tom Glover – City of Prosser Administrator  
Jay King – City of Prosser Police Chief  
Jon Law – Benton County Sheriff's Office Undersheriff  
Jennifer Azure – Benton County District Court Judge  
Matt Rasmussen – Deputy County Administrator  
Brigit Clary – City of Richland Police Chief  
Dave Neher – City of Richland Deputy Police Chief  
Chuck Torelli – City of Kennewick Council Member  
Thomas Grego – West Richland Police Chief

Called to order by Chief Guerrero at 12:02

**Introductions**

Around the Room Introductions

**Approval of Minutes (Action)**

Chief Chris Guerrero asked to approve minutes of April 19th, 2023

Council member Chuck Torelli made a motion to approve the minutes, Prosser Administrator Tom Glover seconded, motion carried unanimously

**New Business**

- **PSST Jurisdictional Spending Plans**

Chief Chris Guerrero said KPD sent their spending plan to Matt Rasmussen this morning

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen said he hasn't received Richlands, but has received some internal ones and that Sheriff Croskrey had reached out and will be sending additional requests

Chief Clary stated they are almost done with their list and that they will be setting a meeting with the city admin

District Court Judge Azure stated they have documented plans and still working on figures

Undersheriff Jon Law asked what the deadline is for sending the spending plans

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated that as soon as possible would be ideal

Benton County Clerk Josie Delvin asked if this was a plan for new spending

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated he will be assuming no change in spending unless he hears otherwise from the differing departments

Undersheriff Jon Law asked if June 1<sup>st</sup> would work as a deadline

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen confirmed that June 1<sup>st</sup> would work

Chief Chris Guerrero stated that once we get the compiled list, we will be able to get the statements done and begin public outreach. He Asked if any other questions about jurisdiction needs.

Undersheriff Jon Law asked if there will be a meeting soon after the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline

Chief Chris Guerrero stated that they will schedule the next meeting for the 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Old Business**

- **Pro/Con Individuals**

Chief Chris Guerrero asked if any more pro/con individuals, will be good to have the jurisdictional needs available for those people

Chief Clary asked who to send names to

Chief Chris Guerrero stated to send them to him, so there aren't duplicate efforts

Council member Chuck Torelli asked if pro/con list been submitted to the commissioners and approved

Chief Chris Guerrero – Jerry Martin, Reithmyr, Earl Morgan was the three listed and sent over

- **Legislative Impacts on the Criminal Justice System**

Chief Chris Guerrero stated that yesterday specials session occurred and was voted on and passed both laws

Clerk Josie Delvin asked if the piece passed regarding paraphernalia no longer being a violation?

Chief Clary stated that she read what WASPC stated regarding the dates

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Brown stated that it seems there may be an issue with dates

Chief Chris Guerrero stated it should be very interesting to see what impact these laws have on District Court. He had heard from their lobbyist what jurisdictions are doing and it had an impact on what to give in on

Clerk Josie Delvin spoke about the budget proviso regarding Blake funding for cities and counties, now includes language related to drug paraphernalia, governor can't veto specific lines in the budget proviso. Three weeks ago, received an email from Justice Yu who was disappointed we aren't done processing and why it is taking so long to get thru the process. Frustrating the Supreme Court who signed this doesn't understand the process. Some burden will be lifted based on how the process of reimbursements will occur, but still currently processing lots of cases.

Prosecuting Attorney Eric Eisinger stated he just hired a new PA to work on Blake cases and a legal secretary to help with the case load. Collaboratively working with Josie Delvin and asked also asked Judge Azure regarding a Blake Docket.

Judge Jennifer Azure confirmed there is a Blake docket, and they are seeing cases, lots of calculating happening and challenges

- **Continued Conversation – Update on the status of Public Safety Sales Tax**

Chief Chris Guerrero asked is anything else we need to discuss

No one had anything to add

- **Completion of OPMA Training and notice to Katie Gillies**

Chief Chris Guerrero mentioned as a reminder to take the OPMA training and to ensure those that sit in on behalf of someone else to also take the training

### **Other Business**

Council member Chuck Torelli asked if Commissioner Alvarez had checked with MRSC about visibility

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated he is currently out of town

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment section as we did not have anyone from the public in attendance

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:23