

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Law and Justice Council**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 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.

Dave Wheeler – Benton County Probation Manager  
Eric Eisinger – Benton County Prosecutor  
Ryan Brown – Benton County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Josie Delvin – Benton County Clerk  
Tom Croskrey – Benton County Sheriff  
Rob Guerrero – Benton County Corrections Chief  
Chris Guerrero – Kennewick Police Chief  
Dan Kathren – District Court Judge  
John Trumbo – City of Kennewick Council Member  
Tom Glover – City of Prosser Administrator  
Diana Ruff – Superior Court Judge  
Matt Rasmussen – Deputy County Administrator  
Brigit Clary – City of Richland Police Chief  
Chuck Torelli – City of Kennewick Council Member  
Jay King – City of Prosser Police Chief  
Fred Brink- West Richland Mayor Pro Tem  
Jared Kelly – West Richland Police Commander  
Melissa Hedrick – West Richland Police Assistant to the Chief  
Cameron Fordmeir – Citizen Member  
Jon Law – Benton County Sheriff's Office Undersheriff

Called to order by Chief Guerrero at 12:01

**Approval of Minutes (Action)**

Chief Chris Guerrero asked to approve minutes of May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chief Clary made a motion to approve the minutes, Chief Greggo seconded, motion carried unanimously

**Introductions**

Around the Room Introductions

**New Business**

- **PSST Jurisdictional Spending Plans**

Chief Chris Guerrero brought up the spending plans and asked for an update

Katie Gillies mentioned she worked with Glenn in the Commissioners Office to update the document sent out

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated they are still editing and adding items alongside what the current spend is as well as adding the coroner

Chief Chris Guerrero stated Kennewick is still adding and asked if the County is going to list amounts for everything

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated they are going to go in and address that

Council member John Trumbo stated it would be helpful to add dollar signs on the items Sheriff Croskrey added that what was sent in from the Sheriff's Office was from the understanding of what was needed and did not provide the cost breakdown

Judge Kathren stated they did the same thing in District Court, but they can get numbers sent in

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated to send them to him or Glenn

Katie Gillies stated that the number of employees listed appeared incorrect

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated Glenn went and addressed and found the proper numbers

Judge Ruff stated if this is a public document, we want to be clear if this is what is being adding or will this continue to be funded, clarifying between the two

Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen stated he will work with Glenn to identify without advocacy

- **Ballot Language – PA Eric Eisinger**

Eric Eisinger stated that a document was circulated early this week to put on the ballot. He stated it needs a title, word limit to 75 words, in pamphlet is 250 and the draft is longer then the first and then would condense it down. What was circulated was 239 words. Statute says that Prosecutor creates the statement, and it should be clear and concise. Needs to be neutral. There will be pro/con statements as well. He would like to solicit feedback

Judge Kathren stated that having been working in veterans court for past few years, this is a great program and if we add Veterans court verbiage, it will help. Veterans have a lot of support in our community.

Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brink stated his only comment is last sentence in second paragraph is similar to that of the third sentence, make better use of remaining words

Council member John Trumbo stated he hesitates to make drastic changes but suggested to put best stuff at top. First paragraph is history, that's not the best stuff. History at bottom, what will catch attention should be in the beginning

Judge Ruff stated it is our job is to retain neutral, combat is a less than neutral verbiage. Maybe use the word address.

Chief Clary suggested to use the word enforcement efforts vs. combat

Council member Chuck Torelli stated that using emotionally laden words, the word enhance vs. the word support.

Prosecuting Attorney Eric Eisinger stated he appreciated the great feedback

Council member John Trumbo stated we need to be thinking as someone who is a first-time reader, the retail and vehicle sales is a confusing to most

Clerk Josie Delvin stated we did hear a lot of feedback about the vehicle comparison and that is created issues

Chief Chris Guerrero stated that more could relate to .30 cents on \$100 vs. .03 cents on a \$10 dollar purchase,

Prosecuting Attorney Eric Eisinger asked if there were any other thoughts, its 3/10 not 3%, went back and forth on how to address that

Council member Chuck Torelli stated he liked the .30 cents out of \$100, seems like a real number and I don't feel manipulated as a consumer

Clerk Josie Delvin stated she likes the 3/10 of 1%

Chief Clary agrees and likes it being addressed right up front

Prosecuting Attorney Eric Eisinger will take it back to the drawing board and keep writing

### **Old Business**

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

Chief Chris Guerrero stated he believes we know where we are at

- **Pro/Con Individuals**

Chief Chris Guerrero stated we have a list

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

Chief Chris Guerrero stated a group met on Monday regarding Blake and had some good convos about impacts on jail, District Court, pre aversion, good discussion, will setup further discussions

Council member Chuck Torelli asked if there a new push from your associations of things they would like to see in the next legislative session?

Chief Chris Guerrero stated that WASPC is planning legislative meeting and discussing what the priorities are for them

Chief Clary stated she was at a WASPC zoom meeting in Olympia, listened in on and soliciting input from Chiefs on what to address in the next session. Voted on top 3, juveniles and corrections were the top.

### **Other Business**

Chief Guerrero stated the group will plan to meet in two weeks and revisit all the documents before July 11 for Commissioners to see

### **Public Comment**

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:27pm