

Meeting Minutes
Law and Justice Council
Wednesday, August 14th, 2024 – 12:00 p.m.
Benton County Administration Building

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.

Members Present

Chris Guerrero – Kennewick Police Chief
Diana Ruff – Benton County Superior Court
Brian Ace – Community Representative
John Markus – Prosser Police Chief
Fred Brink – City of West Richland Mayor Pro-Tem
Jared Kelly – West Richland Police Commander
Rob Guerrero – Benton County Corrections Chief
Tim Markham – Juvenile Justice Manager
Josie Delvin – Benton County Clerk
Chuck Torelli – City of Kennewick Mayor Pro-Tem
Jennifer Azure – Benton County District Court
John Trumbo – City of Kennewick Councilmember
Charlie Dow – Office of Public Defense Manager
Eric Eisinger – Benton County Prosecutor

Meeting was called to order by Chief Guerrero at 1200

Approval of Minutes (Action)

- Meeting minutes from July 10th meeting. Motion to approve by the minutes by Prosecutor Eisinger and seconded by Chief Rob Guerrero. Motion unanimously approved. Abstentions from Judge Ruff, Judge Azure, and Councilmember Trumbo.

New Business

Meeting Schedule

- Chief Chris Guerrero brought up the need to have reoccurring monthly meetings. The board agreed we could meet every other month instead of monthly. Chief Guerrero will cancel the current calendar invites and schedule for every other month.

Regional Updates

- The representatives present provided regional updates. Mayor Pro-Tem Torelli requested information on how the Public Safety Sales Tax revenue could be spent after receiving inquiries.

Other Business

Community Member Brian Ace requested a “flow chart” of the justice system to have a better understanding of potential pinch points. This stirred discussion from members on the benefit, timing, and outcomes. Prosecutor Eisinger agreed to build a flow chart that would be discussed at a future meeting.

Office of Public Defense Manager Charlie Dow inquired about being a board member. There was discussion about the previous OPD Manager and his affiliation to the board. Chief Guerrero would bring this up to the commissioners for possible approval.

Meeting adjourned at 12:54pm.