

AGENDA
Law and Justice Council
Wednesday, August 13, 2025 – 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.

Chris Guerrero – City of Kennewick Police Chief
Diana Ruff – Superior Court Judge
Fred Brink – West Richland Mayor Pro-Tem
Rob Guerrero - Benton County Corrections Chief
Mike Clark – Benton County Sheriff Lieutenant
Josie Delvin – Benton County Clerk
James Fry - West Richland Police Chief
Martin Pilcher – City of Richland Police Chief
Eric Eisinger – Benton County Prosecutor
Keith Johnson – Office of Public Defense Manager
Jennifer Azure – Benton County District Court Judge
Michael Alvarez – Benton County Commissioner
Matt Rasmussen – Deputy County Administrator
Theresa Richardson – Richland Mayor
Gordon Thomasson – Juvenile Court Administrator
Laurencio Sanguino – City Attorney, Kennewick
Andrew Clark – Benton County Prosecuting Attorney
John Trumbo – City of Kennewick Council Member

Meeting called to order by Chief Chris Guerrero at 12:00pm

Introductions

- Around the Room Introductions

Approval of Minutes (Action)

- Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve minutes brough forward by Fred Brink, Theresa Richardson seconded, motion unanimously passes.

New Business

- Chief Guerrero asked for new business, no new business brought forward

Old Business

- **Justice System Flow Chart Discussion**

Prosecutor Eric Eisinger discussed that Brian Ace suggested we chart out the criminal justice system, and last meeting it was discussed we highlight red, yellow, and green to identify what areas are causing concern.

Judge Diana Ruff suggested we add a note that Juvenile is excluded from this.

Chief Guerrero discussed that it may be something we should include since it is a significant part of the county.

Matt Rasmussen agreed that maybe we do a separate flow chart.

Prosecutor Eric Eisinger said we wanted to keep it simple in one flow chart, then moved on to the corrections flow chart.

Chief Rob Guerrero broke down each part of the process and what everyone does.

Lieutenant Clark spoke on working on a flow chart for law enforcement.

Chief Guerrero asked if we want a law enforcement perspective or individualized county vs. city process.

Matt Rasmussen said we are likely wanting a high-level view.

Chief Guerrero suggested we can use colors to add differences between city and county if needed.

Judge Diana Ruff said the origination of this was getting to the bottom of the bottlenecks and better to keep it at a high level.

Prosecutor Eric Eisinger said we need to move forward with color coding the bottlenecks.

Chief Guerrero said we can send Eisinger by department via email what each one's bottlenecks are.

Prosecutor Eric Eisinger said steps forward is each department emails their changes.

Matt Rasmussen added a sentence regarding why something has a different color.

- **DUI Dismissals Pending Toxicology Reports**

Judge Jennifer Azure spoke on noticing more breath tests for DUI's while on call. If there are pending cases or already filed, sometimes we are revoking bail due to safety threat to community.

Lieutenant Clark talked about getting certifications renewed and pushing the message to patrol that we have other options.

Chief Guerrero had a question about how many DRE's we have in the area and what it takes to get them certified.

Attorney Laurencio Sanguino said often we have quite a few DUI's that are not alcohol related.

Lieutenant Clark said we have gone towards search warrants and didn't need the DRE's but now with the backlog at WSP, it's causing it to go the other way.

Prosecutor Eric Eisinger said we are taking the approach to file on all cases that we can with BCSO and WSP.

Attorney Andrew Clark mentioned that sometimes the reality is we get more on interlock or alcohol monitoring as a safety precaution for the community.

Attorney Laurencio Sanguino said we need to have consistency on how we administer the different options; we need to discuss as a county how we are addressing probation issues.

Chief Guerrero asked if there is inconsistency in how we are handling DUI cases.

Judge Jennifer Azure said yes, different personalities and styles creates that. We do try to get everyone on the same page, but every case is different.

Chief Guerrero asked do you see benefit for us to meet with Judges to discuss some of this.

Judge Jennifer Azure said dialogues are always good.

Chief Guerrero said if we can get with you and identify this, then we can now feel comfortable that we have.

Other Business

- **Regional Updates**

Commissioner Alvarez spoke about receiving a phone call from resident about food trucks, starting to setup in tri cities, no permits not following codes, etc.

Prosecutor Eric Eisinger talked about lots of changes, Julie Long moved to Franklin, lots of internal movements and new hires.

Public Comment

Meeting adjourned 12:49