

Law and Justice Council (LJC)

Date: May 29th, 2019

Time: 1200 to 1300

Location: Benton County Commissioners Conference Room - Kennewick

Human Resources - Katie Gillies

Opening Public Meeting – Video

Business

Prior Chair Rusty Morris stepped down as chair

1st Chair – Sheriff Jerry Hatcher

Nominated by Chief Ken Hohenberg

2nd by Major Brent Gerry

2nd Chair – Chief Hohenberg

Nominated by Mayor Brent Gerry

2nd by Paul Parish Kennewick City Council

Lieutenant Erickson with BCSO note taker for purposes of this meeting

Need to reconvene LJC in order to discuss future of the Public Safety Tax (PST) – Hatcher
Importance – Hohenberg due to increase in gang violence and violence in general

What organizations creates the LJC? - Hohenberg

Prosecutor Andy Miller – there is outline from existing LJC

PST – Discussion

Chief Giles PST is accounted for on Prosser webpage. Gang members pushing east into Prosser area from Yakima County. High level gang members now in Prosser area. PST Funds SRO and has allowed for new technology

Mayor Gerry – METRO Drug Task valuable. Fund three officers with PST. Increase collaboration with Benton County Commissioners

Rusty Morris – Program that helps disabled and elderly, so they understand where the PST money is being used

Coroner William Leach – They haven't received any PST. They'd like some of the funds to use to purchase new technology. Example X-ray machine that may be used in the field.

Darryl Banks Juvenile – Functional family therapy programs with PST and State money. Juvenile Drug court is not full, but they get close to max occupancy. Drug court going very well. PST has helped increase the SAP program. New employment program "Next Step." Mental Health detention team. Behavior supports to work with inmates. Need to use PST to create Gang intervention program with kids around middle school age. Chief Hohenberg agreed with need for Gang intervention program. Mayor Gerry agrees with gang intervention programs that can benefit the grade schools and middle schools.

Carrie Runge Courts – Guardianship monitoring person for Benton County. Covers disabled or elderly that cannot care for their own estate. PST could be used to expand this program. Benefit of PST is Adult Drug Court (ADC) can now move up to 75-person program. Benefit of PST full time support person in Benton County Superior Court admin office.

Fred Brink (West City Council) – Thank Sheriff and Chief for starting the meetings again. LJC needs to put out positive messaging to help PST get renewed. Find diverse ways to use the PST other than for Law Enforcement bodies.

Jesse Campos Citizen Rep – Thanked group. Concerned about gangs.

Elaine on behalf of Josie Delvin Clerk – PST has allowed to hire two superior court clerks. They've been able to add a scan archive team.

Andrew Sawyer and Jeffrey Uttecht DOC – Agencies in Benton County have been a huge benefit to DOC

Prosecutor Miller – Bad publicity on PST. Unfortunate. PST METRO detective position in Benton County. Cannot use Benton County PST for Franklin County agencies on METRO. Believes PST money funds several positions in local schools. PST supports a separate school program in Benton City. Believes ICAC position has been funded with PST. Excited about PST and we need to be proactive and do a better job talking about the positives of the PST to our community.

Hohenberg on METRO to Miller – Out of drug money. If we asked for \$150,000 how is that divided between Benton County and Franklin County agencies? Miller two formulas one for juvenile and one for superior. It's about Benton 75% to Franklin 25% for funding for METRO.

Jim Beaver Commissioner – Thanked group for being here. Agrees there's a need to reevaluate future of PST and move forward as a team.

Paul Parish – PST a good thing. Reserve money is a good thing. We need to share the positives we've done with the PST with the public.

Sheriff Hatcher - Next meeting last Wednesday of month 1200 to 1300 w/agenda

End of meeting