

**Benton County Law & Justice Council
Meeting Minutes – 10/12/2016**

Present: Dave Giles, City of Prosser Police Department
Ryan Boyce, City of West Richland Police Department
Shyanne Faulconer, Benton County Community Programs and Public Relations Coordinator
Craig Littrell, City of Kennewick Police Department
Ray Kofoed, Citizen Representative
Jacki Lahtinen, Benton & Franklin County District Court Administrator
Rusty Morris, Citizen Representative
Jefferson Coulter, Northwest Justice
Judge Alex Ekstrom, Benton & Franklin Counties Superior Court
Judge Katy Butler, Benton & Franklin Counties District Court
Eric Hsu, Benton County Office of Public Defense
Karissa Garza, Benton County Office of Public Defense

Benton County Gang and Crime Prevention Initiative – Shyanne Faulconer

Update regarding Benton Gang and Crime – Shyanne Faulconer

RFQ – Deadline was September 30, 2016.

- Currently in decision making process/interview process.
- Four new applicants have made proposals for 2017-2018.
- Should be approved and have contracting process by November.
- All new contracts have a start date of January 1, 2017.

Law and Justice Meeting Schedule

- Meetings for November and December 2016 are canceled, start up again in January 2017.

Revisiting Idea of Annual Reports and/or Links to City Information about Safety Sales Tax – Eric Hsu

- As Shyanne is increasing the county social media profile, there has been more interest from the public which is making inquiries to be more common.
- Discussion about annual reports or information from the departments and city websites can be linked on the public safety sales tax page, which then can be directed to the cities websites or department.

Updates

- City of Kennewick and City of Richland – Have new and improved websites.
- Kennewick – A lot more openings because of retirements. Four additional officers getting hired through the public safety taxes that will be starting January 2017. A lot of focus on recruitment, reaching out and going to college campuses. Had a lot of success with the

entry level officers. Starting January there will be a paid cadet program, hiring six cadets ages 18-21. Will have to be working 20 hours a week and have to be enrolled in college. Will get tuition reimbursement. Recruit on military basis.

- Mental Health Court – Going well, has benefited the community. A lot of people in the program has been doing a lot of community services, getting jobs and going to college.

Public Safety Sales Tax Questions/Ideas

- Issues – Visibility, citizens can hear about the city of Kennewick and also about the law and justice meeting once a year.
- Idea of press release - So people can know what is going on in this meeting. Allowing people to know what happens in this meeting. Also get highlighting of the success on the mental health and what we've done to better help the community.
- Social Media is allowing the public to access these meeting and are to see what is going in each city.
- An idea of having the public ask where their money is going, instead of just having an update of what's going on.

Adjourn meeting at 12:25 pm.