

# COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2004 MEETING

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street, Room 739

Los Angeles, California 90012

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Leroy Baca, Vice-Chair  
Ray Fortner  
Janice Fukai  
Jaclyn Tilley Hill  
Mary Thornton House  
Jay Imperial  
Michael Judge  
Andrew Kauffman  
Donald Kincaid  
Dave Lambertson  
Richard Shumsky  
Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran  
Robin Toma  
Michael Tynan  
David Wesley

### ALTERNATES

Tony Beliz for Marvin Southard\*  
Earl Bradley for Jon Fullinwider  
Ed Brekke for Jack Clarke  
Ed Brekke for Alice Hill\*  
Marcus Castro for Dennis Tafoya  
Lisa Gardner for Ronald Iden\*  
Craig Harvey for Anthony Hernandez  
Mary Thornton House for Robert Dukes\*  
Joe Jackson for James Hahn  
Sandy Kievman for Cindy Miscikowski  
Larry Mason for Steve Cooley\*  
Jim McDonnell for William Bratton  
Buren Simmons for Roy Romer  
Debbie Smith for Joyce Streator\*  
Marty Vranicar for Rockard Delgadillo\*  
David Wesley for Jack Hunt  
Bill Ybarra for Darline Robles  
\*Not a designated alternate

### MEMBERS NOT PRESENT OR REPRESENTED

Don Knabe, Fourth District County Supervisor, Chair of CCJCC  
Michael Brown, California Highway Patrol  
William Fujioka, Administrative and Research Services  
Thomas Garthwaite, Department of Health Services  
David Hinig, San Gabriel Police Chiefs' Association  
James Herren, Police Chiefs' Association  
Jack Hunt, Los Angeles Superior Court  
David Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Michelle Leonhart, Drug Enforcement Administration  
Bill Lockyer, California Attorney General  
Michael Nash, Los Angeles Superior Court  
Manny Ortega, Southeast Police Chiefs' Association  
Stephen Port, South Bay Chiefs' Association  
Richard Propster, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County  
Robert Ryans, Community & Senior Services  
David Sanders, Department of Children & Family Services  
Ronald Smith, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Debra Yang, U.S. Attorney  
Margaret York, Office of Public Safety, County Parks and Recreation

## **STAFF**

Peggy Shuttleworth, Executive Director  
Vincent Holmes  
Cynthia Machen  
Craig Marin  
Pat Zabaro

## **GUESTS/OTHERS**

Greg Estes, ATF  
Karen Green, Office of Security Management  
Lisa Kincaid, ATF  
Kevin McCarthy, Los Angeles Police Department

### **I. CONVENE / INTRODUCTIONS – Leroy Baca**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Sheriff Lee Baca, Vice-Chair of this Committee. Supervisor Don Knabe was unable to attend this meeting, and he asked that Sheriff Baca serve as Acting Chair in his absence. Self-introductions of members and guests followed.

### **II. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Leroy Baca**

There were no requests for revisions of the minutes from the meeting on March 17, 2004. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2004 meeting was seconded and approved without objections.**

### **III. PROCLAIM DRUG COURT MONTH AS MAY 2004 – Michael Tynan**

Judge Michael Tynan of the Los Angeles Superior Court appeared on behalf of Judge Rudy Diaz, Chair of the Drug Court Oversight Committee.

The first drug court program in Los Angeles County began in 1994. Currently, there are fifteen pre-plea and post-plea drug courts operating in the County, along with one sentenced offender drug court and two juvenile drug courts. A total of 2,586 participants have graduated from drug court programs as of the beginning of this year.

Judge Tynan thanked Sheriff Baca for his support of in-custody drug treatment programs. This has provided an additional means for reaching individuals in need of these services.

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals has recognized May as Drug Court Month. Therefore, in conjunction with this, a motion was made to request that the County Board of Supervisors designate May as Drug Court Month.

**ACTION: The motion to request that the County Board of Supervisors proclaim May as Drug Court Month was passed without opposition.**

**IV. INTERAGENCY GANG TASK FORCE (IGTF) ANNUAL REPORT –  
Martin Vranicar**

A draft of the Interagency Gang Task Force (IGTF) First Annual Report on Gang Violence has been completed. Copies were distributed to those in attendance. The report covers the activities of the IGTF during the 18-month period from July 2002 to December 2003.

One change that will be made to the report concerns references to the Anti-Gang Violence Conferences held in 2002 and 2003. Specifically, the County Department of Education will be acknowledged as a co-sponsor of these events.

Under the leadership of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, then Chair of CCJCC, the IGTF undertook a renewed focus on gang violence in the County beginning in mid-year 2002. This resulted in the First Annual Anti-Gang Conference, which was held on November 21, 2002. The conference highlighted anti-gang violence programs that appeared to be working, and introduced a regional approach to addressing gang violence.

The regional approach consisted of dividing the County into regional teams consisting of representatives from law enforcement, government agencies, and community based organizations. The regional teams were then instructed to focus on local issues in terms of intervention, prevention, and suppression efforts.

Resource Guides consisting of intervention and prevention programs in each region have been developed, and information about successful anti-gang violence efforts around the County have been shared with each regional team. Additionally, regional Clergy Councils and Suppression Task Forces were created in conjunction with the regional teams.

Funding for a grant writer has been secured from the Quality and Productivity Commission. This individual will assist with the implementation of the IGTF's public information campaign, which will utilize a multi-faceted approach to present communities and school children with an anti-violence message.

The IGTF ended 2003 with its Second Annual Anti-Gang Violence conference, held on November 5, 2003. Featured speakers included Pete Carroll, USC Head Football Coach, and Lou Tice, Chairman of the Pacific Institute.

As a follow-up to the conference, the Pacific Institute agreed to provide training courses on creative problem solving with respect to gang violence, and facilitating a change in the manner in which individuals view reality. Over 200 people have since completed the training.

Gang crime statistics in the County of Los Angeles for 2003 reveal that gang-related homicides are down countywide by nearly 10% from that of 2002. This reverses a previous upward trend from the past four years. The percentage of homicides in the County that are gang-related also went down in 2003 to below 50%.

Martin Vranicar, Chair of the IGTF, thanked Sheriff Baca for his leadership in creating the Gang Planning Authority (GPA) in 2003. The GPA consists of the Sheriff, County Chiefs of Police, and other local law enforcement representatives, and it has oversight authority for the regional suppression task forces and the implementation of the Los Angeles Regional Gang Information Network (LARGIN).

Sheriff Baca noted that the Board of Supervisors has recently approved an enhancement of \$3 million to the Sheriff's Department budget specifically for addressing the problem of gang violence. Additionally, in the first Quarterly Report for 2004, gang-related homicides are down 17% in the Sheriff's Department jurisdictions.

Mr. Vranicar observed that the LAPD year-to-date statistics reveal a decrease in gang violence in their jurisdictions as well, with a decrease of approximately 14% in gang crime.

A motion was made to approve the IGTF Annual Report for submission to the Board of Supervisors. This motion was seconded.

**ACTION: The motion to approve the IGTF Annual Report for submission to the Board of Supervisors was approved without opposition.**

**V. NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTICS INFORMATION NETWORK (NIBIN)  
STATUS REPORT – Lisa Kincaid**

In December 1999, the ballistics imaging systems of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) were unified into one system, the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (NIBIN). NIBIN is a database of ballistic images that allows investigators to compare images from fired bullets and cartridge casings.

The NIBIN program places Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) equipment into state and local law enforcement agencies for their use in imaging and comparing crime evidence involving guns. This was implemented in the Southern California area beginning in April 2001. There are now a total of 12 sites in Southern California, 24 sites in California as a whole, and 233 sites throughout the United States.

A digital camera takes pictures of the cartridge casings, bullets, firing pin impression, and any other relevant information regarding a firearm. By acquiring digital images of the markings made by a firearm on bullets and cartridge casings, the equipment can determine if a firearm in its database matches the evidence from a crime. Each time a

bullet or cartridge casing is imaged in, the system checks the entire database of that region. This can also help to solve additional crimes by linking shootings that would have otherwise seemed unrelated.

The cost associated with each Data Acquisition Station (DAS) unit is approximately \$250,000. The cost of maintenance, upgrades, communication lines, and network expenses averages about \$90,000 a year per site.

One difficulty that has been experienced is a lack of personnel resources available to perform the scanning. As a result, backlogs tend to build up, and cases go unsolved.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has addressed this with a program entitled, Walk-in Wednesday. This entails granting each LAPD Division a set number of appointments. It is now incumbent upon the detectives to make their appointments and select the cases that they want leads on. Detectives transport the evidence and observe the imaging process. They are notified of potential hit results within 48 hours. The number of hits has subsequently increased.

There is also a potential for financial support in that the ATF has made an offer of funding for overtime specifically for ballistics imaging. Additionally, some local law enforcement agencies have applied for and received grant funding, either through Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) or the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The prerequisites for a local law enforcement agency to join with the network are that the agency must have both a lab and a certified firearms and toolmark examiner. If these requirements are met, the ATF must receive a letter of request from the agency indicating the number of firearms recovered per year, the number of firearms related crimes per year, and the population served.

The Southern California Regional Crime Gun Center has one DAS, two contract NIBIN technicians, and ten test-fire agents. The center has imaging exemplars from ATF recovered firearms, and will accept exemplars from other Federal agencies. Included among the services offered are comprehensive firearms tracing and real-time investigative leads.

The national statistics as of February reveal that NIBIN has experienced 8,318 cartridge casing hits and 530,978 cartridge casing entries, along with 314 bullet hits and 220,676 bullet entries. The California statistics as of February indicate that there have been 1,024 cartridge casing hits and 55,633 cartridge casing entries, while there have been 25 bullet hits and 23,662 bullet entries.

Lisa Kincaid is the Western Regional Coordinator for NIBIN, and she can be reached at (213) 534-2450. The Southern California Coordinator is Greg Estes, and he can be reached at (213) 534-5050. Contractors for Hit Follow-up are Frank Spizuoco, who can be reached at (714) 246-8210, and Mary Hones, who can be reached at (213) 534-5050.

**ACTION:** For information only.

**VI. OTHER MATTERS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sheriff Baca announced that the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section recently named Janice Fukai, Alternate Public Defender, as Defender of the Year. She will receive this award in May.

**VII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Sheriff Baca adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m. The next CCJCC meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at 11:30 a.m. in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.**