

COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE April 20, 2005 MEETING

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street, Room 739

Los Angeles, California 90012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leroy Baca, Vice-Chair
Mark Arnold
Cynthia Banks
Steve Cooley
Peter Espinoza
Ray Fortner
William Fujioka
Janice Fukai
Karl Henry
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Michael Hoff
Michael Judge
Manuel Padilla
Richard Propster
Patricia Schnegg
Maria Stratton
Joyce Streater
David Wesley
Margaret York

ALTERNATES

Tony Beliz for Marvin Southard*
Ed Brekke for Jack Clarke
George Cardona for Debra Yang
Marcus Castro for Dennis Tafoya
Brian Center for Gloria Molina
Chris Evans for Stephen Delgado*
Ali Farahani for Jon Fullinwider*
Rosemary Gutierrez for David Janssen*
Pamela Hamanaka for Bill Lockyer
Joe Jackson for James Hahn
James McDonnell for William Bratton*
Ethel McGuire for Rich Garcia*
William Montgomery for Dave Lambertson
Patrick Ogawa for Thomas Garthwaite
Ray Regalado for Robin Toma*
Buren Simmons for Roy Romer
Marty Vranicar for Rockard Delgadillo*
David Wesley for William MacLaughlin*
Steve Yoder for Paul Higa*

***Not a designated alternate**

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT OR REPRESENTED

Ray Fortner, County Counsel
William Fujioka, Administrative and Research Services
Anthony Hernandez, Department Of Coroner
David Hinig, San Gabriel Police Chiefs' Association
Jay Imperial, League of California Cities
Thomas Jackson, California Contract Cities
Cindy Miscikowski, Los Angeles City Council
Michael Nash, Judge, Superior Court
Manny Ortega, Southeast Police Chiefs' Association
Stephen Port, South Bay Chiefs' Association
Darline Robles, County Office of Education
David Sanders, Department of Children and Family Services
Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Department Of Coroner
David Singer, Police Chiefs' Association
John Torres, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Michael Tynan, Los Angeles Superior Court

STAFF

Peggy Shuttleworth, Executive Director
Vincent Holmes
Cynthia Machen
Craig Marin

GUESTS/OTHERS

George Bao, Chinese Daily News
Richard Barrantes, Sheriff's Department, Court Services
Kenneth Brazile, Sheriff's Department
Lou Cabrino, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Tiffany Chen, Sigtao Daily
Terrence Judge, TRAP
Richard Martinez, Sheriff's Department, Court Services
Larry Mason, District Attorney's Office
Kevin McCarthy, LAPD, Special Operations Bureau
Kenneth Mitchell, Gangsters Anonymous
Juan Rodriguez, Sheriff's Department, Court Services
John Ruegg, ISAB
Devallis Rutledge, District Attorney's Office
Hyosub Shin, Korean Times
Steven Van Sicklen, Judge, Superior Court
Euyhun Yi, Korean Times

I. CONVENE / INTRODUCTIONS – Lee Baca

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy Baca, Vice Chair of this Committee, and Acting Chair of this meeting. Self-introductions of members and guests followed.

II. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Lee Baca

There were no requests for revisions to the Minutes of the meeting on March 16, 2005. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes.

ACTION: The Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2005 meeting was seconded and approved without objection.

III. TASK FORCE FOR REGIONAL AUTO THEFT PREVENTION (TRAP) – Terrence Judge

Captain Terrence Judge of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is the Project Director of the Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention (TRAP). He appeared before this committee to present the TRAP semi-annual progress report.

The mission of TRAP is to reduce the incidents of auto theft, increase the recovery rate of stolen automobiles, identify trends and patterns of vehicle theft, provide training and expertise to participating law enforcement agencies, and coordinate a deterrence program with the private sector. TRAP is funded by a one-dollar fee on all registered vehicles in Los Angeles County.

The Task Force consists of representatives from various law enforcement agencies from throughout the County, and partnerships have been formed with other government and private organizations.

Since the last report to CCJCC in October of 2004, the TRAP program has filled three positions. One of these is an Information Systems Coordinator (Computer Networking Expert). Additionally, the last two investigative positions have been filled by the Sheriff's Department, which makes this the first time in over three years that TRAP has zero vacancies.

From October 2004 through March 2005, TRAP has been responsible for 243 arrests, 126 warrants served, and 646 vehicles recovered. The value of the recoveries is 11.1 million dollars.

There have been several equipment upgrades as well. These include the replacement of eight undercover vehicles with over 100,000 miles, the purchase of seven tasers used for search warrants, the purchase of one mobile satellite tracking device used for suspect vehicles under surveillance, and the purchase of ten additional laptop computers with wireless capabilities so that officers in the field can get information quickly on license plate and vehicle identification numbers.

TRAP is supporting a California Assembly Bill 504 (AB 504), which is currently in the Judicial Committee. This bill states that no (automobile) dealer will sell vehicles without obtaining a thumbprint and a valid identification from the buyer. AB 504 would assist in combating the problem of identity theft being used to fraudulently purchase new vehicles.

One of the goals of TRAP for 2005 includes conducting a storefront sting operation to purchase stolen vehicles. Another objective is to network with task forces from other states and countries in order to address the problem of exportation of stolen vehicles.

A specific case was discussed involving a motorcycle gang. After an extensive investigation, 24 arrests were made and the District Attorney filed sixteen felony counts on 18 suspects. Nine of these individuals have plead guilty and nine cases are still pending.

In response to a question regarding which vehicles are the most stolen, Captain Judge noted that, as of 2003, the Honda Accord was at the top of this list, with the Honda Civic and Toyota Camry also heavily targeted.

Richard Propster of the Peace Officers' Association of Los Angeles County (POA) presented Captain Judge with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of POA in recognition of the accomplishments of TRAP. He observed that TRAP serves as a model of successful law enforcement cooperation.

ACTION: For information only.

NOTE: Judge Wesley requested that, for all future presentations at CCJCC, open cases should not be discussed in front of judicial officers.

IV. L.A. TASK FORCE ON TERRORISM – Ethel McGuire

Ethel McGuire of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) provided an update on the Los Angeles Task Force On Terrorism (LATFOT).

LATFOT is comprised of 36 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. This involves approximately 100 FBI agents and 150 local law enforcement officers, and it includes the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office as well as the locations in Long Beach, Santa Ana, and Riverside. There are eight operational squads within the Task Force that focus on various potential terrorism threats.

It was noted that LATFOT is currently seeking to create an infrastructure squad that will handle terrorism concerns at transportation-related sites such as local airports and ports.

In addition to these squads, there are also numerous working groups that address terrorism issues in this region. For example, one working group has been formed to ensure that LATFOT is in compliance with national mandates.

The Intelligence and Terrorism Alert Network (TITAN) is an Internet-based intelligence sharing initiative and alert network. It is designed to collect information relating to terrorist operations and related criminal activities, and then to disseminate this to law enforcement agencies and critical asset partners (corporations and organizations) within Southern California (i.e., the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Santa Barbara).

Applications for joining TITAN are available on the Internet at www.catitan.org.

The Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC) will incorporate all incoming terrorism-related information. The LATFOT is seeking to make JRIC available to support local law enforcement terrorism prevention efforts by providing information and analysis on individual names and cases. This is tentatively scheduled to be operational by the end of August or early September of this year, and it will be based in Norwalk.

ACTION: For information only.

V. COURTROOM SECURITY – Richard Martinez

On Monday, March 14, 2005, in the San Fernando Courthouse, a Deputy Alternate Public Defender was attacked by her client. Specifically, she was slashed in the arm with a razor blade.

In response, on Tuesday, March 15, 2005, the County Board of Supervisors passed a Motion that, in part, refers this issue to the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) for further discussion, and requires that CCJCC report back to the Board of Supervisors with findings and recommendations on how to minimize the possibility of such an incident occurring again.

Richard Martinez, Chief of the Sheriff's Department Court Services Division, provided a briefing on the events that transpired on March 14th that led up to the attack. He discussed the method by which it is believed that the defendant smuggled a razor blade into the courtroom, and the subsequent steps that are being taken to prevent this from happening again.

Janice Fukai, County Alternate Public Defender, thanked the Sheriff's Department for the quick response of the bailiffs who were present in the courtroom at the time of the attack. They were able to immobilize the defendant and remove the jury before jurors could become aware of what had happened. By doing so, they simultaneously prevented a mistrial and prevented the defendant from inflicting any further harm on his attorney.

A Motion was made to create a subcommittee on Courtroom Security to further discuss this issue and provide recommendations in accordance with the Motion by the Board of Supervisors.

ACTION: The Motion to create a subcommittee on Courtroom Security was seconded and approved without opposition. It was further agreed that Judge Steven Van Sicklen will Chair this subcommittee.

VI. OTHER MATTERS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments, and no other matters were raised.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Sheriff Baca adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m. The next CCJCC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.**