

# **COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2007 MEETING**

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street, Room 739

Los Angeles, California 90012

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair: Zev Yaroslavsky, County Supervisor for the Third District and  
Chairperson of the County Board of Supervisors

Cynthia Banks, County Department of Community & Senior Services

Ray Fortner, County Counsel

Gabriella Holt, County Probation Commission

Jeanne Kennedy, County Quality & Productivity Commission

Richard Kirschner, Judge, Superior Court

Loretta Martin, U.S. Probation Department

Ralph Partridge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Don Pedersen, County Police Chiefs' Association

Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, County Coroner

Steven Van Sicklen, Supervising Judge of Criminal, Superior Court

### **ALTERNATES**

Mike Brady for Adam Torres, U.S. Marshall

Ed Brekke for John Clarke, Superior Court Executive Officer

R. Doyle Campbell for Lee Baca, Los Angeles County Sheriff

Robert Clark for J. Stephen Tidwell, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Ellen Conley for Gary Dominguez, California Highway Patrol

Dave Davies for Robert Taylor, County Probation Department

Tom Eckert for Greg Savelli\*, South Bay Police Chiefs' Association

Pamela Hamanaka for Edmund Brown, California Attorney General

Steve Kawamura for David Janssen\*, County Chief Administrative Officer

Susan Kerr for Trish Ploehn, County Department of Children and Family Services

Steve Lieberman for Margaret York, County Office of Public Safety

James McDonnell for William Bratton, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

Sally Meloch for George Cardona, U.S. Attorney's Office

William Montgomery for Dave Lambertson, County Internal Services Department

Patrick Ogawa for Jonathan Fielding, County Department of Health Services

Steven Olivas for Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Robert Philibosian for Ronald Ikejiri, Economy and Efficiency Commission

Wilson Poon for Karen Sisson, Los Angeles City Chief Administrative Officer

Buren Simmons for David Brewer, Los Angeles Unified School District

Annette Starks for John Torres\*, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

Marty Vranicar for Rockard Delgadillo, Los Angeles City Attorney

Ray Wallen for Janice Fukai, County Alternate Public Defender

**\*Not a designated alternate**

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT OR REPRESENTED**

Mark Arnold, Judge, Superior Court  
Steve Cooley, Los Angeles County District Attorney  
J. Stephen Czuleger, Presiding Judge, Superior Court  
Jon Fullinwider, County Chief Information Officer  
Karl Henry, Indigent Criminal Defense Appointments Program  
Anthony Hernandez, County Department of Coroner  
Roger Johnson, San Gabriel Valley Police Chiefs' Association  
Michael Judge, Los Angeles County Public Defender  
Sean Kennedy, Federal Public Defender  
Michael Nash, Supervising Judge, Juvenile Court  
Jeffrey Prang, California Contract Cities Association  
Richard Propster, Peace Officers' Association of Los Angeles County  
Darline Robles, County Office of Education  
Bill Rosendahl, Los Angeles City Council, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Stephanie Sautner, Judge, Superior Court  
Patricia Schnegg, Judge, Superior Court  
Marvin Southard, County Department of Mental Health  
Dennis Tafoya, County Office of Affirmative Action Compliance  
Robert Todd, Southeast Police Chiefs' Association  
Robin Toma, County Human Relations Commission  
Michael Tynan, Judge, Superior Court  
Larry Waldie, Undersheriff  
Mike Webb, County Prosecutors' Association  
Dennis Zine, Independent Cities' Association

**CCJCC STAFF**

Mark Delgado, Executive Director  
Kenna Ackley  
Vincent Holmes  
Craig Marin

**GUESTS/OTHERS**

Peter Amico, County Sheriff's Department  
Joseph Charney, Justice Deputy, Third District of the Board of Supervisors  
Karen Dalton, County Sheriff's Department  
Rone Ellis, Private Citizen  
Xiomara Flores-Holguin, County Department of Children and Family Services, MART  
Briane Grey, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
Brian Hamilton, Superior Court, Juvenile Court  
Patty Huber, City of Los Angeles CAO  
Terrence Judge, County Sheriff's Department, TRAP  
Tim Landrum, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
Ethel McGuire, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
David Meenk, County Sheriff's Department, TRAP  
Emilio Mendoza, County Department of Children and Family Services, MART

Sandy Montoya, Superior Court, Juvenile Court  
Vince Prior, County Sheriff's Department, TRAP  
Peter Shutan, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office/County Probation Commission  
Bruce Staniforth, Economy and Efficiency Committee

**I. CONVENE / INTRODUCTIONS – Ray Fortner**

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Los Angeles County Counsel Ray Fortner, acting chair of this meeting.

**II. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Ray Fortner**

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the meeting on April 18, 2007. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2007 meeting was seconded and approved without objection.**

**NOTE: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair of the County Board of Supervisors and Chair of CCJCC, joined the meeting at this time. He requested that Mr. Fortner continue to serve as acting chair for the remainder of the meeting.**

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

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

The mission of TRAP is to reduce the incidence 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 \$1 fee on all registered vehicles in Los Angeles County.

TRAP consists of representatives from various law enforcement agencies throughout the County. Partnerships have been formed with other government and private organizations.

Representatives from TRAP visit police and sheriff's stations around the County and provide updates on auto theft trends, patterns, and criminal methods. TRAP detectives also conduct three-day classes on auto theft for patrol officers from throughout the County and teach auto theft investigative techniques at the annual Western States Auto Theft Investigators' (WSATI) seminar.

From January 2007 to March 2007, TRAP was responsible for 149 arrests, 31 warrants served, and 325 vehicles recovered. The value of the recoveries was over \$6.2 million.

Captain Judge discussed a major TRAP investigation that involved a storefront sting operation in which undercover officers posed as buyers of stolen vehicles. This operation resulted in 89 transactions and the identification of 103 suspects and associates. In total, 163 felony counts were filed against 63 of the suspects, and 113 stolen vehicles were recovered. The value of the recoveries was over \$1.1 million.

TRAP paid \$38,550 for all the vehicles purchased in this operation – an average of \$348 per car. The average actual value of each vehicle recovered was \$10,654.

Captain Judge observed that more Hondas were recovered in this operation than any other make of car.

One of the difficulties that TRAP is currently facing is attrition of personnel to adjust for rising salary costs. When TRAP began in 1993, funding was adequate to meet its needs. However, with increased costs in fuel, vehicles, vehicle maintenance, and salary and employee benefits, TRAP is not able to maintain the same staffing levels as in the past. It is currently down seven detectives.

California State Assembly Bill 878 would provide for an increase in the funding from \$1 per vehicle registration to \$2. If passed in the state legislature, it may reach the governor by September of this year. However, the governor's position on the bill is not known.

**ACTION: For information only.**

#### **IV. MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (MART) – Susan Kerr**

Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), appeared before CCJCC to provide an overview of the DCFS Multi-Agency Response Team (MART) and to introduce the MART presenters.

Ms. Kerr stated that DCFS is committed to working with federal, state, and local government agencies in addressing the problem of gang crime in the County of Los Angeles. MART is an important part of the department's collaboration.

Ms. Kerr introduced Commander Peter Amico of the Sheriff's Department and two supervisors from MART – Emilio Mendoza and Xiomara Flores-Holguin – to present the background and details of the program.

Commander Amico stated that MART developed as a result of discussions between the Sheriff's Department and DCFS that focused on expanding the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) program so that it would cover gangs in addition to narcotics. The expansion addressed the fact that children living in homes where there is ongoing

criminal gang activity and illegal weapons are endangered and require intervention services.

A pilot program was launched in 2003 (lasting from March to December) in which DCFS personnel accompanied Sheriff's deputies serving warrants at the homes of gang members. Following the arrest of suspects, DCFS would take protective custody of any children if there were no remaining adults inside or if the conditions inside were deemed to endanger the children. The pilot resulted in the rescue of 148 children from dangerous environments.

Mr. Mendoza stated that the success of the pilot program led the County Board of Supervisors to approve the implementation of MART in January 2004. The motion called for the creation of a highly-trained Child Protective Services Specialized Team to respond to at-risk children identified at the time of arrest and search warrant operations, parole and probation sweeps, and high profile and/or intelligence sensitive investigations.

The primary objective of MART is to investigate all levels of child endangerment with a nexus to gangs, narcotics, and weapons.

In just over three years, approximately 4,000 children have been rescued from volatile gang, narcotic, weapons, and other high profile child endangerment home environments. In 2006, child abuse investigations by MART included a total of 1,327 children and 645 families.

Since its beginning, MART has expanded its partnerships to include other local law enforcement agencies and federal and state authorities.

Specific features of MART's strategy include: co-locating its investigators at police stations, establishing a centralized operation command, providing expedited responses to specialized law enforcement calls-for-service at all hours of the day and night, adapting to all levels of law enforcement tactical entries, rendering appropriate level of service, and ensuring that all families are connected to proven community-based programs.

Law enforcement agencies receive the following benefits from this partnership:

1. Quick DCFS response;
2. More cooperation from suspects and parents;
3. Reduced flight risk of families, suspects, and witnesses;
4. Voluntary relocation of families, suspects, and criminals;
5. Access to MART reports when there is a nexus between a criminal investigation and a DCFS investigation;
6. MART access to local and statewide database information that provides real time whereabouts of families, suspects, and witnesses;

7. Loss of government aid for those engaging in criminal activity with a child endangerment nexus; and
8. Removal of law enforcement liability.

DCFS obtains the following benefits:

1. Access to crime scenes which allows the witnessing of exigent circumstances and physical evidence of child endangerment that will substantiate findings in court and increase caregiver compliance; ability to conduct thorough background checks of all prospective relatives to minimize continued abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
2. The opportunity to intervene and alter the cycle of violence, abuse/neglect, and a life of crime associated with generational gang membership and narcotics/weapons related activity.
3. Accountability for parents and caregivers.
4. Increased child safety (over 40% of the cases coming to MART's attention are open or previously closed DCFS cases).
5. The opportunity to set legal precedence to expand the definition of child endangerment to children exposed to gang violence, narcotics trafficking, and other high crime environments.

**ACTION: For information only.**

#### **V. OTHER MATTERS / PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeanne Kennedy, Chair of the County Quality and Productivity Commission, stated that Productivity Investment Fund (PIF) proposals are due by July 13, 2007. Applications for this year's County Productivity and Quality Awards are due by July 18, 2007.

Rone Ellis, a private citizen, made a public comment.

#### **VI. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Mr. Fortner adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m. The next CCJCC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 20, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.**