

PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

October 22, 2008

Present: Alan Alborn, Monica Backmon, Merle Brown, Michelle Casciato, Bill Cox (substituting for Chris Feather) , James Fotis, Tracey Hormuth, Dale McCleese, Connie Moser, Robert Sharpe, Steve Vilhelmsen, Donna Widawski

Absent: Debbie Andrew, Chris Feather

1. Deadline for Task Force to have information into Budget Office- December 12, 2008

- Three phases of Task Force:
 - Data Collection
 - Assembly of Data
 - Place ideas together

2. Steve Vilhelmsen & Michelle Casciato gave presentations regarding the services that their respective offices provide. (See Handout)

Michelle Casciato: Neighborhood Services

Ms. Casciato (answering a previous question from a task force member) explained to the group that Neighborhood Services was previously part of the Community Development Strategic Goal. Community Development was a new goal in the last strategic plan however, the BOCS chose not to list Community development as a goal for this Strategic Plan. Tracey Hormuth informed the group that a number of goals listed in previous plans are not listed in this plan. This does not mean that these programs/services no longer exist; it means that the order of priorities has changed.

Ms. Casciato provided the history of Neighborhood Services which included the ordinances that NS enforce, # of complaints in FY08, the # of court actions, etc. Ms. Casciato also gave the group information regarding the action taken on unsecured structures/pools, the NS Spot Blight Program. The following bullets are some of the highlights of Ms. Casciato's presentation:

- Maintains and enhances Prince William County's neighborhoods through public awareness and enforcement of property code violations, litter control and community building
- In 2000, averaged 2,000 calls vs. 8,000 calls in 2008
- Vast majority of work is complaint driven
- Average case closed in 38 days
- NS spent \$250,000 on grass cutting this year
- NS has partnership with the Adult Detention Center-was able to get \$400,000 worth of labor this year from ADC

- NS deals with unsecured pools, vacancies, overcrowding, yard maintenance, unsecured properties, etc.
- Requirements and training for Code Enforcement Inspector, Chief Property Code Inspector, Senior Code Enforcement Inspector
 - Must be “special conservatives of the peace”
 - Does not have to be a US citizen to be a code enforcer but must be eligible to work in the US
 - Approximately half of the inspectors have law enforcement backgrounds---takes some work off of the police—no numbers yet regarding how many police time has been freed due to the work that NS does
 - Inspectors have full mobile capacity in the field

Ms. Casciato was asked if NS looked at any budgetary cuts. She stated that all community outreach is done by 1.5 people and that the time devoted to neighborhood groups has been scaled back....more conferences and less individual meetings (the use of videos and Channel 23 has assisted with the scale back). NS has also taught communities how to manage their own communities.

Steve Vilhelmsen: OCJS- Office of Criminal Justice Services (see handout emailed on 10/28/2008)

Mr. Vilhelmsen informed the group that the OCJS is one of several agencies that provide pretrial service. Below are some of the highlights of Mr.

Vilhelmsen’s presentation:

- Promotes public safety by enforcing court-ordered sanctions, providing alternatives to incarceration, addressing domestic violence, and facilitating criminal justice planning
- OCJS has two locations, western district, Manassas & eastern district, Woodbridge (Ferlazzo)
- Offers Pretrial, Intensive Pretrial, and LOP, local offenders probation) services
 - Risk Assessments are performed on accused offenders and given to the judge
 - Extensive pretrial supervision (only in the Commonwealth of Virginia)
- On average 300 people sit in jail awaiting trial
- 3,716 cases were closed in FY 08
 - 70% don’t re-offend (nationally) in PWC 81% don’t re-offend (some are probably deported). The average number in PWC is usually 76% (for non re-offenders)
- Domestic Relations is the only service area that is not mandated
- OCJS receives adult offenders out of juvenile courts—anyone under 18 will be supervised until age 21---if tried as an adult, they do not go to the OCJS—they go to prison
- DSS is important to Juvenile Service.

- supervise via electronic monitoring
- runs Juvenile Justice, 2 Group Homes and the Juvenile Shelter
- Risk Management provided recommendations to the OCJS on safety (protection of staff).
 - RM suggested shatter proof glass between citizens and the receptionist.
 - Key pads are also on the doors as a safety measure for entry and a calling system is in place.
 - No offender or staff are left alone in the office or to walk outside
 - No one has been assaulted by an offender in 20 years

Mr. Vilhelmson was asked if sex offenders fail to reregister do they go back to jail. Mr. Vilhelmson stated that they would probably go to prison. However, if a felony sex offender pleads out to a misdemeanor, they are sent to the OCJS. Mr. Vilhelmson also informed the group that (when asked) that the OCJS is not mandated to monitor sex offenders during Halloween.

Other questions asked of Mr. Vilhelmson:

1. Does Risk Assessment process determine the likelihood that an offender will flee or re-offend? Flight
2. How long does someone stay in ADC for capital murder? Usually 9-12 months
3. What sort of supervision/follow up is performed? One face to face meeting per month as mandated by the state. However, the Risk Assessment may require more.
4. How are drug offenders handled? There are funds budgeted to contract assistance with Fairfax.

3. Dates for upcoming PSTF meetings

- November 5, 2008- ADC in Manassas (come at 7pm to tour the new facility)
- ***November 10, 2008—Strategic Plan Task Force BOCS Retreat Update (Rooms 202A/B—7pm)***
- November 12, 2008- Development Services Bldg. Rm 107A
- ***November 17, 2008-Strategic Plan Task Force Meeting for Citizens (Rooms 107A/B—7pm)***
- November 19,2008- Training Room: Western Facility
- November 26, 2008- NO MTG: CANCELLED
- December 3, 2008- Development Services Bldg. Rm 202A
- December 19, 2008 – Training Room: Western Facility

*Next Public Safety Task Force Meeting November 5, 2008
@ 7:30 p.m. (Tour of the facility starts at 7pm)
ADC
Manassas, VA*

