

COMBAT Commission Meeting
May 14, 2019, 1:30-3:30pm
Downtown Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO
Legislative Chambers
Minutes

Present:

Larry Beaty
Keith Querry
Gene Morgan
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
Dr. Kelvin Walls
Lanna Ultican
John B. Boyd

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jean Peters Baker, JACO Prosecutor
Jay Hayden, County Counselor's Office
Captain Ron Legg, KCPD
Jennifer Dameron, JACO Prosecutor's Office
Jane Cavanaugh, Legislative Aid
Jalen Anderson, JACO Legislator
Chrissy Wooderson, Auditor
Chief Bryon Price, Drug Task Force
Celestine Williams, Deputy Auditor
Jim Witteman, Attorney
Dawna J. Shumate, COMBAT
Tammie Jordan, COMBAT
Joe Loudon, COMBAT
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Additions to Agenda:

Larry Beaty is the new chair of the COMBAT Commission.

John B. Boyd was introduced as a new COMBAT Commissioner. He gave a brief introduction. John is still actively practicing as an attorney. He used to do labor law.

Dr. Joseph Spalitto motioned to approve March minutes; Keith Querry seconded; motion passed.

Jean Peters Baker Report/Update

Jean Peters Baker announced that the Prosecutor's Office and COMBAT will be doing a survey and community listening sessions. The next listening session is on May 20th. Vince and Jean would like to hear what the community wants from COMBAT. They did a press release to get the word out about it.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Captain Ron Legg from KCPD reported on the year to date stats. There were 167 narcotic arrests, 169 narcotic purchases, 262.6 lbs. of Meth was recovered, 33 lbs. of Heroin recovered, and 426 lbs. of Marijuana was recovered. 1,209 Fentanyl pills were recovered. Captain Ron Legg

reported that there were 49 homicides year to date, 415 cases were presented to the Prosecutor, and 230 cases were filed. There has been 35 shooting victims, 145 drive-bys, and 60 felony possessions. He also reported that 34% of the homicide victims are 17-24 years old and 28% of the homicide victims are 25-34 years old.

Chief Bryon Price from the Drug Task Force reported that they are working on 3 cases. In operation "Slippery Road", 6 people were indicted and there were 3 search warrants. They recovered 41 lbs. of Meth, 1 lb. of Heroin, and 4 guns. In their case in South Kansas City/Grandview, they recovered 630 grams of Meth, a semi-automatic weapon, an assault rifle, and a flame thrower. A stolen motorcycle was recovered from their case in Independence.

Old Business:

Community Engagement Monitors

Vince Ortega reported that the Community Engagement Monitor positions are posted and he's extending the deadline. He would like to post it on Career Builder and on Non-Profit Connect as well.

New Business:

Communications Marketing Administrator

Joe Loudon introduced himself. He is the new Communications Marketing Administrator for COMBAT. He has been with the county for a decade. He believes that COMBAT has been underpublicized for years. He's excited to spread the word about COMBAT.

Collaboration with Hospitals

Jean Peters Baker reported that they are working on a collaboration with the hospitals on non-fatal shooting victim cases. She wants to work with Truman Medical Center first. They are currently working on a partnership now. It's still in the planning phases. Also, she mentioned that Adhoc Group Against Crime will continue to do wrap-around services.

Audits

Vince told the COMBAT Commissioners that he should have an update on the BKD audit next month and that the State audit is still continuing.

Discussions:

Captain Ron Legg stated that they are still working on regulation for legalizing Medical Marijuana. He also stated that we are way behind the curve.

Jean Peters Baker mentioned that Kansas City is 5th in violence and St. Louis is 1st in violence in the nation. Also, she mentioned that the Prescription Monitoring Program on the state level doesn't look promising and she will see what we can do about it locally.

Announcements:

The next COMBAT Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16th at the Jackson County Courthouse.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.