

COMBAT Commission Meeting
July 16, 2020, 10:00-12:00 PM
Zoom Meeting
Minutes

Present:

Larry Beaty
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
Arimeta Dupree
Lanna Ultican
John B. Boyd
Dr. Kelvin Walls

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jean Peters Baker, JACO Prosecutor
Jennifer Dameron, Prosecutor Office
Jay Hayden, County Counselor's Office
Darren Ivey, Commander of Youth Programs
Chief Bryon Price, Drug Task Force
Monica Meeks, Lee's Summit CARES
Holli Crowley, COMBAT
Keron Hopkins, COMBAT
Joseph Loudon, COMBAT
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Minutes Approved:

Arimete DuPree motioned to approve April 17th meeting minutes; John Boyd seconded; motion passed.

New Business:

STRIVIN Initiatives

Vince gave a brief background of the COMBAT STRIVIN initiatives and the workflow of the STRIVIN process. In the South Kansas City initiatives, Marva and KCPD will work on a list of 25 high-risk youth in that area. They are conducting outreach by knocking on doors again of the most high-risk youth and vulnerable families to offer social service, etc. At the beginning of the meetings, Holli Crowley, COMBAT's Crime Analyst, provided a violent crime map of the area. In South Kansas City, the COMBAT Hope Hangout HUB has moved inside of the Hickman School District's alternative school, Burke Elementary because of the positive impact it has had working with the high-risk students. He also mentioned that crime has decreased in the South Kansas City area, but that some of the crime has been displaced to outside of the targeted area.

Vince mentioned that many of the youth that are sent to the Division of Youth Services by Family Court are released into the community without any knowledge to the community, law enforcement or Family court and with no conditions of release. Consequently, the youth get involved in the same criminal behavior that they were placed in custody for. Accordingly,

COMBAT has initiated a DYS Reentry sub-committee to establish a transitional restorative justice plan.

Holli presented crime maps regarding the violent crime in our STRIVIN initiatives in South Kansas City, Northeast Kansas City, and Raytown.

Audits

The state audit has been released. It was posted in its entirety on the COMBAT website. The BKD audit and state audit were done simultaneously. The state audit covered county departments and county staff. The state audit mentioned the purchase of a vehicle and non-COMBAT staff being paid with COMBAT funds. Nearly 1/3rd of the BKD recommendations have been completed. COMBAT Administration will continue to work on the BKD audit recommendations and state audit recommendations. New policies will include detailed reports on COMBAT revenue and how COMBAT funds are spent as well as allowing COMBAT Administration access to all of COMBAT funding including the COMBAT sales tax revenue amount. Car allowances are no longer allowed and now vehicles are being reimbursed by mileage used. Advances for COMBAT funding will no longer be allowed. COMBAT's program monitors will do site visits of COMBAT programs. COMBAT will allow whistleblowers which was not addressed in the BKD or state audit. The state audit praised the process of COMBAT funding through the application process.

Chairman Larry Beaty asked about the MyArts program. Jean Peters Baker explained that MyArts was discontinued because she felt that COMBAT and the Prosecutor's Office could not continue funding it after grants were lost. COMBAT and the Prosecutor's Office could no longer afford to keep the program going. The building then went to the Independence School District; however, COMBAT and the Prosecutor's office were not involved in the selling of the building.

Discussions:

Chairman Larry Beaty asked about the loss of revenue from the county from COVID-19. Vince stated that there is a decrease of approximately 2 million dollars in sales tax funds that was noted in the second quarter revenue report for 2020. Larry Beaty also asked about a replacement for Keith Query on the COMBAT Commission. Jean Peters Baker will speak to the County Executive regarding the term expirations on Arimeta Dupree and John B. Boyd and replacing Keith Query.

Joseph Loudon mentioned that he is continuing to update the COMBAT website and doing online applications for this year's funding. COMBAT is also working on rebranding.

Announcements:

The next COMBAT Commission meeting is Thursday, September 10th at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.