

COMBAT Commission Meeting
March 12th, 2024 10:03 AM – 10:29 AM
Zoom Meeting
Minutes

Present: Larry Beaty, Lanna Ultican, Joseph Spalitto, Mark Bryant, Alfred Jordan, Liz Williams

Also Present: Vince Ortega, Dawna J. Shumate, Joseph Loudon, Elle Larson, Tammie Jordan, Keron Hopkins, Bob Muenz, Ryan Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.

APPROVE MINTUES – November 14th, 2023 and January 17th, 2024

Alfred Jordan motions to approve the minutes; Joseph Spalitto seconds.

DISCUSSION:

- Director's Report
 - o Joseph Loudon introduces [COMBAT's new website](#), which functions as six websites in one, featuring a main site and additional sections for COMBAT's various types of funding (Prevention, Treatment, etc.)
 - o One notable feature of the new website is the [funded program section](#), which includes a comprehensive Program Directory that categorizes all their programs. This directory involved significant effort to assemble.
 - The website also features a mapping platform that displays program locations, enhancing the user's ability to find specific programs geographically.
 - **The program directory is also a suitable source of information for funding questions.**
 - o The website now includes a [section dedicated to explaining the STRiVIN' referral program](#), complete with a referral link.
 - o The website has grown to 673 pages of content and over 3,000 images, with **annual visitors nearly doubling to over 56,000 compared to three or four years ago.**
 - o A calendar feature is available on the site, providing information about commission meetings and other events:
<https://www.jacksoncountycombat.com/calendar.aspx?CID=14>
 - o During the funding season, the website will prominently display application information, with a link to the application provided on the funded program page. The application process itself is handled by an outside vendor, but access is facilitated through the website.
- Jackson County Drug Task Force
 - o The previous month's report highlights an ongoing investigation that began last year, involving the attempted purchase of 1,000 M30 pills by an undercover detective who was subsequently robbed at gunpoint. The suspect was later charged with first-degree robbery and armed criminal action, and the **investigation revealed 6,000 M30 counterfeit pills containing fentanyl, a fully automatic machine gun, and two semi-automatic handguns.**
 - o Another ongoing investigation started in February involved **intercepting a parcel with 6.7 pounds of methamphetamine at a post office, leading to connections**

with a federal investigation and drug cartel involvement. This case began from a simple post office package and evolved into a significant investigation.

- Detectives have encountered **semi-automatic handguns and parts that convert Glock's to fully automatic weapons during drug purchase operations.** Dealers have been found selling these conversion parts along with drugs, demonstrating the link between drug trafficking and increased violence.
- *Regarding the Commission's Voting Process*
 - Commissioner Williams addresses the need to discuss voting procedures, prompted by a previous suggestion to find a better method that ensures accurate record-keeping.
 - Elle Larson investigated the use of Zoom's polling tool but recommends continuing with roll call votes for clarity and record accuracy, as it allows for precise documentation of each vote.
 - Commissioner Jordan suggests that roll call votes are necessary for significant decisions like funding but not for minor votes such as meeting minutes, to avoid unnecessary complications and save time.
 - Ryan Taylor from the County Counselor's Office confirms that using roll call votes for significant issues while using simultaneous votes for minor ones is standard practice and acceptable.
 - **Commissioner Williams motions to implement roll call votes for all matters except for minutes and adjournment:**
 - Joseph Spalitto: AYE
 - Alfred Jordan: AYE
 - Mark Bryant AYE
 - Lanna Ultican: AYE
 - Larry Beaty: AYE

NEW BUSINESS:

- N/A

MOTION:

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Next hybrid meeting is scheduled for [June 11th at 10 AM.](#)