

Drug Commission Meeting
July 10, 2018, 1:30-3:30pm
Downtown Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO
Legislative Chambers
Minutes

Present:

James Witteman, Jr.
Keith Querry
Lanna Ultican
Gene Morgan
Mark S. Bryant
Dr. Kelvin Walls
Larry Beaty
Dr. Joseph Spalitto

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Major Helen Burke, KCPD
Captain Ron Legg, KCPD
Dan Cummings, Drug Task Force
Jaime Masters, County Executive Office
Ashley Burke, Assistant to County Executive Office
Celestine Williams, Deputy Auditor
Teesha Miller, PDMP
Tammie, Jordan, COMBAT
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

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

Additions to Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Gene Morgan motioned to approve June minutes; Lanna Ultican seconded; motion passed.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Captain Ron Legg with the Drug Enforcement Unit of KCPD reported that there were 3-4 overdoses, 1 death and 3 revivals. He also reported that on the Kansas side, there were 4 deaths, 2 deaths and 2 revivals. Captain Ron Legg stated that Marijuana is going through the roof since the surrounding states have legalized it. They are seeing a lot of drug deals going wrong. He reported that there were a lot of homicides.

Dan Cummings with the Drug Task Force reported that they were working on 2 homicides, one with Grandview and the other one with Independence. Both are drug related and both are drug deals gone wrong. They are seeing large amounts of money for Marijuana. The Drug Task Force is working on the JAG grant. They requested \$406,000 and were awarded \$297,000 for the JAG Grant. The Drug Task Force is currently looking at different avenues for funding. They have 2 positions open now. Dan Cummings reported some of the 6 months statistics. They have 39 open cases, 64 closed cases, 70 narcotic buys, 18 search warrants, 32 federal charges, and 15 state charges. They have recovered 89 lbs. of Methamphetamine, 33 lbs. of Marijuana, ½ lb. of Cocaine, and 1 lb. of Heroin. They have recovered \$7.83 million dollars' worth of drugs. Dan Cummings reported that 90% Heroin, Meth, and Cocaine comes from Mexican sources. Meth is

being distributed across the border. They are smuggling and shipping Meth in liquid form. The Marijuana is coming from Colorado and Oregon.

Old Business:

Independence Hot Spot Meeting Update

COMBAT had an Independence Hot Spot meeting on June 21st at the Independence Police Department. There were many participants. Their crime analyst reported that they had a lot of aggravated assaults in regards to domestic violence. 4,600 people live in the Hawthorne area. ½ of them are female and ½ of them are 5 and under, so there are a lot of mothers with children. The suspects involved in the domestic violence are 20-30 years old, high profiled criminals from Kansas City. Some of them are NoVA targets. The police have a good relationship with the tenants and property manager. Chief Brad Halsey needs some cameras for the area. Some of the gaps included more domestic violence education and technology/cameras.

Keith Query asked if there were cameras in the Hawthorne area and Vince replied no, not yet. Lanna Ultican asked if we invited Hope House to the Independence meeting. They deal with domestic violence. Tammie informed her that Rosebrooks and MOCSA were invited to the meeting to help with the domestic violence. Lanna Ultican still suggested that we invite Hope House to the next meeting.

COMBAT Hot Spot Initiatives

Chairman Jim Witteman asked how many hotspot initiatives is COMBAT doing. Vince replied, four. There's Ruskin, Northeast, Independence, and Raytown. Commissioner Keith Query agreed to attend the next Independence hotspot meeting, Commissioners Larry Beaty and Dr. Joseph Spalitto agreed to attend the next Northeast hotspot meeting, and Commissioner Lanna Ultican agreed to attend the next Raytown meeting.

There is an upcoming meeting for the Raytown initiative at Sisters in Christ.

COMBAT is working with the Northeast Kansas City area, specifically with stakeholders in the Indian Mound Neighborhood where COMBAT has introduced its Violence Reduction Initiative project. NoVA reduced crime by 18% within 6 months of being in the area. They are transitioning out of the area and going into the Midtown area. Vince would like Mattie Rhodes to be the community resource center service hub, where the Violence Reduction Initiative will be developed through its partners. The intent is to provide services to the families that have suffered from trauma in the area. The first meeting in the NE area will be held at Mattie Rhodes on Friday, July 13th, 2018, at 9:00 am. The hope is to identify the vulnerable individuals and families and provide needed services. In addition to working with the East Patrol Division police staff and Family Court on individuals involved in criminal activity.

Discussions

Jim Witteman suggested that we have the next Drug Commissioner meeting at Healing House. Commissioner Gene Morgan suggested that we invite 1-2 agencies nearby to the meeting.

Commissioner Dr. Joseph Spalitto would like a meeting with the D.A.R.E. officers to get their opinions on the D.A.R.E. program to see if they are having any progress with it and its effectiveness. Vince explained how Dr. Herl and Susan Watkins stated that 6th grade is when children determine their path in life. He also added that D.A.R.E. was left out of the language when COMBAT passed in 2016. We want the officers to work on new programs with the school, mainly focusing with the students with behavioral health issues along with the clinical counselors. D.A.R.E. is not effective in the long term. Dr. Joseph Spalitto would like to have 4-5 agencies come in to talk at the Drug Commission meetings. Chairman Jim Witteman would like Travis Hux to come to a Drug Commission meeting after Dr. Joseph Spalitto stated that there should be more focus on trades.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

The next Drug Commission meeting is on Tuesday, August 14th at Healing House, 4505 St. John Ave, Kansas City, MO 64123.

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.