

Enhanced Law Enforcement District Advisory Committee

July 18, 2019 6:30 pm

Sheriff's Office Brooks Building, room 466, Clackamas

Members present: Nancy Whitley, Michael Wilson, Paul Ellison, James Marvin, Gavin Carpenter, and Bob Zimmer (quorum). Absent were Tara Hamilton, Eric Hendricks, Mark Wells, Myron Martwick, and Zachary Hamilla.

CCSO staff present: Captain Shane Strangfield, Lori Okami

Guests: Commissioners, Paul Savas and Sonya Fischer, Undersheriff Angie Brandenburg

Meeting called to order by Chair Michael Wilson: 6:40 p.m.

Handouts: Agenda, May 16, 2019 meeting minutes, Line of Duty Deaths from April to July 2019, ELED district stats, copy of 07/01/19 letter from the ELED Advisory Committee to Chair Bernard and the BCC regarding the 07/18/19 ELED Meeting about the proposed courthouse.

Old Business:

- ELED members reviewed and approved minutes from May 16, 2019 meeting
- Members read Law Enforcement Line of Duty Deaths from April to July 2019
- Captain Strangfield mentioned the passing of retired Detective, Gil Millett, July 12, 2019
- Discussion of district statistics
 - Captain Strangfield offered different report options
 - Paul questioned the increase in green line calls.
 - Since CCSO no longer supports Tri Met, Captain Strangfield stated that deputies have been reassigned to the district, focusing on Clackamas County
 - Mike commented on the budget meeting question regarding tracking time by location. Captain Strangfield said that they are not able to track deputies that way because assignments change day-to-day. We can look at FTE position and track the funding by deputy. The question was raised as to the amount of time actually spent in the ELED. Capt. Strangfield suggests it is possible

New Business – Courthouse discussion

- Commissioner Savas stated that Commissioner Bernard is the lead with Commissioner Fischer, and turned over initiating the discussion to her.
- Commissioner Fischer stated that the courthouse is really old (~95 years) and was not designed to function as a courthouse. It is so full, that there currently isn't enough space for the existing caseload. They need more judges and it is simply

not functional: victims are in close proximity to the perpetrator; it is not ADA compliant; there's no drinking water; there is a serious erosion issue, with less than a yard to the cliff behind the building; it has receded 6-9 feet in a 6 month period; if an earthquake occurs, it is not safe; and parking is inadequate.

- Commissioner Fischer added that they are looking at everything for the public good—city vitality, living wages, sustainable material usage, workforce support, equity, etc.
- Mike questioned, “Why now?” Commissioner Fischer indicated that all the State’s courthouses are unfit. Clackamas County is in line with Lane County for funding.
- Commissioner Savas commented on the growth of the county, estimating population at 419,000, adding that it has grown significantly since he started. He noted that \$31.5 million has been approved, potentially an additional \$90 million is available. He emphasized that the key is to hold bad guys accountable
- Mike remarked, however, if more criminals are prosecuted, “Where will we put them?” Commissioner Savas said that was a good question, adding, “What is the right size?” He further explained that everything matters--the people, place, jail, mental health, community corrections, staff...all of it.
- Mike also inquired about the public’s response to the courthouse. Commissioner Fischer mentioned that they are looking at funding. The voters are only one option. There is internal funding, public/private partnership, bond funding. They do not intend on cutting the public safety budget in order to fund the courthouse. She stated that they are expecting \$63 million more, and still more beyond that. However, the county won’t get the initial \$31.5 million until they spend first.
- The question was raised as to why County tax revenue isn’t increasing sufficiently. Commissioner Savas stated that revenue is anticipated to show a ~4.2% increase, but 7-8% is needed to cover our increased cost of doing business. He charted the cost and revenue trend on the white board showing that cost is steadily outpacing revenue. He notes there are budgetary problems regardless of the courthouse. He believes we need to make \$7 million in cuts.
- Commissioner Fischer describes the new Administrator as a fiscal conservative. Thus, we are now doing zero-based budgeting. She said that 235 people now work at the courthouse (mostly judicial, not Clackamas County personnel), and it is projected to increase to 270.
- Mike saw a write-up indicating that part of the proposed building will be used for DHS and questioned if this was all part of a deal with DHS. He asked what happens if the voters don’t approve of the courthouse bond funding. The reply was, “well, we have to build.”
- Commissioner Savas highlighted that ELED funding is already set, wondering if the group is asking for more. He added that he lives in a “hot” crime area, stating that he receives calls daily from constituents. He professed that they care, but admitted that they don’t have all the answers right now.
- Mike noted that safety is the top priority. Bob said that we have to trust those elected to do their job, and that security is key.
- Mike is adamant about not having money taken from public safety! The commissioners repeated that they have no intention of making cuts to deputy

funding. Shane commented that, given the county's growth, the number of calls will only increase.

- Paul raised the issue of the health impact of high density, noting the increase of crime with the orange line, the problem of metro design, and the social impact of higher cost of living in such areas.
- Jim is familiar with the use of public/private partnerships being used elsewhere. The commissioners stated that they will be briefed on the topic in August. Jim said that it can work and he has seen it for himself.
- Mike reconfirmed with Commissioner Fischer that the current estimate for the courthouse is \$230 million, with \$95 million coming from the State. He added that west coast prices are on the increase, with a labor shortage, so \$230 million today will be higher tomorrow, questioning the guaranteed max price (GMP)
- The commissioners cited that demand today which may be 11 courtrooms could grow to 16 courtrooms by 2030, so considerations include potential expansion opportunities. Commissioner Savas heard that by 2030, the cost to build could be closer to \$500 million, and we will get 20% of that.
- Gavin recognized a problem with the county being upside down in a robust economy. The commissioners have no plan. They are fully aware that labor costs and health insurance costs are up, and though the state has record revenue (through employment taxes) and county property taxes are up, there remains a growing deficit.
- Regarding the quality of life issue and homelessness, Paul recommended the YouTube video, "Seattle's dying," and Commissioner Fischer suggested Facebook "Heretogether."
- Commissioner Savas inquired about the ELED posted agenda and meeting minutes which he could not find online. Lori will follow up with the PGA.

Chair Michael Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Next Meeting Date – July 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m. @ Brooks Bldg. room 466