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MINUTES

LAW ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURES AND FINANCING TASK FORCE

October 6, 2003

Present: Terry England, Chair
Bruce Geer
Jack Latvala (arrived 3:22)
Nancy Loehr
Lisa McIntryre
Charles Rainey (arrived 3:09)

Absent: David Welch
John Zurenda

Also Present: Sid Klein, Clearwater Police Chief
James Dates, Pinellas County Office of Justice
Cyndie Goudeau, Clearwater City Clerk

The Chair convened the meeting at 3:07 p.m. in Clearwater City Hall Commission Chambers.

Questions were raised regarding the format of the report and the Assembly's proposed format was distributed. Discussion ensued regarding the need to prioritize the recommendations and whether they should be re-grouped based on categories, practicality or probability of success. Consensus was not to change the format.

Discussion ensued regarding how to determine which recommendations were achievable and the need to determine cost. It was stated the Pinellas Police Standards Council and Sheriff's Office are in agreement that all the recommendations contained in the report are achievable, if funded. It was noted that while additional costs would be borne by the Sheriff, functional consolidation would result in savings over all the law enforcement functions in the County.

A question was raised regarding what the cities would do with their savings. Discussion ensued regarding the current inequities in some cities paying for Sheriff's services while others do not. It was reported the Sheriff is aware this needs to be addressed and cities are beginning to be put on notice that they will need to enter into a contract for Sheriff services.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to consolidate the records system. It was noted the current multiple systems makes it very difficult to share data. Investigations

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would be more effective and efficient with a consolidated system. Concerns were raised regarding differences in how the various agencies chose to input reports. It was believed a system could be implemented that could accommodate the various methods and not place the entire labor burden on the Sheriff's Department. It was noted the \$7 million estimate for a consolidated system is based on the Sheriff's method of report input. It was noted that currently, each agency has its own processes. The need to reach common ground on these procedures was expressed. It was reported other states have been successful in integrating various systems.

Discussion ensued regarding finding ways to fund functional consolidation in order to generate savings to the tax payers. It was suggested the County approach Congressman Young, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, to seek federal funding.

A question was raised regarding whether total consolidation would be considered. It was reported that while this issue was raised, the Police Chiefs did not agree with the concept and it was taken off the table.

Discussion returned to the need to determine what items to include in the recommendation and in what priority.

Consensus was for the Police Standards Council and Sheriff's Department to come up with short-term and long-term recommendations in priority order to discussed at the next meeting. The Task Force will take additional input from the law enforcement agencies and the public at the next meeting. It will then determine the recommendations, including time frame goals for accomplishing, to take to the Pinellas Assembly.

The next meeting was set for 2:00 p.m. on October 20, 2003. The Chair requested the members review the Pinellas Assembly's recommended report format. It was also requested the public be made aware of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.