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MINUTES

LAW ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURES AND FINANCING TASK FORCE October 28, 2003

Present: Terry England, Chair
Bruce Geer
Jack Latvala (arrived 2:43; left 4:43)
Lisa McIntryre
Charles Rainey
David Welch

Absent: Nancy Loehr
John Zurenda

Also Present: Lester Aradi, Largo Police Chief
James Dates, Pinellas County Office of Justice
Cyndie Goudeau, Clearwater City Clerk

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

II. Minutes. Member Welch moved to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2003 meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

III. Pinellas Police Standards Council (PPSC) Recommendations. Discussion ensued regarding what procedure should be followed and whether the Task Force wanted to include items the PPSC considered moot.

Chief Aradi reviewed those items the PPSC considered moot: #1 – Consolidation of all law enforcement services, the PPSC and Sheriff agreed to disagree; #2 - Contract issues were not considered to be the PPSC's area; #9 - Participatory Management of Consolidated Services is duplicative of #14; #10 – Centralized Traffic Records was considered to be a good thing but systems are not in place at this time; #15 – Expanded Air Support is supported by PPSC but is the Sheriff's decision to make; #16 – Centralized Blood and Urine Testing is already being put into place; #18 – Specialized Marine Patrol is also for the Sheriff to decide; #19 – School Programs are up to each individual jurisdiction to determine; #21 – Missing Persons Investigations is already being discussed to determine whether the jurisdiction in which the missing person lives or where last seen would be the investigating authority; and #22 – Officer Employment Contracts were not considered the PPSC area.

A concern was raised regarding #14 – creating a “Board of Directors” to make policy, etc re consolidated services. It was noted the proposal is to have this board serve in an advisory capacity.

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Discussion returned to how the Task Force wished to proceed. It was suggested the Task Force make recommendations that can be implemented over time and that funding not be part of their consideration. It was noted that all agreed, consolidation of records would be beneficial. It was suggested each item contained in the report from the PPSC be discussed and ranked.

The recommendation for the Sheriff to provide forensic services countywide was discussed. That St. Petersburg wants to keep its forensic operation was noted. Concerns re the cost to Sheriff to absorb these services were expressed. Again it was emphasized the Task Force would not include cost as part of their deliberations. It was noted there is a great deal of consensus on what the priorities are and the Task Force should rank them and submit its report.

An explanation of the recommendation regarding the "Board of Directors" was requested. It was explained that this would be an advisory committee to assist with the implementation of consolidated services as the cities would be assisting with funding these operations. The "Board of Directors" would not be telling the Sheriff how to perform his functions. It was suggested this recommendation be rewritten to make clear the advisory nature of the "Board."

An objection to #20, making the School Resource Officers employees of the school board, was noted. In response to a question re school crossing guards, it was explained that the new school choice plan has resulted in a 20% increase in the number of crossing guards. While the school board makes these decisions, it is the law enforcement agencies that provide and pay the crossing guards.

Member Latvala moved to remove Item #20, making School Resource Officers employees of the school board, as a recommendation. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

Member Geer moved to remove items 2,9,15,18,19,22, 12 and 17 from the recommendations. The motion was duly seconded.

A request was made that the items be considered separately. Member Geer and the seconder withdrew the motion.

Mr. Geer moved to delete #2, Contract Issues, from the recommendations. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

Member Welch moved to delete #1, Consolidation of all Law Enforcement Services, from the recommendations. The motion was duly seconded.

It was noted this might be something to pursue in the future but now is not the appropriate time. It was suggested the recommendation be to appoint a group to investigate this at some point in time. It was stated there have already been 3 studies on this issue and the upcoming County Charter Review will include this issue.

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Upon the vote being taken on the motion, Members Latvala, McIntyre, Rainey, Welch and Chairman England vote “Aye,” Member Geer voted “nay.” **Motion carried.**

Member Geer moved to delete #9, Participatory Management of Consolidated Services, from the recommendations. The motion was duly seconded.

It was suggested the modification of #14, the “Board of Directors” be included in this motion.

Member Geer amended his motion to delete #9, Participatory Management of Consolidated Services, from the recommendations and modify #14 to read “The Pinellas Police Standards Council will serve as an advisory council to make recommendations regarding policy, implementation and funding decisions for services which are consolidated.” The seconder agreed to the amendment. Upon the vote being taken on the amended motion, Members Geer, Latvala, McIntyre, Welch and Chairman England voted “Aye”; Member Rainey voted “Nay.” **The amended motion carried.**

Member Geer moved to delete #15, Expanded Air Support, from the recommendations. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

Member Geer moved to delete #18, Specialized unit: Marine Patrol, from the recommendations. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

Member Geer moved to delete #22, Officer Employment Contracts, from the recommendations. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

Member Latvala moved to delete #19, School programs (DARE, etc) from the recommendations. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

Member Welch moved to remove #21, Missing Persons Investigations, from the recommendations. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding Item #8, Expanding mutual aid agreements. It was reported this agreement has been drafted and gives law enforcement agencies the ability to enforce traffic and investigate crashes within contiguous areas. It was noted that this could involve two municipalities that are adjacent not just incorporated and non-incorporated areas.

Member Latvala moved to support #8, Expanding voluntary mutual aid agreements to include traffic enforcement and crash investigations on streets contiguous to jurisdiction of participating agencies. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

The meeting recessed from 4:20 to 4:25.

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Member Geer moved to support Items #3a-f, all regarding the centralization and consolidation of records. The motion was duly seconded.

A report regarding the work of the Information Sharing Committee was given. All these issues are being studied to determine how to accomplish them. A question was raised regarding #4, establishing a countywide emergency channel and #17 to consolidate an autodialer system, being related to the records issues.

Member Geer amended his motion to include #4 and #17 with 3 a-f under a heading of “Coordinated Technology” and to support them as recommendations. The seconder agreed. Upon the vote being taken on the **amended motion**, it **carried** unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding consolidating Items #5 - Countywide Forensics, #6 - Countywide property and evidence storage, and #7 – Countywide Fingerprint services. A question was raised regarding the need to include allowing an agency to opt out. It was noted that would be a funding issue.

Member Rainey moved to support Items #5,6 and 7, Countywide Forensics, Property and Evidence Storage and Fingerprint Services. The **motion** was duly seconded and upon the vote being taken Members Geer, McIntyre, Rainey and Chairman England voted “aye”; Member Welch voted “Nay.” **Motion carried.**

Member Geer moved to include #10, Centralized Traffic Records, with #3. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

In response to a question, Chief Aradi stated #16, Centralized blood and urine testing, would be up to the Medical Examiner’s Office.

Member Rainey moved to remove #16 from the recommendations. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

Member Rainey moved to support #11, Centralized sexual offenders/predators tracking. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

Member Welch moved to support #13, Sheriff provided prisoner transport. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

It was the consensus that Mr. Dates would draft a report in the format requested by the Assembly and distribute it to the members of the Task Force. If an additional meeting is needed to finalize the report it will be scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.