

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL (MCPSCC)
Full Council Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Approved at the April 9, 2024 Meeting
Commissioners Boardroom, Courthouse Square, Salem, Oregon

MCPSCC: Colm Willis, Julie Hoy, Trevor Womack, Nick Hunter, Paige Clarkson, Don Frederickson, Jayne Downing, Chris Zohner, Doug Cox, Mike Hartford, Anna Jefferson, Chris Eppley, Troy Gregg, Jay Bergmann, Joe Budge, Josh Lair, Rick Lewis, Christina McCollum, Tracy Prall, Aaron Gosney (Michael Runyon) and Robert Carney.

Via Zoom: Christopher Baldrige, Linda Hukari, Bruce Anderson (Alison Kelley), Ryan Matthews, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann

Guests: Robert Evarts, David Zavata, Nathan Ortiz, Andrew Derschon, Detective Everett. Dr. Lisa Barao, Chris Mastroianni

Staff: Gary White, Trevor Lane

Commissioner Willis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE (INFORMATION/ACTION)

-Colm Willis

Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome to the committee members and our guest's officer Zavata of the Keizer Police and regional Target Loss Prevention representative Nathan Ortiz.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Approve October 10, 2023, MCPSCC Meeting Minutes

- Minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Approve 2024 Meeting Calendar

- The proposed 2024 meeting calendar was reviewed and approved.

2. RETAIL THEFT ISSUES & SAFE COMMUNITES

-Sheriff Nick Hunter and Nathan Ortiz of Target

Summary of presentation:

- Products in stores are under glass and key;
- Main priority is going after individuals taking products to then resell them:
 - These individuals are known as boosters.
- Individuals taking one or two products are also being addressed:
 - There are internal diversion programs for these individuals.

- Working to reduce police calls and burden on the courts for these individuals.
- Theft has increased everywhere and across all store departments;
 - Socks
 - Food Items
 - Turbo Tax Preparation Software
- Have been looking over the years what causes the loss at a systemic level:
 - Trying to remove the need for people to steal.
- The myth of organized retail crime consisting of roving bands is false;
- Actually, organized retail crime groups (Fences) prey on vulnerable people making them steal items for resale;
- Approximately 7 fencing organizations in the Pacific Northwest have been closed:
 - These account for tens of millions of dollars.
- Organizations give a list of stores and items to an individual of what to steal:
 - These are then bought by the organization for a low price; then re-sold at a significant mark-up.
- The cycle is broken by helping vulnerable individuals and connecting them to resources;
 - Housing
 - Food
 - Mental Health Support
 - Necessary Supplies
- Marion County has had significant success;
- Resources are allocated to stores allowing individuals to be apprehended:
 - Apprehended 170 individuals at the Center Street Target;
 - The Keizer Station Target 20 individuals;
 - Year-to date hundreds of thousands of dollars have been recovered; and
 - About 40.5% of individuals have been identified to law enforcement.
- Organized crime is an average of about \$10,000 per case;
- Feedback has allowed for more resources to be allocated;
- About nine Target stores have closed across the United States due to theft and security:
 - Including three in Oregon.
- Theft is built into the retail operations but the upkeep for theft security is not:
 - Paying millions of dollars for third party security is difficult.
- Salem and Keizer Target locations are not at risk for being closed;
- Want to engage with the community and how to best serve it:
 - Want to ensure that community and team members are safe.
- Received feedback from the Salem store that the things are getting better; and
- Always looking for partnership and strategic interventions.

Commissioner Willis- Thank you, Julie could you give us your perspective as a business owner?

Summary of discussion:

Julie Hoy:

- As a business owner Ms. Hoy's perspective is there is fatigue among her and others:
 - Staying open most of the year, the hardships begin to wear you down; and

- There is a constant worry every time I leave my business who might be outside, or when someone enters what is their objective? Are they going to take up resident in the restroom?
- Some businesses are in the city and some in the county:
 - The two entities do not communicate with each other about livability issues.
- Met with the Chief of Police and local business owners:
 - Created a network of contacts for businesses to log repeat offenders and determine where law enforcement is needed most.
- Inspired to keep working for those afraid because of the impacts of crime;
- Most of the problems Ms. Hoy deals with at her business include individuals:
 - Loitering;
 - Urinating and defecating wherever they please; and
 - Making Ms. Hoy and others at her business feel unsafe, often.

Commissioner Willis- we have representatives of the Keizer Police department here who are gathering information and building files on individuals who may be able to speak on this.

David Zavata & Sargeant Olufsen

- Our unit is a livability unit, formerly a drug unit:
 - Working with individuals to help them get resources so they are not loitering at businesses.
- Repeat theft offenders have their information sent to the district attorney for appropriate charges to be given:
 - Assessment is made to see what treatment or help the individual can be given by the DA's office and/or law enforcement.
- Packets for problem individuals and locations are being expanded;
- Daily logs are used to notice trends on repeat individuals:
 - This information is sent to the DA's office;
 - They then find solutions; and
 - The daily logs then show fewer repeat offenders.
- Law enforcement assessing information and getting it to the correct resource is beneficial:
 - Looking at issues is important as this can answer why theft happens.

Colm Willis:

- Behavior is driven by addiction and drug use;
- Resources are constrained and focused on larger crimes:
 - This allows small crimes to escalate, growing into bigger problems and impacts.
- Constructive behavior needs incentives;
- Create a tool to share information concerning repeat offenders;
- Working to ensure Marion County is not a good place to commit livability crimes will deter criminals from doing so.

Braden Wolf:

- Mr. Wolf is the trial team leader and sees the prepared packets first;
- Consolidating cases before they come to the DA's office has been very helpful:
 - It is helpful with charges.
- A larger issue is that after charging individuals are unlikely to appear in court:
 - Charges are not at a level for individuals to be held in custody; and
 - Trying to find effective alternatives for individuals.
- Failure to appear in court warrant new cases and there is no easy solution:
 - This is often the issue.
- There are lingering effects of COVID:
 - The lack of photographing and fingerprinting has had a negative impact;
 - The DA's office cannot see information in E-Courts?
 - This missing information does not show the full history; and
 - Currently trying to process individuals and capture this information.

David Zavata

- Each agency has its own reporting systems not all systems interface;
- Cities do not usually look at the county's information and vice versa resulting in incomplete information on an individual;
- Target has investigators and resources that can help law enforcement:
 - A new task force with multiple agencies may be created to work together; and
 - Work on stopping major crime organizations.
- Hosting Organized Retail Crime Association of Oregon (ORCA);
- This will include law enforcement and non-law enforcement individuals.
- It is an information sharing organization with law enforcement and retailers:
 - This allows organizations to see how widespread individuals' criminal activity is.
- A Willamette Valley chapter has started:
 - All of Marion County's agencies and Albany.
- Retailors will share which individuals are the repeat offenders.

Joshua Lair

- Unaware of the resources offered by Target:
 - Would like to connect.
- There are many treatment providers who would like to be a resource to the individuals used by the criminal organizations.

Representative Rick Lewis

- Senate Bill 340 was passed and went into effect January 1, 2024:
 - Allows combining theft cases if the same individuals or certain timeframe; and
 - Multiple counties may prosecute.

Nathan Ortiz

- Majority of retailers create cases for certain individuals and give to the DA's office;
- The field investigator, Jeremy Gerard, is the president of ORCA of Oregon:
 - Will share the need to give information outside of the retail industry.

- All information will also be shared with the Target Government Affairs and Assets Protection departments;
- Contracted with a legal service that seeks prosecution for top offenders of stores:
 - Since cases are aggregated attorneys have access to all sources; and
 - Then cases can be packaged and sent to the DA.

Paige Clarkson:

- There is an Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) Investigator:
 - It was suggested that they run a similar pilot program.
- The issue is staffing and resources, but it can be done;
- Ms. Clarkson will reach out to the DOJ;
- They have positions dedicated to this work;
- Bill funding was allocated for this; and
- Grant options are being worked on.

Tracy Prall:

- Need to work on getting individuals to court, to lawyers, holding in custody;
- Barriers and solutions need to be identified; and
- Individuals need to get into services, it is not always jail.

3. GUN VIOLENCE PROBLEM ANALYSIS REPORT

-Chief Trevor Womack, Dr. Lisa Barao, and Chris Mastroianni

Summary of presentation:

- Long-term data in the city of Salem shows the following:
 - Overall crime is staying flat;
 - Property crime has slightly lowered; and
 - Violent crime has been trending up for the last eight years.
- The data is from the last five years including fatal and non-fatal shootings;
- Different proponents of the criminal justice system and community partners participated;
- Areas, including Salem, have experienced increases in gun violence the last few years;
- Gun violence occurs alongside with other issues including homelessness;
- The City and Marion County identified items that have contributed to the rise in violence:
 - Disbanding Salem's gang enforcement team in 2019;
 - Changes to charging and sentencing of juveniles; and
 - Challenges to programing, supervision, and access to services during COVID.
- The report can't draw conclusions about the effects of the items listed above:
 - They are mentioned in the full report as a major concern for most interviewed.
- The work began May 2023;
- The report will help guide the work that needs to be done;
- The data used was from January 2018 to June 2023:
 - There were 86 incidents involving 102 victims;
 - There were 18 homicides involving 36 victims and suspects; and

- There were 68 non-fatal shootings involving 114 victims and suspects.
- The report analyzed characteristics of incidents and individuals involved;
- Information was collected for high-risk groups or gangs that were active in violence;
- The homicide scale is small, and the trend is relatively flat overtime:
 - The average rate is 3.4 of 100,000 population.
- Comparing homicide rates between cities is hard as a fair comparison point is needed:
 - A tool is used that matches cities based on certain factors:
 - Economics, industry, etc.
- The major shift in violence for most areas began in 2019;
- Salem sits in the middle of the violence rate compared to 10 similar cities;
- Overall Oregon cities have a lower homicide rate compared to other US cities;
- Salem, compared to 10 similar cities in Oregon is in the top half homicide rate:
 - It is among the highest in the past 10 years.
- Non-fatal shootings compared to homicide has increased over the past three years in Salem;
- Salem's average is below the nationwide average but is one or two times greater than Oregon's average;
- Combing fatal and non-fatal shootings shows a 100 percent increase in gun violence;
- Gun violence accounts for the majority of violence in Salem;
- Victim and suspect demographics:
 - About 87 percent are male;
 - About 10 percent were black;
 - About 51 percent were Hispanic; and
 - About 36 percent were white.
- Salem population demographics:
 - About 1.4 percent are black; and
 - About 22 percent are Hispanic.
- Age of victims and suspects:
 - About 61 percent are 18-34:
 - The average age is 29.
 - Juveniles:
 - About 10 percent of the victims; and
 - About 18 percent of the suspects:
 - On average elsewhere this number is 10 percent.
- Juveniles involved in shootings and/or homicides over the past five years:
 - From 2018 to 2020 they were 10 percent or less of victims or suspects; and
 - In 2022, 23 to 27 percent of victims or suspects.
- Aggravated assaults and weapon law violations involving juveniles:
 - For ages 18-21 arrests increased in 2021-2022;
 - In 2018-2020 an average arrest percentage of 3.7;
 - In 2021-2023 an average arrest percentage of 15.5; and
 - This is an average increase of 320 percent.
- Juvenile victim data:
 - From 2018-2020 about 20.7 percent were victims; and

- From 2021-2023 about 13.5 percent were victims.
- Weapon violation arrests involving juveniles:
 - In 2018-2020 an average arrest of 4.9 percent;
 - In 201-2022 an average arrest of 9.4 percent; and
 - This is an average increase of 88 percent.
- Across all data there is an increase in juvenile gun violence involvement;
- A community concern is the perceived homeless population increase effects violence increases;
- According to the U.S Housing and Urban Development (HUD) data there has been an increase of about 189 percent in the homeless population, in Marion and Polk Counties, from 2020-2022:
 - This includes sheltered and unsheltered.
- Homeless and unsheltered victims and suspects:
 - There is no change in percentage of suspects;
 - There has been a notable increase in percentage of victims;
 - There is not enough data to make meaningful conclusions;
 - Data did not tend to show that the homelessness problem drove violence; and
 - About half the incidents came from personal disputes/conflicts.
- Criminal justice system prior involvement for victims and suspects:
 - A single arrest is considered prior involvement:
 - About 67 percent of victims; and
 - About 71 percent of suspects.
 - Of those previously involved:
 - About 54 percent had prior incarceration;
 - About 57 percent had a felony conviction;
 - About 58 percent had prior probation;
 - About 36 percent had prior post-prison supervision;
 - About 23 percent had active probation; and
 - About 14 percent had active post-prison supervision.
 - On average an individual had about seven prior arrests:
 - About three to four were felonies.
- Arrest events for victims and suspects:
 - Multiple types of criminal offenses;
 - On average nine different criminal offenses before violent shooting event;
 - Most common crimes were:
 - Destruction of property;
 - Drug; and
 - Unarmed violent crimes.
- Incident characteristics of groups or gangs:
 - About 17 percent were group or gang related conflict;
 - At least 49 percent involved group/gang members as victims and/or suspects:
 - Non-gang conflicts that involve gang members.
 - Gang involvement was unknown in about 36 percent;
 - About 41 percent of victims were group/gang involved; and

- About 60 percent of suspects were group/gang involved.
- Individual level of group/gang involvement:
 - About 41 percent of victims;
 - About 60 percent of suspects; and
 - High likeliness of shooters being gang/group involved.
- Motives for gun violence incidents:
 - About 24 percent are interpersonal disputes between parties who know each other;
 - This is on the rise nationwide.
 - About 17 percent are gang on gang conflicts;
 - About 9 percent are instance disputes typically occur between individuals who don't know each other prior to the shooting:
 - Road rage, bars, parking lots, etc.
 - About 29 percent of these have unknown motives:
 - Typically, victims of non-fatal shootings are often uncooperative.
- Incidents involving group/gang members as suspects and/or victims:
 - About 52 percent of personal disputes; and
 - About 38 percent of incident disputes.
 - Being in a gang is a strong risk factor for involvement in gun violence.
- There are eight gang/group in Salem actively involved in violence:
 - Predominately Hispanic and black males between the ages of 18 and 34;
 - Hispanic Individuals are overrepresented by a factor of 2.3.
 - Black Individuals are overrepresented by a factor of 7.1.
 - Predominately Nortenos and Surenos subsets.
 - They are involved in a variety of criminal activity for profit:
 - Narcotics;
 - Weapons trafficking; and
 - Theft and car jackings.
 - Surenos:
 - Involved in at least 22 incidents, most often as shooters.
 - Nortenos:
 - Involved in at least ten incidents, most often as shooters.
- Half of gang violence clusters in five square miles of Salem:
 - About 11 percent of Salem area; and
 - About 65 percent of homicides and shootings in 2018-2023 are in this area.
- Changes in nature of violence:
 - Comparing 2018-2020 and 2021-2023:
 - No statistically significant changes in sex, race, ethnicity, and circumstances;
 - Significant increase in age, victims aged 25-34; and
 - Increase in incident disputes, gang/group involvement.
- Recommendation summary:
 - Identify high risk groups/gangs and apply deterrents and interventions;
 - Provide case management and mentorship to the high-risk individuals:

- Create formal partnerships among agencies to help identify high-risk individuals;
- Resources should be focused on the hot spots; and
- Strengthen relationship and communication with court partners to help identify high-risk individuals.

Presentation Summary

Chief Trevor Womack:

- Focus deterrence is evidence based and used across the nation;
- Criminal justice investigates and sends individuals committing gun violence to prison/jail;
- Individuals associated with high-risk need community-based response;
- Current criminal justice actions:
 - Partnerships with local, state, and federal level agencies:
 - Focusing on gun violence.
 - Monthly meetings discussing high-risk individuals; and
 - There are resource issues.
- Community actions:
 - Longer-term strategy development; and
 - Inventory of what is out in the community.
- Criminal justice and community need to work together:
 - Bring in outside consultant to help facilitate;
 - Schedule quarterly meetings to share data; and
 - Inventory the community.
- After the County adds their information, a meeting will be held at the third quarter;
- A work session to include city councilors and county commissioners; and
- Salem Reporter will host a Town Hall regarding this at the Elsinore Theater:

Sheriff Nick Hunter:

- Missing data and continually working to get more data:
 - From Marion County; and
 - This will help target resource use.
- Community partners need to be involved;
- Working on mentorships to deter gun violence before it happens;
- Need to be strategic with resources; and
- Need to be collaborative with partners.

Paige Clarkson:

- These issues are not new;
- Troy Gregg, Marion County Juvenile Director, is aware of the issues;
- Rising trends of juvenile violence is not a surprise:
 - The Juvenile Ballot Measure 11:
 - Harder to convict violent juvenile crimes as adult; and

- Juveniles are aware of this.
- Resources and tools are not the same as previously:
 - It will take longer to find solutions.
- Data and continually getting data is good.

Robert Carney

- Woodburn recognizes the trend of juvenile involvement in crime and violence;
- Mayor Frank Lonergan of Woodburn is hiring individuals to work with juveniles:
 - Specifically middle school and early high school ages kids.
- The hired individuals work with students and their families; and
- Commissioner Willis asked Mayor Lonergan and his team to give a presentation at the next quarterly meeting.

4. CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (CJAC)

-Judge Tracy Prall

Summary of presentation:

- N/A

Summary of discussion:

- N/A

5. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

- N/A

Commissioner Willis adjourned the meeting.