

CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
505 TRAVIS STREET, GOVERNMENT PLAZA PUBLIC NOTICE  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
MAY 31, 2022  
3:30 p.m.

The Caddo Parish Juvenile Justice Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., in the Government Plaza 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, with Mrs. Gage-Watts, Chairperson, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Gage-Watts, Jones, Johnson, Taliaferro, and Young (7). ABSENT: None (0).

Mr. Jones gave the invocation, and Mr. Burrell led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Discuss Intergovernmental Initiative to Address Juvenile Crime*

Dr. Wilson explained that the Mayor, Chief of Police, Commissioners and staff held a meeting to create a committee in response to rising public safety issues with a focus on youth but also to include adults. The group spoke with the School Board, District Attorney, and the Sherriff to address public advisory concerns in the community and about putting together a Public Safety Advisory Committee. He further explained that Mr. Walker, Superintendent Goree and himself are getting some resources together to create and implement a joint advisory committee to handle these issues. They wanted to inform the Committee first before they introduced this idea to the Commission.

Mr. Clay Walker explained that the Public Safety Advisory Committee's goal is to address immediate crowd response to shootings, guns, crime intervention/prevention, and truancy. He further explained that they will collaborate with the City and the Caddo Parish School Board to create programs that would prevent kids' susceptibility to gangs and violence. Mr. Walker said this is a multi-faceted plan that needs the planning of the Parish, City Council and the School Board. Members of the committee will report to the Juvenile Justice Committee, who will then update the full body on the Committee's recommendations.

Mr. Walker stated that the Committee will be comprised of two Caddo Parish Commissioners, two Caddo Parish School Board Members, two Shreveport City Councilmembers, as well as the District Attorney, Caddo Parish Sheriff, and Shreveport Chief of Police. Mr. Atkins acknowledged that Commissioner Taliaferro and Commissioner Gage-Watts agreed to serve on the committee. Mr. Walker added that Schoolboard Member Mary Trammel, Schoolboard Member Christine Tharpe, City Councilmember Grayson Boucher, and City Councilmember Alan Jackson also agreed to join the committee.

Dr. Wilson commented that the relevancy of those assigned individuals is to report back to their respective bodies and advocate for special resources needed from each entity. Mr. Burrell wanted to know what resources they would need other than funding. Dr. Wilson responded that surveillance, counter measures, and inter-agency intelligence would be needed. Dr. Wilson said that the joint committee will plan for what the community response can do using manpower, financial resources, etc.

Mr. Johnson asked if each board has the same software to allow for easier communication. Mr. Walker responded that the advisory committee would oversee and help coordinate that. Mr. Johnson also asked if there is a street fluent citizen on the advisory committee. Mr. Walker responded the committee is designed for governmental body representatives. He also mentioned that there are some sensitive materials to be discussed such as gangs, but a corresponding citizen's committee could be created to address that. Mr. Johnson said that there should be a liaison with the advisory committee. Dr. Wilson acknowledged that they have a team member who tracks social media and uses that information to respond proactively versus reactively.

Mr. Johnson stated that there was an uptick of traffic on Sunday from Hearne Avenue to Louisiana Avenue. He feels that there should have been a presence there. He also said that cruising picks up during the summer months. Mr. Burrell would like to get with the Shreveport Police Department because there is a park being used as a drag strip in his district. He pointed out that there are elderly communities with senior drivers trying to get out of the street. Mr. Johnson mentioned that the cruising took over Southern Hills and the park on Sunday. Mr. Jones agreed with Mr. Johnson, and said that it's been going on for years. Mr. Burrell stated that they move location to location. Dr. Wilson commented that tracking would help on a real time basis and that is what the committee would be doing.

Mr. Jones asked if the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) is heavily involved in this. Mr. Walker acknowledged that they are a part of this, but they are still trying to get the RTCC up and running. Dr. Wilson added that Keith Hanson, Shreveport IT Director, is seeking manpower for it work more effectively. Mr. Johnson asked if they have posted jobs. Dr. Wilson said that he was not sure.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the City, SPD, and the Sherriff's Department would look to the Parish to fund the extra manpower. Dr. Wilson responded that they would need to look internally first. He also pointed out that SPD is down 150 officers and the Sherriff's Department is down 75 employees. He said they should have ample funds in their budget to accommodate the extra positions

Mr. Johnson expressed that they should not get bogged down with red tape on recommendations when someone could lose their life. He wants the process to be "laid out" so it does not go back and forth between committees and all of the governing bodies. Mr. Atkins asked if the recommendation from the joint committee goes to the Juvenile Justice Committee or to the Caddo Parish Commission. Mr. Johnson responded that the recommendations from the joint advisory committee will be made to the Juvenile Justice Committee, then moved forward to the full body

Dr. Wilson commented that the Sherriff had concerns about the name of the joint advisory committee and that their focus should be on the juveniles first. Mr. Atkins wanted to know what the advisory committee is going to be called. Mr. Walker stated the proposed name is Joint Advisory Committee on Community Safety. Mr. Jones commented that the name is too long. Dr. Wilson stated that the committee can brainstorm a name at their first meeting.

Mr. Walker explained that their idea is to have one joint committee with the governing entities. Dr. Wilson said that it would be similar to the intergovernmental committees. He also said that they will brief the Caddo Parish Commission on June 6 and hold a press conference on June 13.

Mr. Johnson commented they should not waste time on the committee's name. Mr. Burrell asked if they have measurements to determine effectiveness. Dr. Wilson mentioned that there will be a data analysis portion to drive their efforts and decisions on resources. Mr. Johnson asked if they have a mission statement. Dr. Wilson stated that they do not have one currently. Mr. Johnson said that the committee needs to be named and have a mission statement, so when they have their meeting, they know their objective for being on this committee. He reiterated that they should not waste time and that they should hit the ground running. Mr. Atkins agreed that it should be defined ahead of time, so they would know what their mission is. Dr. Wilson advised that there is no "preconceived notion of what it should be like without anyone's input". Mr. Johnson responded that the mission is creating ways to minimize crime in Shreveport-Caddo. "The scope is they're basically utilizing the different governmental agencies to band their resources to make that happen," he said. Mr. Johnson expressed that when they have their first meeting, it should be laid out.

Mr. Walker commented that they have a tentative plan. Mr. Johnson said that they need a leader so they can collectively grow together. He said that the different bodies have different opinions on what the committee should do. "If they come to the first meeting and they don't get their way, guess what's going to happen? They going to walk out the door," he said.

Dr. Wilson expressed his excitement bringing people together.

Mr. Atkins asked Mr. Walker if the committee would be focused on juveniles. Mr. Walker explained that it is not limited to juveniles, but most of the focus will be on juveniles. He said there is an uptick in juvenile crimes right now in Shreveport and Caddo Parish. Dr. Wilson commented they also have a truancy issue to deal with.

Mr. Burrell said that there is a mental issue aspect to of all of this. He also said that most of their issues start out with early home problems. He was made aware of the number of mental health professionals in this area during a Tuesday morning breakfast with SPD, non-profits, and hospital people who were in attendance. Mr. Walker commented that the community is trying to resolve this, and with the help of the advisory committee, they can tie it all together. He said the different groups could work together under the purview of the committee, then the governmental bodies can assist them in knowing what role they play. Dr. Wilson commented that it is a vicious cycle for youth going between CCC and their home, where the CCC is stable but their home is not. Mr. Burrell added that addressing acute care for mental health a few days a week doesn't do anything if there isn't a continuum. He said that funding mental health is an issue as well. Dr. Wilson responded that the State had institutions and scholars to return to the community, but people are not aware of that community resource. He added that they might not address everything but they're headed in the right direction and prevention is key.

Dr. Wilson stated that this is a work in progress. As it develops, they will adapt as needed.

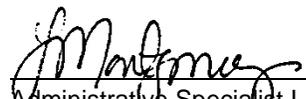
Mr. Atkins wanted to know if they contacted Ms. Carla Buntyn with Compassion for Lives as a resource to help educate youth. Mr. Atkins commented that Carla is a well-structured, forward thinking person with passionate and committed connections. Mr. Walker responded that the joint advisory committee could combine multiple community components and possibly work with the NGO budget to create a funding solution.

**Point of Clarification, by Mr. Burrell**, that there are people with different experiences in places that could show results and reduce bureaucratic rhetoric. Mr. Walker responded that they will use evidence-based programs that they know work in other communities. He said the Med Center has an Institute for Childhood Resilience with best practices and will inform the committee. Mr. Walker clarified that

there is a prevention program from McAllen, Texas, which is a community-wide recreational program. He explained that they are researching communities that had successful programs in reducing gun violence. Mr. Walker reiterated their point is to coordinate through the committee to bring people to the table.

Mr. Burrell commented that the committee may be able to target gun control because the conversation is needed. Dr. Wilson agreed and said that they want to keep guns out of the hands of young people. He also mentioned that they confiscate guns from youth who are on probation.

There being no more business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

  
Administrative Specialist I