

Washington County Sheriff's Office Latino Advisory Commission
July 7, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present: Olga Acuña, Maria Caballero-Rubio, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Pat Garrett, Daniel Guzman-Catarina, Joann Hoffman, Ricardo Moreno, Fernanda Pantoja, Pablo Valenzuela

Commission Members Absent: Fernando Lira, Mark Shah

Moderating: Brandon Lee with Training for Transformation (T4T)

Guests attending: Chief Deputy Karlyn Degman, Undersheriff John Koch

Meeting at the Hillsboro Civic Center, Conference Room 113 B and via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Olga called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Introductions

Approval Meeting Minutes

The members present constituted a quorum. Commissioner Moreno made a motion to approve June 2, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Caballero-Rubio seconded and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

No public comments

Sheriff's Office Updates

The motion to dismiss in the Alden trial was denied by the judge. Trial is set for November 2, 2021.

Sheriffs Garrett and Reese (Multnomah County) co-signed a letter to legislators in support of House Bill 3265. The Bill passed both houses, was signed by the governor and takes effect 90 days after signature. HB 3265 improves existing law by establishing clear boundaries for local law enforcement regarding communication and engagement with federal immigration authorities. The bill includes the following:

- Prohibits LE agency from providing information to ICE about an individual in custody unless required by judicial subpoena (signed by a judge). Absent the judicial subpoena, LE can only provide the same allowable information that we would provide to the general public and under the same terms and conditions as the information is available to the public.
- Public facilities, property, moneys, equipment, technology or personnel may not be used for the purpose of investigating, detecting, apprehending, arresting, detaining or holding individuals for immigration enforcement.

- A law enforcement agency may not enter into an agreement or arrangement under which the law enforcement agency detains or houses individuals who are in the custody of a federal immigration authority for violations of federal immigration law.
- Prohibits private immigration detention facilities.

House Bill 3273 prohibits LE agency from releasing booking photos prior to conviction, with limited exceptions. The WCSO does not post mug shots on our website regardless. It will be prohibited statewide in 2022.

Two weeks ago, the WCSO hosted a visit from the Mexican Consulate. The WCSO and Mexican Consulate agreed on these next steps.

- Will collaborate on a Spanish announcement to promote driver's licensing.
- Mexican Consulate is available to help WCSO verify the validity of Mexican identification documents.
- The consulate has offered to work with Washington County's Family Justice Center to help Mexican nationals who are domestic abuse and violence survivors.

On the morning of July 4th, there was a shooting in Aloha. Deputies arrived and encountered a Latino Male that matched the suspect description. This man did not comply with deputies and a firearm was also found near him. Deputies were able to detain the suspect without incident. The gunshot victim was dropped off at a local hospital. The investigation continues.

Last night, there was an attempted suicide in the Washington County Jail. The Adult-in-Custody was taken to the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

The WCSO received a request from our Community Corrections Director, Steve Berger. He is applying for a state grant to help fund supervision services. The grant encourages applicants to speak with, and get feedback from, our communities of color. Sheriff Garrett proposed inviting Mr. Berger to join our commission meeting in August. The purpose of the grant is to provide wrap-around supervision services for justice impacted individuals and keep those offenders in their community instead of serving a prison sentence.

The Sheriff's Office would like to bring a stop data presentation to the commission in September.

Commissioner Check-in and Updates

Mr. Lee gave the commissioners an opportunity "check in" or tell of recent events they have heard or seen that are relevant to equity.

Commissioner Moreno told of his observation during the 4th of July holiday. He was saddened to see on the news that the United States flag is being used by specific groups that negatively impact our nation.

Co-Chair Garrett shared that he's involved in a small group with facilitated learning about equity and they recently revisited the history of race and slavery. He felt good progress was made in acknowledging that history and learning from it.

Commissioner Acuña was also saddened by the improper uses of the United States flag along with the recent shootings both in Portland and our Nation. She is hoping that our generation's civil rights movement is more successful than the past and hopes that she is contributing in a positive way.

Story Telling and a Need for an Equity Lens

Mr. Lee gave us a history of his lived personal experiences with authority figures, such as law enforcement and security guards, where he has felt racially profiled. Mr. Lee is a black man who grew up in Oakland, California. He comes from a family of public servants, such nurses and military veterans. He described what it was like to live in Oakland as well as his experiences here in Oregon.

Mr. Lee has been approached by law enforcement or persons in positions of authority while conducting normal, day-to-day business. He advised that while a certain line of questioning may be perceived by the majority of people one way, minorities may feel threatened or profiled. Mr. Lee believes the Latino Advisory Commission needs an equity lens to present positive change to the Washington County Sheriff's Office, which is why these lived stories are relevant to share and should be taken as learning experiences for the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Caballero-Rubio agrees that we need to have an equity lens and feels very overwhelmed but hopeful that we can make positive recommendations.

Commissioner Valenzuela thanked Brandon for walking us through his experiences. It is Important for us to recognize that the way law enforcement provides enforcement may negatively impact men of color and those with mental health issues. He also stated that not just officers are recognizing their bias, but the broader community is recognizing it as well.

Co-Chair Garrett thanked Brandon and says that continuous improvement is necessary.

Commissioner Moreno said that while listening to Mr. Lee's stories he felt he would not have felt the same under the same situation. This was a learning moment for him. How do we help law enforcement understand how a reasonable community will respond to what seem like simple questions? Good officers trying to do the right thing not realizing how their line of questions might be perceived by different community groups.

Commissioner Guzman-Catarina shared his experiences as a loss prevention officer, having been assumed by passers-by to be a laborer while he was outside the store where he worked.

Next steps

Invite Steve Berger, Director of Washington County Community Corrections to our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM