

MEMORANDUM

December 1, 2005

TO: Bruce Romer, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Dolores Kozloski, Chair *Dolores Kozloski by JRS*
Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission

SUBJECT: Topics for CJCC Meeting on December 5, 2005

This memorandum is to provide you with a read ahead on the topics that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission (CJCC) plans to discuss with you at our scheduled December 5, 2005 meeting.

Criminal Justice Issues

Over the past year, the CJCC has worked on the following issues in its quarterly meetings:

1. Computer Fraud/Identity Theft: The University of Maryland provided the results of a study of property based computer crimes to the CJCC on January 27. The report included data on national and local computer crime rates as well as potential improvements to community education and outreach. Follow-up meeting held with Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection and Police Fraud Unit officials to review what each does for community outreach and education. Determination made that each entity was providing adequate information to the community, especially in the area of identity theft.
2. Prisoner Re-entry: With the assistance of the staff of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, the CJCC reviewed and commented on the identification card for released prisoners and the current efforts of DOCR to facilitate effective reentry for released prisoners and to improve public education on reentry issues. DOCR Director and CJCC Commissioner Art Wallenstein recently testified before the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security in support of the Second Chance Act of

2005 and on the role of counties in setting up comprehensive prisoner re-entry programs. Prisoner re-entry programs and issues, especially in mental health services and employment will continue to be monitored by the CJCC in CY 06.

3. DNA Lab Issues: The Police Department with the States Attorneys Office provided a briefing on the causes and recommended solutions for addressing the increases in requests for DNA testing as well as other needs associated with the Police Forensic Division. CJCC Chair and staff met with representatives of the Police Department and States Attorneys Office to review issues and options. The demand for DNA testing will only continue to grow and may require review of existing statutes regarding timeframes associated with evidentiary hearings. Other issues raised were sufficient manpower and facilities.
4. Council Review of the Budget: The CJCC sent a memo to Council President Tom Perez asking him to reinstate funding for reductions the Council was considering (and made) to the Executive's budget for addressing gangs and implementation of the Police staffing plan.
5. Juvenile Issues:
 - a. Incidents at Noyes Center: The CJCC was successful in obtaining the attendance at the June 23, 2005 meeting of the Director of the Office of the Independent Juvenile Justice Monitor and several officials from the State's Department of Juvenile Services to discuss the OIJJM report and DJS' efforts to address the incidents and prevent further occurrences.
 - b. Tour of Noyes Center: On May 20, 2005 several CJCC members participated in an "Open House" at the Noyes Center to hear from DJS Officials on their plans to prevent further instances of abuse.
 - c. Juvenile Competency: The CJCC advocated successfully for the passage and approval of HB802, Juvenile Competency, with members of the General Assembly and the Governor.
 - d. DJS Resources: The CJCC with the JJC has drafted a letter to the Governor requesting that his FY07 budget address the training, staffing, and other resource needs of DJS.
2. Legislation Pending in Annapolis

Juvenile Competency Services: Even though the General Assembly approved improvements to Juvenile Competency standards last year, additional resources are needed for the Departments of Juvenile Services and Health and Mental Health to

assess and treat juveniles. CJCC is likely to support legislation and/or funding requests that further the implementation of the Juvenile Competency laws.

FY07 Budget Priorities

1. Gang Task Force Recommendations: The CJCC recommends that the Executive continue to place a high priority to fund the recommendations of the County Task Force including those improvements not approved by the Council last year
2. Additional Police Personnel: The CJCC recommends continued implementation of the Police Department's staffing plan assuming the data supporting the request does not change.
3. Circuit Court Annex: The CJCC recommends continued support for the design and construction of this facility in the FY07-12 CIP.
4. Addition of Fourth Judge for the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court: Additional resources may be needed for the Circuit Court, Sheriff's Office and States Attorney for the new judge.
5. Child Welfare: Increasing CINA caseloads and a lack of qualified attorneys who specialize in child welfare cases are creating backlogs in addressing these cases. Additional resources for the Circuit Court, Public Defender, and the County Attorneys Office may be necessary to address this problem.

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CJCC Commissioners