



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

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Chief Deputy Director

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Criminal Justice Services Board

December 7, 2023

All Virtual Meeting through ZOOM

Members Present

Sheriff C. O. Balderson
Ms. Mary Biggs
Chief Craig Branch, Chair
Chief Maggie DeBoard
Senator R. Creigh Deeds
Ms. Robin Deiulio
The Hon. Chadwick Dotson
Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.
Sheriff Brian Hieatt
Ms. Maria Jankowski
Mr. Jagdish Katyal
Chief Jeffrey Katz
D. Bradley Marshall, Esquire
Ms. Renee Maxey
The Hon. Russell McGuire
Dr. Sesha Joi Moon

Members Present (Cont'd)

The Hon. Bryan Porter
Colonel Gary Settle
Superintendent William Smith
Mr. James Towey for
Ms. Amy Floriano
Mr. Anthony Williams
Mr. Robert Tracci for
The Hon. Jason Miyares
The Hon. Patricia West
Delegate Wren Williams
Ms. Kristi Wright, Proxy for
Executive Secretary Karl Hade
Delegate Scott Wyatt

Members Absent

Sheriff Michael Chapman
Ms. Ebony Clark
The Hon. Sarah Deneke
Judge Joseph Lindsey
Senator Joe Morrissey
Ms. Ashley Waddell

I. Call to Order

Chairman Chief Craig Branch called the meeting of the Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum of the Board was present.

This meeting was an all-virtual meeting through ZOOM as a physical location for the full board could not be found for this meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Mary Biggs made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bradley Marshall, to accept the minutes of the October 12, 2023, meeting of the CJSB. *Abstentions: Chief Maggie DeBoard.* The motion passed.

III. Director's Report

Mr. Jackson Miller, Director of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) gave the following report to the Board:

- During the 2023 Special Session in September, the General Assembly increased appropriations for both the Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention fund and the Operation Ceasefire Grant fund by \$5,000,000 and \$15,000,000 respectively, bringing the totals available to \$9,000,000 and \$17,500,000 respectively. The General Assembly also added \$10,000,000 for a new Safer Communities Program with a focus on providing \$9,500,000 in funding to the Cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Richmond and the balance to DCJS for administrative operations including specified positions and support for research, outreach, and reporting. DCJS issued solicitations following the Special Session to begin rollout of the new funds under both the Firearm Violence and Ceasefire programs; grant award recommendations will be presented later during this meeting. Additional solicitations will be issued in the new year. In regard to the Safer Communities Program, staff is working with each of the three localities to develop actionable plans.
- DCJS hosted a National Threat Assessment Conference for Educational Institutions on October 23-26, 2023, in Virginia Beach. Over 450 participants attended and included law enforcement officers, school and campus security and personnel, mental health professionals, local, state, and federal agencies, our nation's military and other threat assessment and school safety leaders.
- DCJS issued its solicitation for the Combatting Hate Crimes Grant Program earlier this fall. Due to an increase in potential threats and renewed interest in the Combatting Hate Crimes Grant Program, the application deadline was extended to December 1, 2023. Applications that were received by the original deadline of October 23, 2023, were reviewed, and processed for the November Grants Subcommittee and CJSB in December. The remaining grant applications received by December 1 will be brought to a future meeting.
- The 2023 General Assembly budget allocated \$1 million in Witness Protection funding. DCJS staff hosted a workgroup meeting with representatives from the Office of the Virginia Attorney General, Department of State Police, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys, Virginia Sheriff's Association, Virginia Victims Fund and DCJS Victim Services to create an application process, determine eligible expense categories, and establish criteria to determine the amount of the grants. Staff is working on drafting an initial funding opportunity for the workgroup to review, provide feedback on, and approve by early January 2024.

- DCJS coordinated and facilitated the Campus Threat Assessment Task Force, created through HB1916 and SB 910. Legislation required the Task Force to determine best practices and develop model policies and procedures for all threat assessment teams at public institutions of higher education. 41 members were invited to participate with representation from colleges and universities of all sizes and geographic regions. The Task Force convened for 3 in-person meetings in Richmond, completing model policies and a best practice guide. A final report was submitted to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Committee for Courts of Justice, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health on December 1, 2023. Our CJSB Chairman Chief Craig Branch assisted DCJS in this effort as well.

IV. Committee Reports

Committee on Training

Chief Branch called on Superintendent William Smith to give a report from the Committee on Training (COT).

The COT voted to table the Compulsory Minimum Training Standards for Dispatchers until the CJSB meeting on March 14th.

The COT recommended that the CJSB approve the certification of the City of Williamsburg as a Certified Crime Prevention Community.

Superintendent Smith made the motion, seconded by Ms. Biggs, to approve the certification of the City of Williamsburg as a Certified Crime Prevention Community. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee

Chief Branch gave the following updates from the CJSB Executive Committee, which met on November 3, 2023:

The Executive Committee addressed a request from the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Association for a grant in the amount of \$23,780 from the Forfeited Asset Sharing Program administrative fund to support ten full scholarships to small or underfunded law enforcement agencies to attend law enforcement training programs. This grant request went before the Grants Committee but, because of member recusals, there was a tie and it did not move forward. It was then brought to the Executive Committee for action. The Executive Committee approved, but it was recommended that it be brought to the CJSB.

Chief Branch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Biggs, to approve the grant award to the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police in the amount of \$23,780 from the Forfeited Asset Sharing Program administrative fund. *Recusals: Ms. Maria Jankowski, Chief Branch.* The motion passed.

On November 3rd, the Executive Committee heard the decertification appeals of:

- **Mr. Jeffrey Faries**, formerly with the Colonial Heights Police Department, and upheld the decertification of Mr. Faries as a law enforcement officer.

- **Ms. Elizabeth Harrison**, formerly with the Essex County Sheriff's Office, and upheld the decertification of Ms. Harrison as a law enforcement officer.
- **Mr. Quanta Perry**, formerly with the Portsmouth Police Department, and reinstated Mr. Perry as a law enforcement officer.
- **Ms. Tashina Mial**, formerly with the Henrico County Sheriff's Office, and upheld the decertification of Ms. Mial as a jail officer.
- **Ms. Kihyanna Dominick**, formerly with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, and upheld the decertification of Ms. Dominick as a jail officer and law enforcement officer.

Grants Committee

The Grants Committee met on November 21, 2023, at 11am, and recommended the approval of the following grants:

- **Hate Crimes Grant Program (HCGP)**. The Grants Committee approved funding in the amount of **\$77,520.00** for **one** award.
- **Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) – VA Youth Violence & Substance Use Funding** in the amount of **\$1,517,096.00** for **ten** awards.
- **Firearm Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) Funding** in the amount of **\$1,025,594.00** for **six** awards.
- **Operation Ceasefire Grant Program (OCGP) Funding** in the amount of **\$5,417,317.00** for **14** awards.
- **Operation Ceasefire Grant Program (OCGP) Budget Increases** in the amount of **\$185,918.00** for **three** awards.
- **Virginia STOP Violence Against Women Act (VSTOP) Funding** in the amount of **\$1,397,124** for **nine** additional projects and one award increase previously approved for the Supreme Court of Virginia from \$413,832 to \$480,499. The total award is comprised of \$973,228 in federal funds and \$423,896 of local matching funds.

A motion was made by Chief Branch and seconded by Ms. Biggs to approve these grants as recommended by the Grants Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biggs. The motion passed unanimously.

Recusals: Mr. Bryan Porter for the JJDP grant for Alexandria, FVIP grant for Alexandria and OCGP for Alexandria, Mr. Robert Tracci for the VSTOP grant for the Office of the Attorney General, Mr. Anthony Williams for FVIP grant for Petersburg, and Ms. Kristi Wright for the VSTOP grant for the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Private Security Services Advisory Board (PSSAB)

Mr. Katyal gave the report from the PSSAB. The PSSAB met at 10:00am on November 29, 2023. Mr. Michael Ashley began his term as Chair of the PSSAB and welcomed four new members to the board. The board approved Ms. Corinne Mastronardi as Vice-Chair and Mr. Ashley appointed Mr. Chris Stuart as Secretary.

Ms. Kristi Shalton, DCJS Regulatory Coordinator, provided an overview of the regulatory process for the PSSAB. Members asked DCJS staff to clarify requirements for proprietary security.

V. Old Business

Director Miller noted that the Standards of Conduct for Law Enforcement/Jailors is being reviewed by Terrance C. Cole, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security. This item may come back to the CJSB for future consideration, after he has completed his review.

Ms. Renee Maxey inquired about the status of her previous request looking into supervision fee issues and case file compliance audits of community corrections local probation agencies, to which Director Miller responded that he would look into and get back with her.

VI. New Business

Ms. Kim Simon, the School Resource Officer Training and Programs Coordinator of the Division of Public Safety Training and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety of DCJS presented proposed changes to the SRO certification process which was initially approved at the CJSB meeting on October 13, 2022.

A motion was made by Ms. Biggs and seconded by Superintendent Smith to approve the proposed changes. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) Meeting will take place on March 14, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:59pm.