

Clallam County Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2022

I. Call to order

- i. Alan Barnard called to order the regular meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee at 1700 hours on April 28, 2022 in the Emergency Management Center.

II. Roll call

- i. The following members were present: Alan Barnard, Steven Blakeman, Rochelle Blankenship, Tom Cox, Charles Meyer, Walter Morton, Lourene O'Brien, and Barbara Sanford.
- ii. The following staff members were present: Sheriff Benedict, Chief Civil Deputy Alice Hoffman, Property and Evidence Manager Nicole Salim and Admin Manager Lorraine Shore.
- iii. There was a quorum established for this meeting.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

- i. Minutes from the January 27, 2022 meeting unanimously approved with no changes.

IV. Sheriff Bill Benedict

a. Property and Evidence Manager Nicole Salim – Independent Investigative Team

Chief Civil Deputy Alice Hoffman introduced Nicole Salim, hired on December 6, 2021, as the Property and Evidence Manager. Nicole gave a presentation on her credentials and experience.

Nicole holds a Certificate in Forensic Identification in addition to a Bachelor Degree in English. She was a Senior Forensic Identification Specialist with the Torrance Police Department for 8 years and prior to that worked for the El Monte Police Department as a Crime Scene Tech and Supervisor for 10 years. Nicole has extensive experience conducting forensic evidence field investigations in major crimes, including homicides and officer-involved shootings. She has testified as an expert witness in several California Superior Courts in areas including crime scene field investigations, evidence collection, photography, biological evidence collection and preservation, chain of custody, latent print and fingerprint and palm print database searches.

Prior to this meeting, Chief King emailed a PowerPoint of Nicole Salim's qualifications, as well as questions for the CCSCAC members to ask Nicole, to determine if she is qualified to be on the IIT. Attachment "B"

IIT Questions

The exact questions for the IIT Oral Board will be as follows:

1. What training and experience do you have that has prepared you to be a member of the IIT?
2. What is one specific case that you were involved in, and what was your role in that investigation, that has prepared you to be a member of the IIT?

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Nicole what training and experience does she have that has prepared her to be a member of the IIT.

Nicole stated that in addition to the training and experience noted in her introduction, she also held a professional certificate in the International Association for Identification Senior Crime Scene Analyst from 2015 – 2020. Nicole is a member of the International Association for Property and Evidence and worked with the FBI, other police agencies and the Los Angeles Attorney Investigators. She has experience in Officer Involved Shooting Investigations and understands the importance of standard operating procedures in those types of investigations. She subscribes to Peer Journals on Evidence Scientific Investigation.

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Nicole to describe one specific case that she was involved in, and her role in that investigation, that prepared her to be a member of the IIT.

Nicole gave an overview of a 2016 Officer Involved Shooting investigation involving several Torrance Police Officers. Nicole was the lead crime scene investigator. The officers fired shots to stop the suspect and Nicole's role included photography, evidence collection, and documentation of the patrol and suspect vehicles. Nicole had to recreate the scene using photos she took at the scene as their 3D scanner failed. This is an example of her awareness of how to remedy issues that arise during an investigation.

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard concluded the questioning of Property and Evidence Manager Nicole Salim and asked for a motion on whether to recommend her placement on the Independent Investigative Team.

MOTION: (Morton/O'Brien) Motion to recommend Property and Evidence Manager Nicole Salim to the Independent Investigative Team. **Unanimously approved – Motion carried.**

b. CCSCAC Approval of CCSO IIT Members:

Each of the approved IIT Members completed a biography for KCIRT (Kitsap County Investigative Response Team) which required two signatures from the Community Representative (CCSCAC Members), KCIRT Representative and Involved Agency CEO (Sheriff Benedict).

Sheriff Benedict gave the KCIRT Biographies to CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard and member Lourene O'Brien for signature. Sheriff Benedict and CCSCAC approved the following CCSO IIT Members on 4/28/22:

- **Detective Cody Anderson**
- **Inspector Josh Ley**
- **Detective Sergeant Eric Munger**
- **Property and Evidence Manager Nicole Salim**
- **Detective Stacy Sampson**
- **Detective Brandon Stoppani**
- **Detective Jeff Waterhouse**

Chief Criminal Deputy Brian King submitted the signed forms to KCIRT and on May 4, 2022, the forms were returned with final signatures of KCIRT Representative Mike Davis. Each of the forms was filed in the IIT members' respective personnel files.

V. Sheriff Personnel Changes

a. Retirements

- i. Corrections Sergeant Darrell Bryant – Retiring 5/31/22

b. Resignations

- i. Patrol Deputy Marc Titterness – Resigned 4/30/22
- ii. Patrol Deputy Don Kitchen – Resigned 1/31/22
- iii. Patrol Deputy Chris Moon – Resigned 2/15/22

c. Promotions

- i. Corrections Deputy Jeremy Morgan to Corrections Sergeant – 5/1/22

d. New Personnel

- i. Matthew Montez – Corrections Deputy – Hired 3/21/22
- ii. Tamara Vanover – Mental Health Case Manager – Hired 2/16/22
- iii. Jordan Heiner – Corrections Deputy – Hired 2/7/22

VI. Roundtable

Sandford – Barbara asked what the Sheriff recommended if a citizen was confronted by a dangerous person. **Sheriff Benedict** said it was extremely rare that mentally ill people confront citizens. Confrontations are more likely if someone approaches a person in crisis. His advice was to retreat, giving time and space to the individual and call 9-1-1. There is no obligation to run so if the citizen did not leave the situation and defended himself or herself, it is allowed. These situations are extremely rare and using bear spray is an option, though mentally ill people may not respond to spray or even a Taser.

Blakeman – Steven asked if the IIT was complete now and Sheriff Benedict confirmed that the process was complete.

Meyer – Charlie is involved in the Cascadia Rising 2022 exercise scheduled for June 13 – 16th. Sequim will have a full exercise while Clallam County plans a tabletop exercise. Charlie said he is involved in CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and they will walk the neighborhoods during this exercise for 4 hours per day over the four-day period. Charlie said if people were trapped due to the earthquake they probably would not survive longer than three days.

Charlie asked if there was any reconsideration by the WA State Legislature regarding the laws they passed that impact law enforcement. **Benedict** said the legislature passed HB1735 which allows officers to address mentally ill persons, and does not restrict officers ability to respond to requests for assistance or service.

Below is a snapshot from WASPC on HB1735. Benedict said the legislation restricting pursuits was not addressed and the legislation requiring law enforcement to provide juveniles with access to an attorney prior to speaking with them is a big problem and will most likely result in an increase in juvenile crime.

Attached to these minutes are the 2021 and 2022 WASPC End of Session Reports with synopsis of each bill in legislation. Below are snapshots of legislation related to Charlie's question.

ESHB 1054	Peace officer tactics, equip	Prohibits peace officers from using chokeholds and neck restraints. Prohibits law enforcement agencies from acquiring or using certain equipment. Establishes restrictions on tear gas, vehicular pursuits, and firing upon moving vehicles. Prohibits a peace officer from seeking, and a court from issuing, a search or arrest warrant granting an express exception to the "knock and announce" rule. Requires law enforcement agencies to adopt policies and procedures to ensure that uniformed peace officers are reasonably identifiable. Requires the Criminal Justice Training Commission to convene a work group to develop model policies on the use and training of canine teams.	C 320 L 21
ESHB 1140	Juvenile access to attorneys	Requires law enforcement, subject to limited exceptions, to provide juveniles with in-person or remote access to an attorney prior to any waiver of the juvenile's constitutional rights when law enforcement: (1) questions a juvenile during a custodial interrogation; (2) detains a juvenile based on probable cause of involvement in criminal activity; or (3) requests that the juvenile provide consent to certain evidentiary searches of the juvenile or the juvenile's property. Provides that the consultation with an attorney may not be waived. Establishes, subject to limited exceptions, that statements made by a juvenile after they are contacted by law enforcement in a manner described above are inadmissible in evidence at trial, unless the juvenile makes an express, knowing, intelligent, and voluntary waiver of their rights after being provided with access to counsel and being fully informed of their rights. Addresses: scope of coverage and exceptions; assertion and waiver of rights; and the duties and powers of the Office of Public Defense to provide access to counsel.	C 328 L 21
SHB 1735	Peace officers/use of force	Expands the authority for a peace officer to use physical force, subject to the requirement to exercise reasonable care, in additional specific circumstances. Modifies the requirement to exercise reasonable care before using force, including defining "de-escalation tactics" and clarifying when a peace officer must use de-escalation tactics and less lethal alternatives. Provides that the standard for use of force by peace officers does not limit or restrict a peace officer's authority or responsibility to perform lifesaving measures or perform community caretaking functions to protect health and safety, and does not prevent a peace officer from responding to requests for assistance or service.	C 4 L 22

Cox – Tom asked what the status of Code Enforcement is. **Benedict** said code enforcement is a big issue in the upcoming election. The position of the director for the department of community development is an elected and several candidates are running for this position. There needs to be a collaboration between DCD and the Sheriff's Office to address code enforcement issues. Sheriff Benedict has been working on the Midway Metals Code Enforcement Violation and charges will be filed against the owners.

Tom asked about the increase in juvenile crime in Clallam County. Sheriff Benedict said that Clallam County has invested a tremendous amount to avoid putting juveniles into the system and instead into foster homes.

Blakenship – Rochelle asked if the jail occupancy was increasing. Sheriff Benedict said that during COVID most offenders were given cite and release rather than booked into jail. Restrictions have been lifted and there are up to 100 inmates

allowed at this time. There are modified COVID protocols which require a fresh arrest to be quarantined for 5 days, rather than 10.

Sheriff Benedict advised Rochelle that Sgt. Shaun Minks has been assigned as the new liaison for Jamestown.

Rochelle said the new Healing/MAT Clinic will open in a couple of weeks. They are waiting for the DEA Permit and will have a walk thru for law enforcement.

Rochelle said she will set up a tour of the MAT Clinic for CCSCAC members.

VII. Public Comments

No members of the public were in attendance

VIII. Adjourn

Next Meeting – 9/29/22 at 5pm in EOC

Adjourned at 6:30pm

Attachments: KCIRT Bios for IIT Members, 2021 and 2022 WASPC End of Session Reports

Minutes submitted by: Lorraine Shore

Minutes approved by: