

Clallam County Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2023

I. Call to order

- i. Alan Barnard called to order the regular meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee at 1701 hours on April 27, 2023 in the Board of County Commissioners meeting room.

II. Roll call

- i. The following members were present: Alan Barnard, Steven Blakeman, Rochelle Blankenship, Charles Meyer, Walter Morton (via Zoom), Brooke Nelson, and Barbara Sanford (via Zoom).
- ii. The following staff members were present: Sheriff King 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 26, 2023 meeting unanimously approved with no changes.

IV. Sheriff Bill King

a. Legislative Update

i. Blake Decision –

This is not a good session for public safety. Trying to balance community safety and respecting the rights of the public.

Anti-police legislation impacts how law enforcement can protect the public.

The legislative session closed at midnight on 4-26-23 with no legislation on drugs so as of 7-1-23, all drugs will be legal.

Sheriff King speculated that Gov. Inslee will bring the Legislature back for a Special Session but doubts there will be a resolution.

Need to criminalize drugs and not just treat as a public health issue.

The last bill was too watered down with no consequences for drug use.

Barnard asked whether individual communities can pass drug laws.

King said he met with Prosecutor Nichols to discuss what Clallam County can do to criminalize drugs. They will research ideas and it is important for the County and Cities to have the same laws. The County cannot pass laws to make crimes Felonies, only the State can legislate felony crimes. Sheriff King would like the possession of drugs to be a Gross Misdemeanor. The laws would need to be passed by July 2023.

There will be work sessions on what they see controlled substance laws will look like. King said they will only be effective if they are a gross misdemeanor with a jail penalty or at least one year of court ordered treatment.

Brooke Nelson asked if the county has to draft a law would it be all controlled substances or just some.

King said it would apply to any non-prescribed controlled substance.

Nelson – Would treatment be local or outside and who will pay for it. What are the consequences for jail?

King – There is 40 million dollars allocated to support drug court and mental health court and he is going to discuss with the County Commissioners what the process will be. The Sheriff and Prosecutor need to be the drivers on this issue. He believes the social experiment has failed and there is no consequence for drug use. The court monitors those in treatment and if the person does not complete the treatment they need to be incarcerated.

Nelson asked that the Courts be added to the next CCSCAC Agenda to educate the members on what treatment courts do.

WASPC Statement:

<https://www.waspc.org/assets/WASPC%20Statement%20on%20Blake%20ES%20SB%205536.pdf>

ii. **Pursuits**

Sheriff King said there has been some progress in the legislature and he and PAPD Chief Brian Smith met with legislators regarding Pursuit Legislation. It is very clear that the legislature does not like pursuits. There needs to be accountability for citizens and taking judgement away from law enforcement increases crime. Legislative change from Probable Cause to Reasonable Suspicion needs to be made. **Reasonable suspicion** is a [legal standard of proof](#) in [United States law](#) that is less than [probable cause](#), the legal standard for [arrests](#) and [warrants](#), but more than an "inchoate and unparticularized suspicion or 'hunch'"

King said people flee from law enforcement not because speeding but for other criminal reasons. New legislation added Domestic Violence to the reasons for pursuits in addition to DUI. No property crimes were added and yet Theft and Burglary are the most common reasons criminals flee. The current legislation prohibits law enforcement from pursuing these criminals.

Sheriff King passed out the WASPC Post Legislative Session Statement:

<https://www.waspc.org/assets/Post%20Session%20Statement%20042323%20FINAL.pdf>

The Recruitment and Retention bill failed in committee

Funding was passed to add a new academy in Pasco

The academy wait time is months long. Sheriff King hired a patrol deputy in February 2023 and she is not slated for an academy date until November 2023. Sheriff King spoke about contractors (Seattle's Finest) hiring law enforcement officers from agencies around WA State to work overtime for the Port of Seattle.

Other states have community colleges that provide training in lieu of academy. The Criminal Justice Training Center provides incentives to agencies if they provide instructors and those agencies are able to get recruits into the academies faster.

b. **Acquisition of new equipment**

i. **Bearcat**

The sale of the Nicholas Road Property is a funding source to obtain a Bearcat for the Sheriff's Office. The process to sell the property is currently being reviewed.

ii. **Body Worn Cameras**

Work session is scheduled for the next meeting. Sheriff King provided a packet on the Body Worn Camera program to the CCSCAC members which gives an overview of the proposal.

Sheriff King reviewed how other agencies worked with the public and the final draft of the Body Camera Policy is in review with Prosecutor Nichols office. Sheriff King will discuss the funding source with the county commissioners and Risk Management is willing to pay for equipment costs.

Brooke Nelson asked how the deputies are receiving news of body worn cameras.

Sheriff King said deputies told him last year they wanted Body Worn Cameras because it causes a change in behavior by the public for the better. It also helps deputies to be cognizant of their behavior. It will help cases move forward and increase plea agreements.

Sheriff King asked the commissioners for the funding of a full-time Records Specialist by July 2023 to get that person trained up before issuing cameras to deputies.

70% of all Public Record Requests are handled by the Sheriff's Office. Fees can be charged for redaction of body camera footage.

III. **Sheriff Personnel Changes**

a. **Retirements**

- i. Chief Civil Deputy Alice Hoffman – Retired 3/31/23

b. **Promotions**

- i. Admin Specialist Elizabeth Waknitz to Chief Civil Deputy – 3/20/23
- ii. Admin Sergeant Amy Bundy to Chief Criminal Deputy – 4/1/23

c. **New Personnel**

- i. Shailah Wood – Patrol Deputy – Hired 2/21/23
- ii. Victoria Landgren – Admin Specialist 4/17/23

V. **Roundtable**

Barnard – Works with KONP doing segments to honor volunteer groups or individuals. Starting 5/1/23, KONP will have the first of their Volunteer Spotlights which are nominated by community members. The first segment will feature the CCSO Bike Patrol. Alan played his radio spot for the CCSCAC members. Charlie Meyer suggested that Alan contact KSQM to do spotlights as well.

Morton – Thanks for a great meeting and nice job to Alan on the volunteer spotlight program.

Blakeman – Involved with the Olympic Christian School and wanted to know if they reached out regarding school safety threat assessment. Sheriff King has not heard from them recently but has information for schools and places of worship. Sgt. Minks and Sheriff King are updating their curriculum on school training – Active Shooter Training. Deputies will attend training in May to update the Active Shooter curriculum. InSights Training Center will instruct deputies on Active Shooter Response.

Meyer – Confirmed he could share handouts with the public and asked Sheriff King if anything surprised him about being the Sheriff.

King – The demand on his time is surprising. Public appearances are quite demanding. Mornings and evenings he meets with groups. Instituting his programs is taking longer than he thought. Red tape slows things down.

Blankenship – Shout out to Deputy Pickrell who is doing a great job as the Jamestown Deputy. He communicates great with Rochelle. Rochelle asked how citizens could help pass a drug law in Clallam County.

King – Message to incentivize treatment – must have consequences to motivate users to seek treatment.

VI. Public Comments

No public comment

VII. Adjourn

Next Meeting – **9/28/23 at 5pm in BOCC**

Adjourned at 6:00pm

Minutes submitted by: Lorraine Shore

Minutes approved by vote: CCSCAC Members 9-28-23