

COMBAT Commission Meeting
March 12, 2020, 10:00-12:00 Noon
Downtown Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO
Legislative Chambers
Minutes

Present:

Gene Morgan
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
John B. Boyd
Dr. Kelvin Walls
Mark Bryant

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jay Hayden, County Counselor's Office
Major Derek McCollum, KCPD
Dan Cummings, JACO Drug Task Force
Theresa Galvin, JACO Legislator
Jane Cavanaugh, Legislative Aid
Dawna J. Shumate, COMBAT
Tammie Jordan, COMBAT
Keron Hopkins, COMBAT
Holli Crowley, COMBAT
Joseph Loudon, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Minutes Approved:

Dr. Joseph Spalitto motioned to approve January minutes; Dr. Kelvin Walls seconded; motion passed.

COMBAT Director Updates

Vince reported that as of November 2019, he hired a total of 7 staff members. COMBAT is under a reorganization building process at this time. We continuing to work on the BKD recommendations, implementing and updating policies and procedures. Agencies are having a difficult time every year obtaining Matching Grants, as state and federal funds continue to decline. Vince and Jay Haden have discussed a change of policy to have the Grant Match formula percentage as the Anti-Violence formula percentage. Because the formula percentage is not an ordinance or in Chapter 93, it is within our authority to work with the legislators to change the policy. The BKD recommendations are posted on the COMBAT website and COMBAT Administration will continue to update as they are implemented.

Joe Loudon put together an orientation packet with COMBAT's goals, objectives, mission statements, and STRIVIN efforts. We will begin the grant process earlier this year so that the agencies applying will know in advance if they are receiving funding by November for the upcoming year. Also, COMBAT Administration will no longer give advances for grants. We will pay the agencies as their invoices are received.

Vince briefly explained the Law Enforcement School Based Initiative funding formula for 2020. He explained that the funding for DARE or Law Enforcement School Based programs funding allocation was determined by the average cost of an officer's annual salary, which is \$75,000, and a ratio of one officer per 1000 student. The maximum number of officers that would be funded were limited to four.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Major Derek McCollum from KCPD reported that there have been 31 homicides in 2020 compared to 24 in 2019 around the same time, 24 homicides in 2018, 23 homicides in 2017, and 18 homicides in 2016. 220 cases were presented to the Prosecutor in February, 150 cases were filed in February 2020, 32 shooting victims, 61 drive-bys, and 193 firearms were recovered in February 2020.

There were 190 narcotic related arrests so far this year, 106 purchases, 14 lbs. of Cocaine were seized, 1 lb. of Heroin was seized, 57 lbs. of Meth were seized, and 288 lbs. of Marijuana were seized, and no Fentanyl was seized. 668 pills were recovered. There's an increase in Meth in the area (Midwest). He mentioned that there aren't really gangs here.

Dan Cummings from the Drug Task Force reported that the focus has shifted from Meth labs to Mexican drug cartels.

The first investigation began in February 2016 from a drug complaint in Independence. A cartel member, "the old man", was living in Independence. He was deported as an illegal Mexican immigrant. They determined that "the old man" was coordinating shipments and drugs from Mexico to California, Arizona, and then Kansas City. They recovered 34 lbs. of Meth, 3½ lbs. of Heroin, 66 lbs. of Marijuana, 3 firearms, and over \$80,000 in cash.

The second investigation began in February 2018 with a female involved with the distribution of Meth and Heroin. She was to transport the Meth and Heroin from Kansas City to Columbia, Missouri and St. Louis, Missouri. They recovered 66 lbs. of Meth, 3.3 lbs. of Heroin, 5 lbs. of Marijuana and 10 firearms. Overall, they recovered 187 lbs. of Meth.

In the last investigation they recovered 3 Meth conversion labs. The guy provided stash houses for distributing Meth. Now, they are paying a salary for distributing. Prices are set from Mexico. He was paid \$9,000 a month. During the investigation, they bought 43 lbs. of Meth, 3 lbs. of Heroin, and 8 firearms.

All investigations were charged with conspiracy to distribute. The four people admitted to distributing 7,387 lbs. of Meth within a year.

Dan Cummings mentioned that without COMBAT, his position wouldn't exist.

Commissioner John B. Boyd asked what Major Derek McCollum and Dan Cummings number one request would be regarding COMBAT funding. Major Derek McCollum's number one

request would be to increase undercover officers regarding COMBAT funding. Dan Cummings responded with more manpower (more undercover officers) and technology.

Major Derek McCollum stated that Marijuana is still a violent crime driver. They have shifted towards a violent crime nexus regarding Marijuana. Marijuana still has a big violent crime nexus.

Old Business:

Penny Rice spoke regarding her agency, Empowerment Organization for Change. Vince stated that her agency was not in compliance by October 31st.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Discussions:

There were no discussions.

Announcements:

The next COMBAT Commission meeting is April 10th at 2:00 PM via conference call.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.