

**COMBAT Commission Meeting**  
**January 13, 2022, 10:00 AM –10:53 AM**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

Larry Beaty  
Mark Bryant  
Stephanie Burton  
Arimeta Dupree  
Dr. Joseph Spalitto  
Lanna Ultican  
Alfred Jordan  
Elizabeth Williams

**Also Present:**

Vince Ortega, COMBAT  
Jean Peters Baker, Jackson County Prosecutor  
Dawna J. Shumate, COMBAT  
Jennifer Dameron, JACO Prosecutor's Office  
Theresa Cass Galvin, Jackson County Legislator  
Keron Hopkins, COMBAT  
Tammie Jordan, COMBAT  
Jamie Brown, Kansas City Police Department  
Joe Loudon, COMBAT  
Venisha Pendergrass, COMBAT  
Darryl Forte, Jackson County Sheriff  
Bob Muenz, Blue Springs Police Department

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

**Minutes Approved:**

Larry Beaty motioned to approve November 9, 2021, meeting minutes; Arimeta Dupree seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION:**

Sheriff Forte- There is a Junior Deputy Academy program, similar to DARE, that is COMBAT funded. The funds go toward the deputy's salary as well as printed materials that get distributed throughout the schools. The deputy has 35 years of law enforcement experience. The program consists of PowerPoint presentations about protecting older adults from: Scams, Schemes and Frauds and teaching youth about what to do if they are stopped by law enforcement. The deputy's other responsibilities include going to schools and educating students about drug prevention.

JC Drug Task Force- In the past few months, the drug task force started 13 new investigations, made 33 drug purchases, and executed 9 search warrants which yielded 1.2 pounds of cocaine, 2,800 fentanyl pills, roughly 19 pounds of THC edibles, 21 pounds of marijuana, 26 firearms and a little under \$3 million USD. The street value of the drugs that were seized are estimated to be worth \$4.5 million USD.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Bryant would like to see the reentry program with KC Crime Commission expanded, specifically with job training. COMBAT Director Vince Ortega noted that during previous conversations

with the Full Employment Council and Chamber of Commerce, some of the issues they have seen regarding ex-offenders include obtaining jobs, however, they were not able to sustain employment because of mental health or substance abuse issues, with some even struggling to acquire driver's licenses or some type of official identification. Reentry first includes stabilizing these returning citizens, which includes providing them with wrap around services. The STRIVIN, initiative plays a vital role in working with the Full Employment Council and providing those resources such as mental health.

**MOTION:**

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

The next COMBAT Commission meeting is Thursday, March 10, 2022.