

**OCTOBER 6, 2009**

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met in JOINT SESSION with the 12th Judicial Circuit Judiciary at the Powel Crosley Estate, 8374 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida, at 6:44 p.m.

Present were:

**MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Gwendolyn Y. Brown, Chairman  
Carol Whitmore, First Vice-Chairman  
Donna Hayes, Second Vice-Chairman  
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr., Third Vice-Chairman  
John R. Chappie  
Ron Getman

**JUDGES**

Lee Haworth, Chief Judge  
Deno Economou      Bob Ferrance  
Phyllis Galen      Ed Nicholas  
Debra Riva      Rick DeFuria  
Charlie Roberts      Donna Berlin  
David Denkin      George Brown  
Janette Dunnigan      Diana Moreland  
Gilbert Smith      Marc Gilner  
Charles Williams      Scott Brownell  
Mark Singer      Doug Henderson  
Rochelle Curley

Absent was:

Joe McClash

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator  
Tedd Williams, Jr., County Attorney  
Diane Vollmer, Board Records Supervisor,  
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

Walt Smith, Court Administrator

**AGENDA**

Agenda of October, 6, 2009; calendar giving notice of this meeting; and memorandum from the County Attorney. [BC20091006DOC086](#)

**CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**

Dr. Brown explained the purpose of this meeting is to discuss possible joint efforts to address crime and violence in the community. She expressed appreciation to Judge Moreland for her participation in the County's efforts, and to the judges who participate in the Public Safety Coordinating Council. Two ideas brought to her attention were (1) holding parents responsible for their children having guns, and (2) mandatory curfews for minors. However, crimes are being committed during the day, and curfews would be difficult to enforce.

**COURT OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS**

Chief Judge Haworth provided an overview of the court operations. The 12th Judicial Circuit includes Manatee, Sarasota, and DeSoto Counties, in which there are 31 judges. There are five divisions in Circuit Court: Family, Felonies, Juvenile/Dependency, Probate and Guardianship, and Civil. The judges rotate assignments approximately every two years. Because of statewide cutbacks, they are working with a budget similar to the 2004 budget.

Judge Moreland commented on the early case resolution docket for violation of probation cases, which allows cases to be addressed in a timely manner and alleviates jail overcrowding; first appearances; and supervised release programs, including a mental health supervised release program at Manatee Glens.

Judge Haworth spoke on jail overcrowding. Programs in each county are geared toward selecting those who are appropriate for pre-trial incarceration versus those who should be released. He thanked the Board for their support of various programs, and noted a Proclamation was adopted by the Board (this date) honoring the mediation program, which consists of nuisance cases which can be resolved without litigation. He stated they would like to create a series/video presentation (to present on METV) regarding violence, especially the use of guns.

Judge Haworth displayed a photograph of Judge Curley from the cover of *West Coast Woman* (Oct. 2009), and a photo layout of the judges in *SRQ Magazine*. He also presented a brochure (used in Sarasota County), *Hope for Homeowners-Helping families survive the housing crisis*, and recommended the Board and judges work together on a foreclosure panel/seminar. [BC20091006DOC087](#)

With regard to a mandatory curfew, Judge Haworth stated the Department of Justice has to monitor curfews when a child is in juvenile court. When juveniles do not qualify to be held in the juvenile facility, pre-trial, the only option is to put them on home detention. Because of funding cutbacks, the Department does not have the personnel available to monitor those on house arrest.

Judge Haworth also commented on the idea of holding parents responsible when their child uses a gun. There are things judges can do if the State Attorney prosecutes and parents are found guilty; however, judges cannot initiate charges against parents. More needs to be done to educate children of the seriousness of using a gun.

Dr. Brown announced she conducted an interview with four men who have been imprisoned. The interview, *Real Life-What is it like to be in jail?*, will be aired on METV. The intent is to discourage young people from going in that direction.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL INITIATIVES**

Mr. Getman stated the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) was established in each county a few years ago. The duties of the PSCC include assessing the population status of all detention and correctional facilities owned or contracted by the County or the County Consortium and making recommendations to ensure capacities are not exceeded. Such recommendations shall include an assessment of the availability of pre-trial intervention or probation programs, work release programs, substance abuse programs, gain time schedules, bail bond schedules, and the confinement status of inmates. The PSCC may also develop a local public safety plan for future construction needs, and the plan must cover at least a five-year period. A jail study was recently conducted; however, funding to build a new jail is not available due to tax cuts, so alternatives to reduce the population must be sought. The PSCC has also been tasked to serve as a health committee to provide recommendations to the counties and the State on how to spend grant money for programs affecting mental health services in each county.

Mr. Getman commented on grant funds that have been provided for programs such as Drug Court, Manatee Glens, new intake positions for pre-trial services, and information technology for the Sheriff's Office. Other grant funds have been distributed to each of the law enforcement agencies. The PSCC has adopted a procedure to ensure grant funds are truly those needed for a public safety purpose and serve the community as a whole.

Mr. Getman thanked the judges for their regular attendance at the PSCC meetings.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 7:28 p.m.  
/dev

Minutes Approved: November 17, 2009