

**MONROE COUNTY**  
**COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPONSE COMMITTEE**

*Meeting Notes*  
*Monday, January 9, 2023, 4:30pm*  
*Nat U. Hill Meeting Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Courthouse*

These notes are not intended to be verbatim. For this purpose a permanent recording of this meeting can be found [HERE](#).

**Members Present (In Person):**

Ruben Marte'  
Lori Kelley  
Kara Krothe  
Catherine Stafford  
Darcie Fawcett  
Kyle Gibbons  
April Wilson  
Michael Hunt  
Karen Wrenbeck  
Lee Jones  
Jennifer Crossley  
Kate Wiltz

**Members Present (Virtual):**

Peter Iversen  
Julie Thomas

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**Meeting called to order 4:31pm.**

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**Electronic Attendance Policy for Public Meetings**

- Ordinance introduced that will allow the CJRC to hold hybrid meetings
  - Committee members cannot attend more than two meetings virtually in a row.

*Councilor Wiltz moved to adopt this ordinance.*

*Councilor Crossley seconded.*

*Judge Stafford abstained.*

*Motion passed.*

## Survey Updates

- Judge Krothe, Judge Stafford, and Judge Fawcett presented findings: [Judicial Branch Survey](#)
  - Survey included responses from Judges, Court Services, Court Reporters, Bailiffs, and Probation.

### Survey Topics

- Desired Features for a New Jail
- Comments on What Works Well- 53 responses
- Concerns about the Jail- 66 responses
- Features to Consider- 52 responses
- Co- Location- average of 79.6 out of 82 responses
  - This question was asked relative to co-location with the jail, not co- location with each other.
- Features to Include in a New Campus- average of 80.5 out of 82 responses

Survey needs to be done of jail staff and medical providers working in the jail.

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## Jail Design and Construction

### Land Update

- Fullerton Pike property was denied the request for rezoning by the City Council on 12/21/2022.
  - Thompson property (Catalent) is not being considered.
    - Limited access
    - Sirens may be disruptive to youth shelter
  - Collaboration
    - Committee should collaborate to come up with possible land options to present to the Commissioners.
    - Members of committee encouraged more collaboration with the city.
      - Land recently used for Bloomington hospital/ warehouses.
      - Vacant multi block area near B- line (Close to Centerstone)
    - Members of committee encouraged placing more importance on community input.
  - Jails are discovering they should not locate in downtown areas.
    - Evidence on this will be shared with committee members.
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## Phoenix Trip Update

Not discussed. Commissioners will prepare a written report on this item.

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## Committee Collaboration

- Almost all court hearings are public- Judge Stafford encouraged committee members and the public to attend. Prosecutor's office and Public Defender's Office are also open for members of the committee to visit.
- Multiple committee members requested more transparency around activities (trips, events, etc.) to allow for more involvement and input.
- Judge Stafford reminded the committee of the importance of victims of violent and non- violent crime.
- Commissioner Thomas compared the committee to lanes of a road, in that each member has their own area of expertise and their own part of the process
- Councilor Crossley requested that the committee gather input from inmates and their families.
  - Allison Howlett- IU Behavioral Health Institute
    - A survey of people in jail and their families; people in jail would be surveyed again after leaving jail.
    - Survey is intended to hear about their experience while *in* the jail.
      - What programming worked/ helped? What other programming could we do?
- Commissioner Jones stated that the current concern is locating property for a jail.
  - Eventually we will want a justice campus.
  - Intention for co- location
    - Sheriff department and some court offices should be moved to the new jail location in the first phase.

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## Next Steps

- Next meeting is January 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:30pm-6:00pm.
- Commissioners will prepare a written report on the Phoenix, AZ trip for the next meeting.
- Commissioner Jones is hoping to schedule a Zoom meeting with the Crisis Recovery Center in Tucson.

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*Councilor Crossley moved to allow for 20 minutes of public comment.*

*Judge Stafford seconded.*

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## **Public Comment**

### **Isabel Piedmont-Smith: Bloomington City Council**

- The city would like to help in any way that they can.
- How do the Commissioners view the roadmap of this process? When do they want input, and from whom?
- Any location should be served by public transit, which is under the City Council's control.
- The lane analogy that was discussed at this meeting did not encourage collaboration.
- The city is hopeful they can be more involved through active engagement.

### **Kaisa Goodman: City of Bloomington's Public Engagement Director**

- Main questions for the CJRC:
  - How does the CJRC plan to prevent people from going to jail, improve outcomes, reduce recidivism, and increase quality of life for those incarcerated?
  - What capital improvements are most feasible and beneficial to improve conditions for those in custody?
- Committee should be discussing increased services and support systems in the present tense, not future.
- Community justice reform is a public health issue.
- Committee should be prioritizing immediate implementation of services, prevention, and diversion efforts.
  - Make significant local investments in mental health, substance abuse, and job placement.
- If there was a plan for the jail decided now, it would still take years to implement. What does this mean for people that are currently in the jail?
- Bringing the city to the table will improve the process and outcome.

### **Sidney Foreman: Care not Cages**

- Expert opinions are important- but so are the opinions of those in the community and those inside the jail.

### **Haley Powell: IU Law Student**

- Director for Administration for the Incarcerated Individuals Legal Assistance project.
- Reminded the committee to be mindful of the human compassion aspect of this issue.
- Jails don't disappear social problems, they disappear people.

### **Missy James: New Leaf New Life**

- Shared a story of a recent client that was released in the middle of the night which resulted in a bad case of frostbite. They had to be taken to the hospital before any treatment could be done.
  - Where/ when you are released can be the difference between making it or not.

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**Meeting is adjourned 6:12pm.**