

MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes
Monday, April 3, 2023, 4:30pm
Nat U. Hill Meeting Room, 3rd 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):

April Wilson
Catherine Stafford
Jennifer Crossley
Kara Krothe
Kate Wiltz
Kyle Gibbons
Lee Jones
Michael Hunt
Penny Githens
Peter Iversen
Ruben Marté

Members Absent:

Julie Thomas

Meeting called to order at 4:31 pm.

Guiding Principles- Councilor Iversen

Recognizing our commitment to public safety, we will work collaboratively and transparently to:

- 1. Prioritize treatment over incarceration, when appropriate.*
 - 2. Build a justice facility that meets constitutional standards and treats inmates with dignity.*
 - 3. Address inequities in race, economic status, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, and gender.*
 - 4. Reduce the number of people entering the criminal justice system and reduce recidivism for those who are/ were in the system*
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Conversation on an email sent by Sheriff Marté to CJRC members

An email was sent out earlier in the afternoon by Sheriff Ruben Marté concerning the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) committee, and their process in determining a firm to build a new jail.

Commissioner Githens invited Sheriff Marté and the members of the CJRC to attend the Commissioners Work session the following Wednesday (April 5th) to discuss this matter, as the agenda for the evening was set. Sheriff Marté and other members of the CJRC expressed that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

Several CJRC members expressed that they had not yet read the email completely, or in depth, as it had only been sent out a few hours prior. Councilor Iversen requested that a summation of the email be discussed. Commissioner Githens determined that as the email was directed at the Board of Commissioners, and that the members of the RFQ committee were not present at the CJRC meeting, that this item should be discussed at the upcoming Commissioners Work session when all parties involved have had time to review the email and can be present.

Councilor Crossley requested that a discussion on this matter be on the agenda for the next CJRC meeting (April 17th).

Public Comment- 4:43 pm

Audrey Williams, Monroe County resident

- Referenced public comment at the previous CJRC meeting in which Seth Mutchler stated that Open Door Law was violated regarding the RFQ process for selection of the firm to build a new jail.
 - Stated that Page 8 of Indiana Public access laws give an example of this.
- Expressed that the Commissioners do not seem interested in input from the other members of the CJRC, or public comment. Claimed that Commissioners are not following state law, or doing what the ACLU report has asked them to do.
 - Members of the public, and members of the CJRC have requested city involvement in the CJRC and this has not been done.

Natalia Galvan, Monroe County resident, speaking on behalf of Monroe County Now

- In fall 2021 Monroe County Now hosted a monthly chapter meeting highlighting criminal justice efforts in the community.
- They have reached out to the Commissioners in support of adding city representation to the CJRC.
- Encouraged County Councilors to use their position to make strong statements and actions regarding what they are willing to fund.
- Expressed solidarity with the statement made at the last CJRC meeting by Maquebé Reese.
- Called for the Sheriff to give a brief jail report at the beginning of each CJRC meeting to identify needs of the current facility.
- Condemned the treatment of Sheriff Marté, Councilor Crossley, and Attorney Wilson at these meetings.

Debbie Fish, Monroe County resident

- Stated that she was dissatisfied with the presentation of the Commissioners' Arizona trip. She wished there was a handout, a list of key points, or something to help make more sense of the information.

**Commissioner Githens stated that the information presented on this item would be available in the meeting notes from that day, available on the CJRC webpage.*

- Recommended creating a matrix.
 - List the key things being looked for in facilities, list the different places visited, and then score each one. Create a more objective way to judge the different facilities.

Kaisa Goodman, Public Engagement Director for City of Bloomington

- Provided an update regarding correspondence between the City of Bloomington and Attorney Jeff Cockerill regarding potential locations.
- Shared that a meeting with took place earlier in the day during which the Thompson property was discussed.
 - Thompson property
 - Area D is a county owned property of approximately 90 acres- 40 of which are deemed developable.
 - Appropriately zoned.
 - Approved by the city for a new jail in 2002.
 - The city believes this is a promising location.
- Public health, mental health care, and wrap around services must be prioritized in a new jail.
- The community needs to invest in services now for the current jail.

Seth Mutchler, Monroe County resident

- Disappointed that time was not made in this meeting for discussion of Sheriff Marté's email.
- An article was passed around: [The Fox Designing the Henhouse](#)
 - Proceeded by reading the foreword (page 2 of attached).

Discussion on previous facility visits- 4:56 pm

Franklin County, Ohio- Peter Iversen

[Link to meeting recording of original Franklin County Jail Presentation.](#)

Jail size: 864 beds in initial construction
426 additional beds added in the second phase

Organizational structure:

- Office of Justice Policy and Programs- created by Commissioners
 - This group looked at evidence- based programs as new information came out, and evaluated what would be a good fit for their community.
- Criminal Justice Planning Board (akin to the CJRC)
- CORE Team- designed facility
 - Consisted of:
 - Captain
 - Research and Development Major
 - Deputies- research, inmate wellness, facilities, outsider

Jail Design

- Overall natural lighting and open concepts
- Plentiful restrooms for inmates and staff
- Biophilic design
 - Artwork
 - Nature
- LEED certification
 - Intersectionality is possible between climate crisis and justice.
- Mindfulness of officer safety
 - Tray pass built into doors.
 - Tether location
 - Shackle location
- Wide Sally Port
- Clocks everywhere
- Drains located outside doors
- Food and supply staging area
- Accessible CHASE
 - Corridor is behind the walls of the correctional facility, allowing maintenance to work on things without needing to interact with inmates.
- Intake/ Booking
 - Area had natural light and open concept
 - Booking process was designed to put inmate first.
 - Property storage available
 - Pre- trial desk space
 - Intake showers and process
- Rapid resource center
 - Atrium upon exit of the building
 - Allowed to arrange any necessary XYZ before leaving the facility
 - Included offices for social service agencies
- Cell blocks
 - Divided into different groups
 - Showers
 - Hot water stations
 - Indoor recreation area
 - Different recreation equipment dependent on the security level of the cell block.

- Accessible to inmates whenever they are not required to be in their cell.

Staff

- Employee perks
 - Wellness gym
 - Cafeteria
 - Locker rooms
- Staff was trained in trauma informed practices

Committee discussion

DLZ designed and built the Hamilton County and Franklin County jails, which is why they were present on those tours.

Committee Discussions

Bed Size:

County Council approved at their most recent meeting on March 28, 2023, a recommendation of no more than 400 beds. See this policy brief [here](#).

- Sheriff Marté clarified to the community that the goal would not be to try and fill 400 beds, but rather to have it in case it is needed.
- Commander Gibbons recommended the facility be better geared towards mental health issues; 4-8 padded cells (the current facility has 1 padded cell).

House Bill 1006:

Regional facilities will be constructed in IN as a place for those who need mental and behavioral health services. An arresting agency could drop an individual off at this facility for a holding period, after which a judge would decide the next step.

Monroe County Correctional Center- Jail Progress Report- 5:43pm

Available 1:43 of meeting recording. [Link](#).

Commander Gibbons gave a presentation on the current state of the Monroe County Correctional Center.

Meeting is adjourned 6:05pm.