

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING AD HOC COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF MARCH, 2023

The Caddo Parish American Rescue Plan Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:17 p.m., in the Government Plaza First Floor Conference Room, with Mr. Epperson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Cothran, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson and Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioner Atkins, and Burrell (2).

The invocation was given by Mrs. Gage-Watts, and Mr. Chavez led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Chair rescheduled agenda item 6.3, Visit from Mr. Russel Sarpy, Sr. Of Emergent Enforcement Solutions LLC.

- Continue Discussion on Public Safety Entities Historically Funded by Court Fees: Crime Lab, Etc.; and, Visit from Crime Lab Executive Director Joey Jones

Crime Lab Executive Director Joey Jones discussed how the Crime Lab cut costs, lowered their average annual budget, and explained how private contracting and contract testing contributed to closing the Crime Lab funding gap. Mrs. Bryant advised the Committee that the Administration is working with the Crime Lab to provide funding allocated from tax payers.

Mr. Young enquired about the Crime Lab's attendance to Commissioner Johnson's requested joint parish meeting during the Police Jury Association Conference in Shreveport. Mr. Young requested that Director Jones send a well-informed representative to attend the joint parish meeting.

Mr. Chavez suggested drafting a resolution of support from the Parish of Caddo for Director Jones' funding request at the State Legislature. Mr. Epperson alternatively suggested a joint resolution of support be brought before the parishes during the Police Jury Association Conference.

Director Jones discussed the closing of two satellite facilities, the anticipation of the Crime Lab budget to exhaust all funds by December 2023, and the current revenue model for the Crime Lab. Director Jones addressed Mrs. Gage-Watt's enquiry about the measure of the Crime Lab services, the entities involved with the services provided by the Crime Lab, and the marketing initiatives of the Crime Lab. Director Jones discussed the Crime Lab's out of state marketing, the recognition from the National Safety Council and an upcoming award reception to the Crime Lab from the American Society of Crime Lab Directors.

Mr. Epperson requested that Director Jones prepare a packet that disseminates information regarding the Crime Lab for Mr. Epperson to take with him to the NACo Convention in Austin, Texas in July.

Director Jones discussed investing his personal collateral to keep the Crime Lab open and that some contracts are not feasible due to poor infrastructure.

Director Jones discussed the LSU contract of the pathology center in the Crime Lab Center. Attorney Frazier advised that she will look into the legal ethics issues to review the Crime Lab and LSU contract or for the Parish to outsource legal aid to review the contract. Mr. Young and Mrs. Bryant addressed how the criminal justice millage could support the Crime Lab.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to request a joint resolution from the Parish of Caddo and the Police Jury Association urging the State of Louisiana to fund the deficit of some operating expenses for the Crime Lab.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cothran, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson and Young (6). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Atkins, and Burrell (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

/s/ Linda J. Montgomery  
Linda J. Montgomery  
Administrative Specialist I