

Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8th, 2013, 8:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

CHARLIE WEND	RICH WEYRICH	JENNIFER KINGSLEY
DAVE NEEDY	LISA TREMBLAY	TIM HOLLORAN
RON WESEN	SHARON DILLON	ROXANE GOSS
WILL REICHARDT	DALE RAGAN	MARC ESTVOLD
ALAN ERICKSON	JERRY DODD	LADESSA CROUCHER
SHARON WHITTAKER	HEIDI KENNEDY	DEANNIE NELSON
LYNSI BURTON	LAURIE JAROLIMEK	

Today's meeting began at 8:20 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Chairman, Will Reichardt**.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

There was a motion and second by the Council that the April 10th, 2013 meeting minutes be approved. The motion passed.

PROGRAM:

Sedro Woolley Police Department's **Det. Jason Harris** gave a presentation on their department's Street Level Drug Operation. This program was started in 2009 due to the serious increase in burglaries in their city and the connection to local drug transactions. This program focuses on smaller neighborhood drug operations and refers any major drug information to the County Task Force for further investigation. Due to the success of this program, Det. Harris has been giving seminars and training to other police departments over the past 6 months.

JAIL FACILITY TASK FORCE:

Marc Esvold summarized the decisions that have been made recently by the Jail Coordinating Council. A .03% sales tax increase would be added that would fund both the construction and operational costs of the new jail, which is estimated to be \$60Million. The jail will be built to have 400 beds available upon opening. The new jail will be built with the ability to expand in the future. The sites have been narrowed down to 2 primary locations in Mount Vernon and a back-up site in the County. Permits and assessments are moving ahead with multiple sites so there will be a secondary location available if needed and will not hold up progress. August 6th the New Jail will be on the ballots for the voters to decide. Council members are urged to tell friends, family, and neighbors, of the importance of approving the proposal.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Tim Holloran noted that Law & Justice presentations, such as this one, have been so informative they are looking into the possibility of videotaping for public access in the future.

Lisa Tremblay from Juvenile Courts will be going to Yakima to observe their Juvenile Gang Court process.

Heidi Kennedy announced that CPS has been restructured to be better able to handle the large volume of child neglect cases. The addition of a new F.A.R. team (Family Assessment Response) will be assessment based rather than investigative based and perhaps not as intimidating for families that need help but not on a criminal level.

Chief Jerry Dodd announced that Mount Vernon was recently honored for their Graffiti Abatement efforts. Mount Vernon Police Department, Parks and Rec and Juvenile Court all work together to successfully eradicate and discourage graffiti as soon as it appears.

Sheriff Reichardt mentioned that the Click It or Ticket campaign will kick off next week.

NEXT MEETING- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12th, 2013. There will be no meeting in July.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

Approved: 6/12/13