

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

**on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**KCAB 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM**

**Members Present:** Chairman Brian Bashaw, Erin Decker, Zack Rodriguez, Laura Belsky, Jeff Wamboldt, Mark Nordigian, John Franco, YIG Angela Lagunas, YIG Michael Babu

**Others Present:** Cpt. Tony Gonzalez, Sgt. Christopher Hannah, Sgt. Joe Zarletti, Sgt. Colin Coultrip, Carson Wilkinson

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Bashaw

**Citizen Comments:** 6:00: None.

**Supervisor Comments:**

6:00: Supervisor Nordigian stated he would not be at next month's meeting. Supervisor Franco apologized for missing the last Specialty Meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>. He was traveling a long distance and was unable to make the meeting in time.

**Chairman Comments:**

6:01: Chairman Bashaw reminded the committee that they are nearing the end of the cycle. There are three items for next month's agenda and therefore there will be a meeting next month.

**Approval of the Minutes from January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024:** 6:02

**Motion by:** Belsky      **Seconded by:** Decker      **Approved:** unanimously

**Approval of the Minutes from Specialty Meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024:** 6:02

**Motion by:** Decker      **Seconded by:** Belsky      **Approved:** unanimously

***Motion to move Discussion and Approval of Items 8 and 9 on the Agenda to vote on together:***

Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Aaron Strom to serve as a member of the Kenosha County Local Emergency Planning Committee (Group #2 – Fire Services)

**AND**

Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Carson Wilkinson to serve as a member of the Kenosha County Local Emergency Planning Committee (Group #4 – Community Group)

6:04: **Motion by:** Rodriguez      **Seconded by:** Decker      **Motion Carries:** unanimously.

6:05: **Motion for Approval by:** Decker      **Seconded by:** Nordigian      **Approved:** unanimously.

6:02: Sergeant Christopher Hannah, of the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, presented. The Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Aaron Strom to serve as a member of the Kenosha County Local Emergency Planning Committee (Group #2 – Fire Services), was discussed first. Sgt. Hannah stated that Cpt. Strom was working that evening and unable to attend in person, as he is a Captain with Somers Fire Department. Sgt. Hannah stated that Cpt. Aaron Strom is the current Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) chairman and longest tenured member since 2015. Cpt. Strom would serve three years until February 2027.

Sgt. Hannah then presented the second Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Carson Wilkinson to serve as a member of the Kenosha County Local Emergency Planning Committee (Group #4 – Community Group). Carson Wilkinson is the second longest tenure on the LEPC serving since 2016. Carson would serve three years until February 2027. Carson is the former Fire Chief at the Village of Somers Fire Department. Carson stated he is keeping busy with emergency services and is now the President overseeing the volunteer group, the Racine Fire Bells. Carson is also staying active and is now a part time bailiff within Kenosha County. Carson added that he was once part of the original LEPC back in the 1980's.

Supervisor Decker motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Nordigian. Motion passes unanimously with no further discussion.

Resolution to Approve the 2024 WO OJA Multi-Jurisdiction Drug Task Force Grant – Southeast Area Drug Operations Group (S.E.A.D.O.G.)

**Motion by:** Nordigian **Seconded by:** Wamboldt **Approved:** unanimously

6:06: Sergeant Joseph Zarletti, of the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, presented. Sgt. Zarletti is part of the Kenosha Drug Operations Group (KDOG). The State of Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance awarded \$211,792 to the Multi-County Consortium Drug Task Force, known as Southeast Drug Operations Group (SEADOG). SEADOG consists of Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Dodge, and Jefferson counties. Kenosha County's share of this funding is \$53,140 and is the lead agency for the grant. Kenosha County receive quarterly reports from Racine, Jefferson, Walworth, and Dodge counties for reimbursement. Management of the grant will increase the revenue and expense budgets in the Sheriff's Department Drug Unit Subdivision 2170, to account for the other county's portions, and that increase would be \$158,652. These funds would be dispersed quarterly to the participating agencies. All remaining funds at the end of the grant period are forfeited to the reporting agency. Chairman Bashaw stated that this a grant that has been put before the committee before and is familiar with and appreciates the call out on how the funds flow through Kenosha County and are distributed as the program goes forward.

Supervisor Nordigian motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Wamboldt. Motion passes unanimously with no further discussion.

Resolution to Approve the Fundraiser for the K-9 Unit

**Motion by:** Franco **Seconded by:** Decker **Approved:** unanimously

6:31: Public Information Officer, Sergeant Colin Coultrip of the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, presented. Sgt. Coultrip first distributed to the committee a sample of a plush stuffed dog toy and printed renderings of a challenge coin in the shape of a paw print. Sgt. Coultrip stated that the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department (KSD) would like to accept donations from members of the community, and any other persons, who would like to the support the K9 mission. Cash donations would be made at the Public Safety Building and community events, and online contributions can be made through an online portal established with the assistance of Kenosha County IT. The funds raised for the K9 Unit will have a restricted purpose and will only be used for expenses that benefit the Kenosha County K9 Unit and its mission. Donated funds will be tracked using internal project coding within the county's ERP system and recorded to the KSD Patrol Donations line item. For oversight purposes, KSD will submit annual reports detailing donations, received expenses, and balance information to the Finance and Administration Committee. In order to encourage donations, donors will give predetermined levels of support and will receive gifts from the K9 Unit such as the plush stuffed dog, challenge coins, t-shirts, and other items. Fundraising items will be purchased upfront using KSC Community Relations Project line item, and as funds are donated, they will repay the Community Relations budget resulting in a net zero effect on levy funds. Any additional funds received after the Community Relations budget is repaid, will be restrictively expanded to cover K9 Unit expenses such as vet visits, food, and training. Sgt. Coultrip added that the department greatly appreciates grants that are received from federal, state, and local governments it is not something that can be 100% relied on.

Supervisor Belsky asked about the challenge coin rendering and what all the different symbols meant that were represented in the paw pads. Sgt. Coultrip replied that the first pad on the left symbolized cash funds seized that might be illegal, for example the department makes a traffic stop and there is a large cash deposit within the vehicle or person, and they do not have a bank record of it. The cash is then seized temporarily upon receipt of those funds. The second symbol is the marijuana leaf, the main drug seen within the county, and everyone is familiar with. The third symbol is a firearm, which are seized often throughout the community, interstate, and city streets. The fourth symbol is for apprehension, for example the time K9 Riggs apprehended a criminal at Benson's Corners. The fifth and final symbol on the large pad is for US Interstate-Highway 94. That is the main interdiction route travelling between the cities of Milwaukee, WI and Chicago, IL. This is where the majority of the K9s see their work. The K9s get requests from the City of Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie, Twin Lakes, and all throughout the community. They are used often and frequently. Finally, the wording on the big paw pad "The Big Road" is the term used most often used by the

deputies when referring to US Interstate-Highway 94, which is where they obtain drug loads, guns, wanted persons out of Chicago or any other state, and non-local warrants.

Supervisor Nordigian asked about the budget from four months previously where the line item was budgeted for \$12,500 for Community Relations Supervisor Nordigian asked if they are removing the \$12,500 or would be reducing it because it looks like that money was not spent and they still have quite a bit in there. Sgt. Coultrip replied he would confirm with Angela Khabbaz, the Fiscal Services Manager with KSD, but they will pay initially for the fundraising item. For example, they will use \$1,000 from that line item to buy the challenge coins at \$5 cost, and then be upsold to replenish the \$1,000 and even it out. Supervisor Nordigian clarified that the money will go to the Community Relations line item and the leftover funds to the K9 Unit. However, there is already a Community Relations budget of \$12,500 that has not been all spent, and will the department take from that part of the budget to buy the coins and then use and then use that for the dogs, or to reduce the budget? There are two accounts, 525700 which has \$5,000 and 534550 which has \$15,000, so the first part of the money is going to these two accounts and then is it going into a different account just for the fundraiser. Chairman Bashaw replied that its going into separate designated accounts and any donations given with a separate resignation. Supervisor Nordigian clarified that the account 48560 would be the donation account. Sgt. Coultrip agreed and added that it would be strictly used for the K9 Unit donations. Supervisor Nordigian asked if they expected \$20,000, to which Sgt. Coultrip agreed.

Supervisor Wamboldt asked how the marketing would be done, such as community events, and would they be selling the challenge coins on the eBay website where there is a big market. Sgt. Coultrip replied that the initial plan is to sell them out of the Public Safety Building and whatever people do with them after is on their own terms. Supervisor Wamboldt clarified that people will sell them for a profit on eBay and would rather the department make the profit. Sgt. Coultrip replied that they would be selling it as an organization initially and would not be using eBay. Supervisor Wamboldt commented that the coins will triple or quadruple in price on eBay. Supervisor Belsky asked if more than \$5 a coin could be given. Sgt. Coultrip replied that it is still up for discussion, but they were looking at \$20 a coin to start.

Sgt. Coultrip stated that there are 250 plush dogs in the building, and they are awaiting the coins to arrive. Chairman Bashaw paraphrased that this is a charitable donation fund that is being established within the Sheriff's Department, specific to the K9 Unit program for police dogs, and all proceeds will be utilized for training, development, acquisition or promotion of that aspect of the police force. Youth In Government, Michael Babu, asked how many coins were on order. Sgt. Coultrip replied that they are starting with 200.

Supervisor Rodriguez asked if they are only doing K9 Riggs for the plush dogs or if others were coming down the road. Sgt. Coultrip replied that the plan is to put in another order for the next senior dog, when half of the current ones have sold, and so on. The department didn't want to initially purchase 200 plushies of each dog, if for some reason they ended up not selling. So, once half of these are sold, they will move on to the next canine, then when half of those is sold onto the next canine, and so forth. They are expecting 1,000 plush dogs to sell. Chairman Bashaw commented that K9 Briggs saw his difficult action within his district, a place many frequently pass, and K9 Riggs and his handler are great. Chairman Bashaw appreciates what the department is doing with the dogs and the program, and Supervisor Decker has a resolution on its way to the state Legislator than the floor, in relation to the K9 program.

Supervisor Franco motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Decker. Motion passes unanimously with no further discussion.

**Any Other Business Allowed by Law:** 6:20: None.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:20: on motion by Supervisor Nordigian; seconded by Supervisor Decker.

A recording of the meeting is available online at [kenoshacounty.org](http://kenoshacounty.org)

Respectfully Submitted,



Alyssa Werfelmann