



**King County**

## **Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting**

**Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022  
9:30 am – 12:00 pm**

### **VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING**

#### **1. Welcome**

**Attending virtually:** Lou Frantz (acting as chair), Andrés Muñoz, Oloth Insyxiengmay, Chris Carney, Sara Rankin, Angélica Cházaro, La Rond Baker, Nyema Clark

**Not present:** Shrounda Selivanoff, John Strait, Shoshana Kehoe-Ehlers (chair)

Lou welcomes La Rond Baker, her first meeting, and notes that the County Council is slated to confirm Oloth, Sara, and Andrés to the board on Dec. 13.

#### **2. Approval of minutes from meeting on Oct. 6, 2022, and minutes from a special meeting on Oct. 26, 2022**

Both sets of minutes approved.

#### **3. Public comment**

No public comment.

#### **4. Chair's Remarks on Purpose of King County PDAB Email Addresses**

Lou notes that for PDAB-related items, board members should use their PDAB email address. If a board member uses their personal account for PDAB business, it could open that account to a Public Records Disclosure request. When DPD is engaging the board in PDAB business, Christina will email everyone's personal account to let them know to check their PDAB email. Leslie will help board members get their PDAB email set up so that it's viewable in their personal email accounts.

#### **5. Remarks from SEIU Representatives (Molly Gilbert)**

Molly says that the union has filed a demand to bargain over a county proposal. The county is exploring a contract with SCORE to jail people the county can't jail due to staffing issues. The little we know – it's a nightmare plan. SEIU has filed a demand to bargain to block this move because it will affect attorneys – making meeting with clients even more difficult. Molly says she's also reached out to the head of KC Sheriffs' guild – they're also against the county's possible contract with SCORE.

Discussion follows about jail conditions, Trueblood, Hamer lawsuit, and efforts to get people out of jail who are there on the investigation calendar.

## 6. Remarks from Teamsters Representatives (Rachael Schultz)

Working with staff on staffing issues. No current concerns.

## 7. Director's Report

**Staff changes (Anita):** Matt Sanders is the new managing attorney at ACA Division.

**Jail issues (Anita):** Anita says there are several issues the department is trying to address, the core issue being that there are too many people in the jail. DPD is pushing for fewer bookings. The department also proposed to the PAO that they arraign people more quickly – in three days, rather than 14 days. They would not entertain that proposal.

DPD is also concerned about access to medications in jail. Medical providers are not getting into the jail. The department also wants to ensure that people released from jail have more than a seven-day supply of their prescriptions (the current practice). Seven days' worth does not give them time to meet with a provider and get more medication.

### **Caseloads / assignments (Stev and Gordon):**

- **Felony court assignments by month:** We're currently a little below our projections.
- **Felony A assignments:** Monthly totals are getting higher and higher. That's a trend over the last 6 or 7 months.
- **Felony assignments split between Seattle and Kent:** Used to be 60/40. Now about 70/30. So many more assignments in Seattle than Kent and that's creating some staffing challenges.
- **Open felony cases by the month:** Hovering around 6,000. That's been holding steady for about the last year. Pre-COVID, it was around 5,000. However, open Bs and Cs have dropped; open Class A cases have gone up significantly, which reflects the difficult situation we're facing in terms of staffing.
- **Felony Charges by Charge Group:** They've steadied out.
- **SMC Charges by Charge Group:** You can see quite an increase in charges in Q2 and Q3 with the new administration in place. Significant increase in assault charges.
- **Superior Court Criminal Filings by Month:** Seeing a startling increase in filings in October – and of course, high filings lead to high assignments.
- **Tachometer:** We're in the green. We're under projected numbers.
- **KCDC misdemeanor filings:** Seeing an increase in October after a rather steady number.
- **SMC filings:** They've remained high with the new administration.
- **ITA assignments:** Over the past few months, assignments have been over 400 / month. ITA is one of the only places where DPD doesn't employ a supplemental

credit system. That 400 number is about what DPD is staffed for – anything over 400 pushes us over our caseload capacity.

**Legislative update (Katie):** DPD is working on several pieces of legislation for the upcoming session. Here are a few highlights.

- **Raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction.** We have identified two sponsors to introduce a bill that would ensure that kids under 14 are not prosecuted in the juvenile system.
- **Youth with problem sexual behaviors:** Working with Rep. Senn on legislation that would provide more evidence-based responses to young people who have problem sexual behaviors. We also want to restrict who must register as sex offender – it harms young people to register. This is legislation DPD and partners advanced in past sessions. We have a new sponsor and we're hoping for success
- **Juvenile points:** We're hoping for a bill that would end the practice of using juvenile convictions to increase an adult's offender score; we also want to make it retroactive.

**Summer internship recruiting (Tara):**

DPD has nearly completed our hiring process for summer 2023 interns. All told, we selected 22 students, 40% of whom identify as BIPOC or transgender. We're pleased with the group we ended up with.

**8. PDAB Chair's report**

No report.

**9. Executive session**

None.

**10. Adjourn: 10:50 a.m.**