

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
February 23, 2023

Members Present: Gabe Nudo, Erin Decker, Amanda Nedweski, Zach Rodriguez, Brian Thomas, Mark Nordigian

Excused: Aaron Karow, Terry Rose

Absent:

YIG: Present: Enze Price, Alec Schires

YIG Absent:

Others Present: Joseph Cardamone, Bashaw, Sheriff Zoerner, John Franco, Elizabeth Garcia

6:06 PM

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Nudo after technical difficulties (audio).

6:23 PM

2. Citizen comments:

Chuck Gunlock 12121 2nd Ave PP- Second meeting he's come to for the review of the REEC but no one has showed, which is not surprising to him. From what he's observed, there is nothing getting done. Argue about numbers, semantics, words. Commission members calling in and not taking the time to meet in person. He does not believe this commission is doing what it should be doing.

Veronica King- As you review the information from REEC, you will see a large minority of citizens in this community are arrested in this County. But African Americans are arrested far more frequently

Gail Clark Taylor- Encourages the Committee to accept the report as a whole. She would like to see comparison rates to anyone pulled over or made contact with Police.

(Tonya?) Connie McLean 1620 18th Ave- She was apart of the work group that started the Commission. She is disappointed at the progress of the Commission. She is in support of the research to be presented and encourages the Committee to accept it in its entirety. People in uniform given different passes. People in uniform take an oath and should never treat anyone differently. She would like to focus on solutions and work together for change.

Lydia Spotswood 6903 2nd Ave – Since this is a report on both race and ethnicity. Why is there no data for arrests in Hispanics? Future reports should include more background on circumstances of the arrests. Former chair of public safety in City of Kenosha. She thinks more information would be beneficial in understanding the arrests reasons. Gives a handout to Committee, why is Racism such an important thing to be thinking about? In terms of economic development. Reads from handout.

David Lockwood 125 56th St. Kenosha- Thanked the Committee for taking up such a big issue. He states this is a national issue, it is not just a Kenosha issue or Sheriff's issue. He commends them for starting work on this issue. He is hopeful a consultant can be hired to help the Sheriff's department with this situation, but this issue stems much further than that. This is a long-term issue, it won't be solved

overnight. Have you ever worked with a county or are you aware of any county who have worked on these topics and have they worked?

Kevin Mathewson- 5606 6th Ave- Agrees with Ms. King regarding Deferred Prosecution Agreements (DPA's). He would like to see that data regarding these DPA's. 98% of cases end in plea deals. This Committee cannot fix those problems, but as individuals, we can change by voting in different Judges and Prosecutors. Emails of all calls that come in daily to News Outlets and Politicians. Transparency is key along with strong leadership.

6:35 PM

3. Chair, Supervisor Comments: Received an email

County Executive and Chair attended Conference regarding Justice, Mental Health, and international trade. Attended meetings with Senator Johnson and Congressman Steil. Substance Abuse Residential Treatment Partnership with Racine, Racine to build a facility with 15 beds and Kenosha County would like 7 of those beds and to partner with them.

Supervisor Rodriguez- Wisconsin Supreme Court dark stores loophole ruling, sent an email to the Committee and would like them to review over the weekend. Would like Corporation Counsel to look over and make finding during Finance Committee Meeting.

6:39 PM

4. Communications-

6:39 PM

5. Approval of Minutes- **Supervisor Decker made a motion to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Thomas. All aye. YIG Aye. Motion passes.**

6:40 PM

6. Resolution Recognizing April 2023 as "National Child Abuse Prevention Month"– Vice Chair Decker states nationally April is known as Child Abuse Prevention Month and this resolution is in support of that. Supervisor Rodriguez would like to bring more of these to the Committee to bring about awareness in making sure residents know about the various issues. **All aye. YIG Aye. Motion passes.**

7:07 PM

9. Identification of issues for Future Discussion-

6: PM

10. Discussion of Scheduling for January Meeting-

6:43 PM

7. Report Of Racial And Ethnic Equity Commission- Commissioner Elizabeth Garcia passes out the updated REEC report regarding Arrests in Kenosha County. Commissioner Garcia discusses and explains the Commissions findings within the report. She feels that the County is in need of a statistician and Someone data driven, that can gather data. She states as a Commission they are overwhelmed and as a County, we are overwhelmed with data. She believes this should be someone's full time job. The recommendation from the Commission is to create a position to hire someone for the job they are trying to accomplish. Supervisor Thomas would like to address some comments made by the Citizen's tonight. He hands out a report to the room. Arrest data was requested in August, by type of arrest, age category, Juveniles, Adults. Supervisor Thomas went down another rabbit hole of Youth in Justice,

truancy in youth. Black youths are the highest proportion of truancy at almost 50%, which is the same number of arrests in adulthood. This information was given to the Commission in September. Roadmap to inclusivity was introduced in April, but not on the agenda. By the end of September, the Chair of the Commission and another Commission member resigned. The Commission has not had consistent leadership in any of the meetings. He feels the Commission has not functioned fully since August. Supervisor Thomas feels not enough White and Hispanic people are being arrested. He wants to stop the arrests before they start and feels like the way to do it is to stop the truancy issue. He is hopeful when 2 new appointed Commission Members, they will have a chance to reorganize themselves, to uphold better leadership. He encourages the County Board to consider blending the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission with the City of Kenosha's Commission.

Supervisor Decker thanked Supervisor Thomas for the data he brought to the meeting. She is shocked to find out that KUSD is not busing the kids to school within the 2-mile radius. Supervisor Thomas clarifies the expenses and mileage regarding this system. Supervisor Decker asks to clarify the percentage in the report excludes every other law enforcement agency in Kenosha and solely just Sheriff's Department. Corporation Counsel clarifies that these numbers reflect every agency included, it is not just KSD numbers. Supervisor Decker states that the board only has control over Kenosha Sheriff's department as we do not have control over any other agency/entity other than KSD. Supervisor Decker asked if the arrest data included officer-initiated calls and other calls or mandatory arrests versus discretionary arrest? The Commission confirms that data was not included. Sheriff Zoerner speaks to the data service KSD uses.

Supervisor Rodriguez states that the census gives 6 options for races when filling out information online. He asks if the black/African American number include the mixed races or just solely black. Commissioner Garcia states that the data from this report did not come from the census. A new/updated version of the report is handed out to the Committee. Supervisor Rodriguez feels the data is skewed with regards to race. **Supervisor Rodriguez makes a motion to reject the report from REEC, seconded by Supervisor Nordigian and Decker.**

Supervisor Nordigian feels the numbers do not correlate with the data. Supervisor Rodriguez states that rejecting the report sends a message to the Commission that this report is subpar and is not up to standards. Commissioner Garcia states that there are a lot of feelings behind the Commission and it may be holding the Commission back, so it might be best to have someone employed to do this job.

Supervisor Rodriguez states that in looking at the numbers through NYBERS, the data system KSD uses, KSD overwhelmingly arrests White individuals over any other race. KSD arrests in the amount of 75.2% are White. Supervisor Nordigian is unhappy that the Commission has not even looked at the data Supervisor Thomas has brought to the Commission. The Commission needs to turn over every rock and look through all the data to find the issue.

Chair Nudo states he does not believe that there needs to be a motion to reject as this report is a report, they've given the Committee. Supervisor Rodriguez would like on the record why the Report was rejected, which is why he made the motion to reject.

Chairman Nudo states the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission will be in front of the Committee again next month to present. He states there needs to be adjustments, revision, to the Commission.

7:39 PM

8. Other Matters as May Be Appropriately Brought Before the Committee- March 23rd is the next scheduled meeting. Update with WCA

7:45 PM

9. Adjourn: **Supervisor Decker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Rodriguez. All Aye. YIG Aye. Motion Carried**

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Peralta
Corporation Counsel