

**Metro East Police District Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
East St. Louis Sr. High School  
4901 State Street, East St. Louis, IL 62205  
**October 27, 2017**

<b>Note Taker:</b>	Tamara Vaughn-Walker, St. Clair County State's Attorney Office
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**Call to Order**

Coroner Dye called the Metro East Police District Commission meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

**Invocation**

Mr. Johnny Scott opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Roll Call**

Commission Members Present: Brendan Kelly, St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office; Calvin Dye, Sr., St. Clair County Coroner's Office; Allen Bonds, Washington Park Police Department; Michael Wagner, East St. Louis Police Department; Rob Scott, Illinois FOP Labor Council; Rick Watson, St. Clair County Sheriff's Department; Thomas Jeffery, Brooklyn Police Department; Verge Riley, City of East St. Louis; Johnny Scott, City of East St. Louis; Annette Eckert, Retired Judge St. Clair County Judge; David Hayes, SILEC; Jerry Simon, East St. Louis Police Department; Vera Banks, City of Brooklyn

Also Present: Bryant Jackson-Green, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority; Liz Brookshire, East Side Aligned

**Approval of Minutes**

There was no quorum for the 9/27/2017 meeting.

Mr. Kelly reported that the MDT/Focused Deterrence group meet at 8:00 a.m. to devise a plan to support East St. Louis and Washington improve public safety and equip police departments with best practices that have been implemented at the national level. He added that the MDT is working with community agencies, probation and parole through a cross-sector partnership to improve public safety and allocate resources in the most distressed areas of East St. Louis and Washington Park.

Mr. Kelly also reported that representatives from Loyola University Chicago and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority will meet at 11:00 a.m. to discuss strategies and recommendations for reducing recidivism rates. He encouraged commission members to get involved with other justice-focused meetings since they all have a level of overlap and focus on reducing crime and violence.

**Chairman's Overview**

Coroner Dye reported that due to the holiday season, next month's Metro East Police District Commission meeting will be held on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. He also reported that since Mr. Trice's contract ended in May 2017, the City of East St. Louis has not been able to afford purchasing background checks for law enforcement officers. Mr. Dye added if the City goes with another provider, the cost will increase from \$400 to \$800 per/officer.

**David Hayes of SILEC**

Mr. Hayes reported that he facilitates firearm training for part-time police and auxiliary officers. He added that background checks continue to be an issue for several officers involved. There was a discussion amongst the commission about

addressing these problems.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Resource Committee:**

-At this time, the Resource Committee has discontinued and no report is available

### **Brooklyn Committee Report:**

-Mr. Jeffrey shared that more incidents are being reported to their police department

-The trending crime in Brooklyn involves car thefts where firearms are left inside

-Brooklyn is working on reducing car pursuits

-He added the city needs additional funding to purchase spike strips. Currently, the department purchases a one-time spike strip set which costs \$500 each.

### **COMMISSION ACTION:**

Sheriff Watson and Coroner Dye both agreed to purchase 2-3 spike strips for the Brooklyn Police Department as long as the department's policies and training procedures are in compliance.

### **Police Chief's Reports**

-New Police Chief Simon reported that shootings are increasing in East St. Louis. He added that a recent shooting took place on Market Street where (7) men were shot; the story did not get media coverage

-Chief Simon also reported that East St. Louis has about (32) homicides and more officers are needed to improve public safety

-Currently, the city is looking into hiring an additional (4) police officers

## **Other Business**

### **New Business**

Mr. Greg Cueto, of the U.S. Attorney's Office added that their department is working with a research group to map out where the highest rates of gun shots are heard. Several commission members added that more patrol officers are needed on the streets to respond to gun shots and keep the public safe.

There was a discussion about East St. Louis and Washington Park tracking crime data for the FBI's Uniform Crime Report in an effort to generate more funding to improve public safety.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Vera Banks, Mayor of Brooklyn posed some concerns about public towing, night clubs closing hours and officers having credibility issues.

### **Adjournment**

Sheriff Watson motioned for adjournment at 10:15 a.m., Coroner Dye seconded and there was consensus amongst the committee to adjourn.

**Next Meeting: Friday, November 17, 2017 at East St. Louis Sr. High School @ 9:00 a.m.**