

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

5:00 P. M., JUNE 3, 2019

A/V CONFERENCE ROOM

Keeley Steele, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Public Safety to order at 5:00p.m., JUNE 3, 2019, in the Audio/Visual Room in City Hall.

Committee Members Present:

Keeley Steele, Chair
Chuck Overstreet, Vice Chair
Naomi Bays (on phone)
Brady Campbell
Becky Ceperley
Joseph Jenkins
Robert Sheets

1. Resolution No. 202-19 – Councilmember Steele introduced City Attorney, Kevin Baker, who explained that the resolution is adopted each year to approve the MOU between the various agencies that make up MDENT. The MOU lays out the different responsibilities: how the agencies will work together, funds, etc. Charleston is the largest component of MDENT, having 7 out of the 13 officers. The proposed MOU is identical to those that have been adopted in the past with 4 changes. They are:
 - The reference to Putnam County having a second office has been removed as it does not exist.
 - Language was added concerning the dissolution (distribution of funds) of MDENT if it would dissolve.
 - A change in how federal funds are handled because of a change in federal law, where federal funds will go to the DOJ.
 - combined the signature pages to make it more cohesive.

Councilmember Ceperley asked why Putnam County was not part of MDENT. Deputy Chief, Paul Perdue answered that he didn't know why, but it's likely due to the fact that they have their own task force. Councilmember Campbell confirmed that there are currently 13 officers of MDENT and 23 is the maximum allowed.

With no further discussion, Councilmember Ceperley made a motion to approve the bill. Councilmember Bays seconded. With the ayes being in the majority Resolution No. 202-19 was approved.

2. General Discussion – Councilmember Steele mentioned that there would be another round of Narcan training; members should contact her if interested.

3. Discussion of Bill No. 7819 Committee Substitute – Councilmember Steele invited questions concerning the bill as the City Attorney and the bill's sponsor, Councilmember Cook, were present.

Councilmember Campbell confirmed that the proposed bill has both components of a criminal and civil bill. He asked if the financial components of having a jail offense was considered. Baker answered that it was deemed necessary to have jail time included in order for the CPD to enforce the other aspects of the bill. Councilmember Campbell asked what the potential cost would be if 50 people (or a large number) were arrested at once. Baker answered that it is impossible to predict how many people could potentially be arrested as a result of the bill. Additionally, an attorney would only be provided if the arrested could not afford one. Councilmember Campbell asked if it was known how many arrests were made in Colorado (from where the proposed bill was modeled). Those numbers are not known.

Councilmember Campbell confirmed that there will be City representatives at the clinic to explain the ordinance, rights and responsibilities to anyone present every Wednesday and Thursday for the next few weeks. He asked if they considered making changes to traffic laws to address this issue as opposed to creating a new ordinance. Baker answered that of all the options that were considered, it made the most sense to put forward a bill that was already being upheld in another state.

Councilmember Cook mentioned that she visited the clinic the previous week. There were 3 CPD cruisers present and so many people on the public sidewalk that she could not park her truck in the parking lot. In response to Councilmember Campbell's concerns that an ordinance was being enacted for one facility, Councilmembers Bays and Ceperley countered that it protects all medical facilities and also helps to address any future issues. Councilmember Sheets stated that he has been a protestor and has been protested against. While the majority of the time protestor are civil, he stated that these have not been.

Councilmember Overstreet wanted to make sure the distances involved were clear. Protesting can happen within 100 feet of the facility. Councilmember Steele added that the protestors are loud enough to be heard from exam rooms, and that they needed to be held accountable for the distress they are causing. Baker added that while the proposed bill won't address the noise, the facility has the right to file a private nuisance action.

Councilmember Ceperley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Cook seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Resolution No. 202-19: “Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with other participating agencies comprising the Metro Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT), consistent with Attachment A hereto, that assists the Charleston area offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to achieve maximum cooperation in combined law enforcement efforts to address drug and related violent crime offenses in Charleston and surrounding communities. The MOU is in effect for a one year period starting July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020.”

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, consistent with Attachment A hereto, with other participating agencies comprising the Metro Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT) that assists the Charleston area offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to achieve maximum cooperation in combined law enforcement efforts to address drug and related violent crime offenses in Charleston and surrounding communities. The MOU is in effect for a one year period starting July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The following agencies hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as of the date this MOU is signed by the agency's representative. The effective date of this MOU is July 1, 2019.

City of Charleston
City of St. Albans
City of Dunbar
City of Nitro
City of South Charleston
City of Hurricane
Putnam County Sheriff's Department
Kanawha County Sheriff's Department
West Virginia State Police
Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
U. S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of WV

PURPOSE: the purpose of this MOU is to memorialize the operating terms under which this task force, named the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT), develop and enhance cooperation and information exchange between the parties to this MOU and to achieve maximum effective and efficient law enforcement efforts to address drug and violent crime related offenses in the Kanawha County, Putnam County, and Charleston, West Virginia, area.

DEFINITIONS: When used in this MOU, the following words shall be defined as:

1. AHIDTA—Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Act Program
2. Control Board – The oversight board for MDENT.
3. DCJS – The West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services
4. Employing agency – The law enforcement agency that hired, employs, and pays the applicable salary and benefits of the law enforcement officer assigned to MDENT.
5. Federal Agencies – The Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.
6. Grantee – The agency that prepares, submits, and oversees administration of funding applications on behalf of MDENT. For the purposes of this MOU the grantee is the City of Charleston.
7. Local Agencies – The City of Charleston, the City of Dunbar, the City of Nitro, the City of South Charleston, the City of St. Albans, the City of Hurricane, the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department, and the Putnam County Sheriff's Department.
8. MDENT – Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team
9. MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
10. Operating Account – Monies maintained in an interest-bearing account by the grantee to be used to pay expenses incurred by MDENT in pursuit of its stated purpose. These monies come from funds lawfully secured as a result of forfeiture of money and property from drug related seizures and monies contributed to MDENT by other entities.
11. Participating agencies – All of the federal and local agencies that are parties to this MOU.
12. PCNEU – Putnam County Narcotics Enforcement Unit.
13. PCSD – Putnam County Sheriff's Department.
14. Policy Board – West Virginia Drug Policy and Violent Crime Control Policy Board.

The participating agencies agree to the following terms:

1. **FEDERAL JURISDICTION:** The authority and participation in any investigation under the terms of this MOU by the Federal Agencies shall be pursuant to, and limited by, the jurisdictional laws of each respective federal agency. Because of statutory and policy considerations, the assigned federal personnel will not investigate crimes outside of the jurisdiction of their respective agency. The Federal Agencies shall follow the appropriate policies and guidelines of their respective agencies. Federally initiated cases will follow appropriate guidelines of the lead federal agency concerning case management.
2. **LOCAL AGENCY REPRESENTATION:** The representative authorized to sign this MOU for each of the participating agencies will appoint one individual to serve as a member on the Control Board, which will be the agencies' chief law enforcement officer or his/her designee. That individual will act on behalf of and represent the designating agency's interests concerning the operation of MDENT. The Mayor of the grantee, or his or her designee, shall serve as the Chairperson of the Control Board. The Chairperson shall appoint the MDENT Commander.
3. **CONTROL BOARD:** The Control Board shall meet on a regular basis as set by the grantee in accordance with DCJS

requirements. Five members present shall constitute a quorum of the Control Board. Each member of the Control Board, or his or her alternate, shall have one vote and, subject to the terms herein, general issues shall require a majority vote of members present. However, actions by MDENT on the following matters shall be decided by unanimous vote of voting members of the Control Board:

- a. Approval/disapproval of cases to be investigated by MDENT officers;
- b. Amount of and use of funds to be authorized for specific case investigations and operation of the unit;
- c. Key decisions critical to the management of case investigations;
- d. Acquisition of real or personal property, including equipment;
- e. Addition of law enforcement agencies as members of MDENT; and
- f. Approval of officers to be assigned to MDENT from participating agencies.

Federal agencies, in compliance with all applicable ethical and regulatory DOJ/Treasury guidelines, will abstain from voting on funding issues that conflict with their department's guidelines.

4. **ADMINISTRATION OF GRANT FUNDS; AGENCY RESOURCES:** Each of the participating agencies shall cooperate with the grantee concerning the administration of grant funds awarded from DCJS or other entities and in the overall operation of MDENT. Additionally, each participating agency will provide whatever resources are available to that agency, in the reasonable opinion of its Chief Law Enforcement Officer or designee, to specific cases as appropriate and as approved by the Control Board to facilitate efficient and effective investigations.

5. **AGENCY WITHDRAWAL FROM OR APPLICATION TO MOU:** Participation in the multi-agency investigative efforts of MDENT is voluntary. If a participating agency desires to withdraw from this MOU, written notification of such withdrawal will be provided to each participating agency thirty days prior to withdrawal. Such withdrawal does not absolve the participating agency of any financial responsibilities incurred prior to the withdrawal. Additional agencies wishing to become members of MDENT may do so upon written application to and approval by the Control Board. Such new agencies must execute an addendum agreeing to the terms of the MOU in effect at the time of approval by the Control Board.

6. **COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL GUIDELINES:** Participating agencies agree to follow procedures relating to case management, reporting requirements, fiscal guidelines, and other appropriate policies as adopted by the Control Board and that are consistent with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, subtitle K – State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Act of 1986 and/or the Policy Board and DCJS.

7. **OWNERSHIP AND USE OF MDENT EQUIPMENT:** Equipment and other personal property purchased with Operating Account funds and utilized for fulfilling the purpose of MDENT will be retained by grantee after the requirements of all applicable DCJS grants have been satisfied or have expired. Grantee's retention of any such equipment or property will be made in accord with established policies and practices set by the Policy Board and the DCJS. It is further agreed that participating agencies may request use of this equipment and property, consistent with each agency's guidelines, at any future time so long as such request or use does not inconvenience or otherwise negatively impact grantee.

8. **REAL PROPERTY PURCHASED, OWNED, OR LEASED FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF MDENT:**

- a. If any real property is purchased by one of the participating agencies on behalf of MDENT to be used as office space or any other MDENT purpose, such purchase will be paid for with Operating Account funds.
- b. Any real property so purchased, donated, or leased for the use and benefit of MDENT as office space or other MDENT use, will be maintained with Operating Account funds. The Control Board shall have the oversight and responsibility of making the timely loan, lease, or other payments on the property, paying for all repairs and improvements, utilities, taxes, fees, insurance, and all other costs associated with the real property including any improvements thereto and/or appurtenances thereof. If at any time there are insufficient funds in the Operating Account for these expenses when due, such expenses will be shared by the participating local agencies in MDENT at the time such expenses are incurred. Each local agency will be responsible and liable for an amount equal to the amount of the shortfall divided by the number of local agency officers assigned to MDENT multiplied by the number of officers each local agency has assigned at the time of the shortfall.
- c. If any real property owned for the use and benefit of MDENT is sold, the proceeds shall either be used to secure other office space for MDENT or placed in the Operating Account.

- d. If at any time MDENT is dissolved, any real property owned for the use and benefit of MDENT shall be sold. The proceeds will be placed in the Operating Account and the funds will be handled as set forth in paragraph number nine (9) of this MOU.

9. MDENT DISSOLUTION: In the event that MDENT is dissolved, the Control Board will ensure that all applicable financial responsibilities of MDENT are paid from the Operating Account. Any remaining balance in the Operating Account after all financial responsibilities are met, excluding any federal funds, shall be distributed to the local agencies participating in MDENT at the time of its dissolution. If there are insufficient funds in the Operating Account to satisfy all financial responsibilities or liabilities, any remaining financial responsibilities and liabilities will be divided among these same local agencies. The formula for the distribution of assets or liabilities shall be the total applicable amount divided by the number of local agency officers assigned to MDENT multiplied by the number of officers each local agency has assigned at the time of dissolution.

10. SALARY, BENEFIT, AND OVERTIME REIMBURSEMENT:

- a. Reimbursement to local agencies for officers assigned to MDENT will be made for base salary and benefits as set by the Policy Board, but such reimbursement shall not exceed \$28,000. Unless specifically authorized by grant award, reimbursement will not be made for overtime earned by officers assigned to MDENT.
- b. Federal Agencies will not receive reimbursements, including any reimbursement for salary, benefits, or overtime.
- c. For overtime reimbursement for officers authorized by a grant award, each local agency will be limited to the overtime hours or amounts authorized by the award.
- d. Monies awarded for overtime reimbursement will be distributed upon submission of applicable documentation to the grantee in an amount not to exceed the limit set by the Policy Board.
- e. Any AHIDTA overtime funds awarded for compensation shall be reimbursed in accordance with the policies and guidelines of that program.

11. FORFEITURES: Forfeitures will be administratively processed pursuant to the following terms:

- a. Forfeitures may be utilized as approved by the Control Board to meet MDENT's stated purpose.
- b. The participating Federal Agencies do not receive any share of assets secured by direct forfeiture or by an "open bid" sale in most state and local cases. In any case where a Federal Agency elects to receive a share of the forfeiture, the Federal Agency will process the forfeiture pursuant to federal guidelines. It shall be the responsibility of each participating local agency that desires to seek a portion of the federally forfeited property to complete a United States Department of Justice DAG-71 Application for Transfer of Federally Forfeited Property. If a Federal Agency processes the forfeiture, then the provisions of subparagraph (f.) of this paragraph eleven (11) do not apply.
- c. Forfeitures conveyed to local agencies through equitable sharing or pursuant to a completed DAG-71 are to be utilized for law enforcement purposes only, consistent with federal and Policy Board forfeiture guidelines.
- d. Real or personal property forfeited to MDENT that cannot be directly used to meet the stated purpose of MDENT will either be sold by an "open bid" process or disposed of in a manner approved by the Control Board in accordance with established federal and Policy Board guidelines for such forfeitures. Any monies secured by the sale of such property that are not processed federally will be deposited in the Operating Account, as required by subparagraph (e.) of this paragraph eleven (11).
- e. Cash, either directly forfeited or secured by the sale of real or personal property, that are not processed federally will be maintained in the Operating Account until spent for MDENT purposes or distributed to the local agencies consistent with this paragraph. The Policy Board sets a required minimum percentage of forfeited funds, less administrative costs, that must be used to cover the day-to-day operations of a drug task force during each grant award period. For the term of this MOU the Policy Board has MDENT's minimum percentage at forty (40) percent. The Policy Board also permits each drug task force to establish a percentage greater than the set minimum. As of January 1, 2003, the Control Board established a minimum of fifty (50) percent of all monies secured as a result of forfeitures, after administrative costs have been removed, be held in the Operating Account to be used for day-to-day operations, with the remaining fifty (50) percent to be distributed among the local agencies as consistent with subparagraph (f.) of this paragraph eleven (11).

- f. Forfeited funds that are not processed by a Federal Agency shall be distributed as follows:
 - 1. 50% of all such non-federal forfeited funds, after payment of any administrative costs, shall be deposited in the Operating Fund. The remaining amount will be distributed to each local agency participating at the time of the seizure by dividing the total applicable amount by the number of local agency officers assigned to MDENT at the time of the seizure multiplied by the number of officers each local agency has assigned at the time of the seizure, not including any officers assigned to the Interdiction Team.
 - 2. For seizures made by the Interdiction Team, 50% of all such non-federal forfeited funds, after payment of any administrative costs, shall be deposited in the MDENT Operating Fund. The remaining amount will be distributed to each local agency which have officers assigned to the Interdiction Team at the time of the seizure by dividing the total applicable amount by the number of officers assigned to the Interdiction Team at the time of the seizure multiplied by the number of officers each local agency has assigned to the Interdiction Team at the time of the seizure.

12. PROTOCOL FOR INTERACTION WITH THE NEWS MEDIA:

- a. The Control Board shall set policy and procedures for media releases and/or press conferences.
- b. All media releases shall be made in the name of MDENT. Each release shall name all of the participating agencies.
- c. Unless special circumstances exist, individual MDENT officers will not be identified or photographed.
- d. No information about MDENT operations or individual investigations will be released to the media until approved by the official with applicable prosecutorial authority.
 - 1. If jurisdiction involves a federal prosecution, the United States Attorney of the Southern District of West Virginia must approve any release of information to the media.
 - 2. If jurisdiction involves a state prosecution, the Prosecuting Attorney in the county where the case will be prosecuted must approve any release of information to the media.

13. REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL OF OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO MDENT:

- a. All employing agencies will allow officers assigned to MDENT to complete all material assignments prior to the officer's removal from, or replacement on, MDENT, unless conditions involving willful misconduct or other extenuating circumstances exist which would adversely affect MDENT operations and/or reputation if such removal is delayed.
- b. If any MDENT officer engages in misconduct, conduct unbecoming an officer, or any activity which requires an administrative investigation to determine the propriety of disciplinary action, the employing agency shall be solely responsible for any and all disciplinary action. The Task Force Commander shall immediately notify the Control Board members and the employing agency of any such behavior of which he or she becomes aware. Notwithstanding, the Control Board may remove any officer from MDENT upon reasonable belief that the officer engaged in misconduct, conduct unbecoming, or any other improper behavior or of activities. The employing agency shall be notified of any decision by the Control Board to remove an assigned officer and the employing agency may submit the name of a replacement officer for the Control Board's consideration and approval.

14. LIABILITY AND INSURANCE OBLIGATIONS:

- a. Each employing agency shall be solely responsible for the negligent acts, omissions, and/or wrongdoing of its officers, whether alleged or established, and for any and all claims of liability related thereto. As between the parties to this MOU, unless otherwise agreed in writing, each employing agency shall be solely responsible for defending against any claim against its officer, and for payment of any and all resulting fees, costs, or damages related thereto.
- b. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, no employing agency shall be responsible for defending against or paying for any civil liability arising out of negligent acts, omissions, and/or wrongdoing of officers or other personnel

assigned to MDENT from another employing agency. For the purpose of this MOU, civil liability includes, but is not limited to, damages of any kind, attorney fees, and any and all costs and/or expenses incident to any civil lawsuit or administrative claim filed by any person, business, corporation, partnership organization, or government entity, or otherwise related to any administrative or judicial proceeding, finding, judgment, or settlement in compromise of any claim.

- c. The employing agencies to this MOU agree that each officer assigned to MDENT is solely an employee of his or her employing agency. The parties to this MOU further agree that each employing agency shall be solely responsible for providing workers compensation coverage and unemployment coverage to each and every officer assigned to MDENT by that employing agency.
- d. Each employing agency shall maintain liability insurance coverage in an amount of at least \$1,000,000 to satisfy the liability obligations herein related to claims arising from the alleged negligent, acts, omissions, and/or wrongdoing of its officers/employees assigned to MDENT, and such insurance policy shall include coverage for damage to the assigned officer/employee's vehicle and claims resulting from the assigned officer/employee's operation thereof, regardless of which agency actually owns the vehicle. In other words, and by example only, each agency shall be responsible for insuring, defending against and paying every claim or civil liability arising out of the conduct of its officer/employee, regardless of where the incident giving rise to the claim or civil liability arose and regardless of who owned any vehicle or equipment involved. Provided: That the parties recognize that the Federal Tort Claims Act shall be applicable to all liability issues relating to the actions of the officers assigned to MDENT from federal agencies.
- e. As between the parties to this Agreement, the agency employing any officer/employee assigned to MDENT will be solely responsible for any damage to property caused by the intentional or other conduct by the employing agency's officer/employee which results in any denial of insurance coverage.

15. PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: Effective July 1, 2019, the Task Force is composed of 23 officers as follows:

- 7 from Charleston Police Department
- 2 from St. Albans Police Department
- 1 from Nitro Police Department
- 1 from Dunbar Police Department
- 2 from South Charleston Police Department
- 1 from Hurricane Police Department
- 3 from Kanawha County Sheriff's Department
- 3 from Putnam County Sheriff's Department
- 1 from West Virginia State Police
- 1 from the US Drug Enforcement Agency
- 1 from Homeland Security

These officers will work directly with the agents from the Charleston area offices of the participating Federal Agencies.

16. FUNDING TERM. For the purpose of funding obtained through the DCJS, the term of this agreement shall be for the fiscal year covering the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Subsequent contract renewal with the DCJS for similar continued funding will serve to extend this agreement.

17. SUPERSEDING AGREEMENT. This MOU supersedes any and all prior MOU's implemented and agreed to by the participating agencies.

This MOU is hereby entered into by the participating agencies on pages 9 and 10 of this MOU, which may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall constitute a duplicate original, but all counterparts together shall constitute a single agreement.

BY: _____
Amy Goodwin
Mayor (City of Charleston)

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Scott James
Mayor (City of St. Albans)

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Dave Casebolt
Mayor (City of Nitro)

DATE: _____

BY: _____
William Cunningham
Mayor (City of Dunbar)

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Frank Mullens
Mayor (City of South Charleston)

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Scott Edwards
Mayor (City of Hurricane)

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Michael Y. Rutherford
Sheriff of Kanawha County

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Steve DeWeese
Sheriff of Putnam County

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Colonel J.L. Cahill
Superintendent WV State Police

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Mike Stewart U. S. Attorney
U.S. Attorney, Southern District of WV

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: _____