

Rebecca Rudder, Constituent Services Specialist

O: 719-520-6423

M: 719-238-8218

RebeccaRudder2@elpasoco.com

Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Board of County Commissioners

Holly Williams, District 1

Carrie Geitner, District 2

Stan VanderWerf, District 3

Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., District 4

Cami Bremer, District 5

CITIZEN OUTREACH GROUP

Citizen Outreach Group June 20, 2022

**Members Present
In Person and Via
Virtual/Teleconference
Meeting:**

Kelvin Dean, Arthur Glynn, Jim Godfrey, and Ruble Henderson

Members Absent:

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Chairman, Stan VanderWerf

County Staff Present: Ryan Parsell, Natalie Sosa

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members absent at the June 20, 2022, COG Meeting

Jim Godfrey stated that he was not going to make a decision to excuse or not excuse until the end of the meeting because of the communication and lack thereof, and we'll make a call at that point.

Commissioner Liaison Comments

Commissioner Chairman Stan VanderWerf expressed his appreciation for the continued great work of the Citizen Outreach Group. He liked the design of Citizen College, which allowed participants to either go through the entire thing or just attend a particular class. In his opinion, it was a huge success and he thought it was great that several people received a graduate certificate for attending all the sessions. On another note, he participated in the Juneteenth celebration at the America the Beautiful Park, and there was a large number of people there. He read the proclamation that the Board of County Commissioners did in support of Juneteenth. The city read their proclamation as well. There were other speakers, music and food. Finally, he encouraged everybody to arm themselves with some knowledge about what fireworks are illegal and have a safe and fun 4th of July.

Public Safety Sales Tax Update

Sheriff Bill Elder provided an overview of the Public Safety Sales Tax and highlighted how El Paso County Sheriff's Office increased salaries to be more competitive with the Colorado Springs Police Department, cut call response time and added staff. Other highlights include:

- Reduced attrition numbers
- Increased inmate safety by installing Lexan walls and new windows
- Modernized the IT system throughout the facility, the jail and through the office
- Stayed under budget, so remaining funds can be used next year
- Expanded and modernized the evidence facility
- Developing a second range at the Cheyenne Mountain Shooting Complex to accommodate the increased numbers of personnel
- Replaced all the aged firearms
- Added community involvement to the Bureau of Professional Responsibility
- Expand Women's Liaison Program
- Continuing to expand the Body-worn Camera Program

Sheriff Elder's goals to accomplish prior to the end of his term:

- Peer support program and employee wellness
- Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accreditation
- Maintain ADP at the jail at 1000 or below
- Maintain leadership training
- Establish a permanent Falcon Sub-Station

Commissioner Liaison Final Comments:

Commissioner Chairman Stan VanderWerf stated that he appreciates the presentations and the charts. With every Public Safety Sales Tax update, he learns something new about the Sheriff's office. Commissioner VanderWerf added that he thinks it is important to express our appreciation to Sheriff Elder for his service, and to everybody in the Sheriff's office, thank you to all of them. He thanked Sheriff Elder for his service and his many years of dedication to public safety. Some of the great things he has done in his two terms make the Sheriff's office a better place to work and to help them be more successful.

2022 El Paso County Citizens College Debrief

Jim Godfrey would like to do a Citizens College debrief and recommended that initially, the task force that we had going into it go through it and put some points together and then present that to the group at another meeting and add or subtract from it at that point versus doing a group meeting around the whole thing. Ryan Parsell asked if there was any feedback form distributed to the attendees of the Citizens College. Jim said yes, Stephanie did provide some feedback and that is why he wants to get with her and consolidate that information before bringing it forward to the whole group. The objective of the feedback is to look at what could have been done better, what was better, then make some recommendations going forward.

Kelvin Dean agreed that a recap is a good idea. He also gave a little feedback about session six. He stated the judicial piece was very educational. A district Attorney spoke, then two judges spoke. Judge Bain spoke about a program he oversees for veterans and active duty service members that have legal issues. He also mentioned that there were five participants that completed all six sessions.

Art Glynn agreed that it sounds like a great idea.

Other items

Jim Godfrey asked if anybody had anything else to talk about. Kelvin Dean stated that in the past, the Citizens Outreach Group has been instrumental in helping with the El Paso County Fair. There is a calendar with information about all the volunteer opportunities, and Kelvin suggested a short meeting to discuss just the fair; what are the members doing? What are the expectations? How do we identify ourselves as Citizens Outreach Group members? Jim stated that he would work with Ryan to find a date that fits calendars.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:10a.m.