

**MINUTES OF THE
DECRIMINALIZATION OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES TASK FORCE**

Friday, August 11, 2000 – 2:00 p.m.
West Valley City Hall

Members Present:

Rep. Glenn L. Way,
House Chair
Sen. Joseph L. Hull
Rep. Gary F. Cox
Rep. Bryan D. Holladay

Members Absent:

Sen. Terry Spencer
Rep. Loretta Baca
Rep. Katherine M. Bryson

Members Excused:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson,

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen,
Research Analyst
Ms. Esther Chelsea-McCarty,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Junie G. Anderson,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

- 1. Introduction to the West Valley City Program** - Mr. John W. Huber, West Valley City (WVC) Chief Enforcement Attorney, introduced the WVC program to task force members. He said it is not their intent to force what works well in Davis County to change. He said different communities should be allowed to tailor their traffic ticketing process to their local needs.
- 2. Observation of Traffic Cases** - The task force members observed actual “civil” traffic trials adjudicated by Keith L. Stoney, Administrative Law Judge, WVC.
- 3. Tour and Explanation of the Administrative Traffic Process** - Ms. DeAnn Varney, WVC Chief Administrative Law Clerk, explained the citation process to task force members. She said traffic mediators work with defendants as much as possible to resolve tickets.

Lieutenant Steve Sandquist, WVC Police, discussed the current process for handling traffic offenses. He said the police officers are extremely pleased with the WVC process. The officers spend much less time in court and more time on the streets.
- 4. Task Force Business** - No business was discussed at this time.
- 5. Civil Adjudication of Traffic Offenses** - Mr. Huber said people are not booked into the Salt Lake City jail on traffic offenses. He said Illinois and New York are models of a decriminalized system. He noted that WVC and Salt Lake City (SLC) are highly pleased with their decriminalization traffic models. As long as the state’s legitimate concerns regarding citizens’ rights are properly addressed, each city should have the ability to decide the best method of addressing traffic options. He said ideal legislation would allow local governments the freedom to adapt to local circumstances while ensuring citizen rights.

Mr. Wayne Pyle, WVC Assistant City Manager, gave a slide presentation decriminalization of minor traffic offenses. He distributed copies of the presentation. He said cities should be able to decriminalize their traffic codes and adjudicate cases in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Mr. Zane Gill, SLC Administrative Law Judge, said cities need administrative courts along with justice courts. He indicated the importance of flexibility in the system. He gave a slide presentation and copies were also distributed to task force members.

6. Another Perspective - Judge Ronald E. Kunz, West Jordan Justice Court, discussed the current process for handling traffic offense issues in West Jordan. He said the West Jordan City Council appointed a Traffic Court Referee (TCR) to resolve traffic problems and that 95 percent of traffic offenses are resolved by the TCR. He explained the responsibility and authority of the TCR. He indicated that the TCR relieves the courts of traffic trials by having the authority to offer several options to defendants as a resolution to the offenses. He explained that the TCR can only hearailable traffic offenses.

Ms. Revonn Stoner, Salt Lake City Administrative Enforcement Manager explained the process for reporting points.

7. Other Task Force Business - The next meeting of the task force will be September 8, at 9:00 a.m.

8. Adjourn - In the absence of a quorum, Chair Way closed the meeting at 4:37 p.m.