

**MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 19, 2002 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 416 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. D. Chris Buttars, Chair
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman, Chair
Sen. John W. Hickman
Sen. Alicia L. Suazo
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Rep. Trisha S. Beck
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Loraine T. Pace
Rep. Brent D. Parker
Rep. Paul Ray

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Jack A. Seitz
Rep. Matt Throckmorton

Staff Present:

Ms. Chyleen A. Arbon, Research Analyst
Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Alicia M. Laughlin, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary, Alicia Laughlin, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Buttars called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Lockhart moved to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2002 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Davis, Sen. Hickman, Sen. Valentine, Rep. Bourdeaux, Rep. Jones, Rep. Pace, Rep. Seitz, and Rep. Throckmorton absent for the vote.

2. Department of Corrections Year End Review

Mr. Mike Chabries, Executive Director, Department of Corrections, presented an overview of the Long Term Strategic Population Management Plan (Utah's RE-ENTRY Initiative). He distributed a hard copy of the presentation and a booklet "RE-ENTRY The Utah Approach to a National Corrections Initiative." Mr. Chabries reported on the reduction in recidivism and the cost savings resulting from the new program. He explained that the main goal of the program is to help inmates successfully transition back into the community. He listed the community resources available for inmates and highlighted the priorities of the Initiative.

Mr. Chabries concluded that despite budget reductions, the Initiative has been a success. The Department predicts that the program will save taxpayers \$65 million in 4 years and an additional \$24 million in construction costs.

Chair Buttars complemented Mr. Chabries on the Department's hard work and the creation of the Initiative to reduce crime.

Rep. Beck praised the Department for focusing on the treatment of inmates. She asked Mr. Chabries to update the Committee on the sexual offender treatment programs at the prison. Mr. Chabries indicated that it may not be possible to completely cure sex offenders, but it is possible to teach them how to control their

behavior. Rep. Beck stated that it is imperative that the Legislature not cut the budget for these specific programs because they greatly benefit the community.

Rep. Pace asked how important education is in the success of re-entry. Mr. Chabries indicated that if offenders do not return to the community with a GED, it is very likely that they will reoffend. He indicated that when offenders become educated, their chances for success increase significantly.

Rep. Ray asked if it would be better to put drug offenders in a private treatment facility on their first offense, instead of locking them up initially. Mr. Chabries indicated that in order for treatment to be the most successful, it must be in the right environment where the most support is available. He said that prison is not usually the best place for offenders to succeed in treatment.

Rep. Aagard asked for an update on the Positive Behavior Reward System Program implemented in 2001. He asked if that program has had any effect on the Initiative. Mr. Chabries indicated that the Positive Behavior Reward System helps offenders succeed in the Initiative Program.

3. Domestic Terrorism

Rep. Ray addressed the issue of domestic terrorism. He introduced the speakers and indicated that they would like to focus on what the Legislature can do to protect the citizens of Utah.

Mr. Robert Flowers, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety, reported on the successful security at the Olympic Winter Games and indicated that this experience has put Utah ahead of the rest of the nation. He gave a brief overview on the Homeland Security Mechanism and explained its function in the State. He expressed his concern for the need for funding Homeland Security to protect the State.

Mr. Rowland Mignone, Supervisor, Joint Terrorism Task Force, presented a brief overview on domestic and international terrorism. He explained the creation and purpose of the Joint Terrorism Task Force and indicated that partnerships with the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Safety have been crucial to protect the State and prevent criminal conduct. He highlighted the various types of terrorist crimes and also websites that contain information to educate those wanting to become involved in terrorism.

Mr. J. Richard Palmer, Assistant Special Agent In Charge, Salt Lake City Division, FBI, indicated that the number one priority of the FBI is to prevent acts of terrorism. He identified specific terrorism groups and indicated their interests and the groups they target nationally. He referred to the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001 and indicated that it has caused the FBI to focus on the detection and prevention aspect of its responsibilities with regard to terrorism. He addressed the security operation that took place during the Olympics and indicated that many resources were made available through improved coordination between the State and the FBI to analyze the information received through intelligence sources. He indicated that the FBI would like to continue the security measures as they were during the Olympics. He concluded that the FBI is currently implementing plans to co-locate the Joint Terrorism Task force along with the Utah State Homeland Security to bring intelligence resources together to serve the community's law enforcement and intelligence needs to protect the State.

Mr. Loring Draper, Lieutenant, Ogden City Police Department, indicated that during the Olympics law enforcement agencies worked very well together. He referred to an incident that happened during the Olympics regarding terrorism by white supremacists and stated that the Department is concerned about these various groups in Utah. He educated the Committee by listing each supremacist group and explained the symbols they use and what they mean. He discussed the beliefs of each group and indicated that each group is not necessarily a current concern in Utah, but could become so in the future.

Chair Buttars asked if the Davis County area is considered a center for white supremacists. Lt. Loring stated that these groups are scattered all over the State.

Rep. Ray indicated that he wanted the Committee to become aware of what is happening in the State with regard to domestic terrorism. He indicated that he would like to be preventative and not reactive with these types of groups.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Davis, Sen. Valentine, Rep. Bourdeaux, Rep. Jones, Rep. Lockhart, Rep. Seitz, and Rep. Throckmorton absent for the vote.

Chair Buttars adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.