

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008, 5:30 P.M.**  
**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ROOM**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** 15 voting members present, Quorum met.

Alisha Favorite	JoAnna Goodman
Bob Campbell	Kathi Loughlin
Bob Lee	Kristin Long
Candace Atkins	Luanne Hult
Charles Molnar	Sherra Clinton
Dee O'Brien	Sherri Stout-Torres
Heidi Simonson	Steve Robbins
Irwin Joseph	

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:**

Edna Williams	Alan Hiramura
Larry Biggan	

**COMMISSIONERS UNEXCUSED:**

Laura Segura	Martina O'Sullivan
JoAnn Allen	Scott MacDonald

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Anne Moulton	Ofelia Gomez
Judge Atack	Nance DeLaPena for Larry Biggam
Greg Carter	Trish Flanagan

1. **Call to Order.**  
Chair Simonson called meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.
2. **Roll Call: Introduction of Members.**  
Each Commissioner introduced him/herself. Guest introduced themselves
3. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda.**  
None
4. **Approval of April Minutes.**  
Motion to approve- approved.

5. **Oral Communications from the Community.**

Ofelia Gomez-

She wants south county women to be safer. She has concerns for P.D. arrests. Would like self-defense classes to be available. 911 calls concern for self-defense to get arrested.

Anne

She is a survivor of domestic violence since childhood. Felony or misdemeanors, Understanding Self Defense for Law Enforcement was the best class she took. Classes are a good thing.

Heidi

Where and when are classes offered?

Anne

They are in Aptos in the fall; At Cabrillo in Watsonville in the spring.

Heidi

Classes and support groups?

Dee

There are many classes available

Ofelia

Classes to teach self defense without it being a crime.

6. **Old Business.**

A. Vacancies- still looking for volunteers.

7. **New Business.**

A. Report by Superior Court: Presiding Judge Robert Atack

Re-organization of DV court

Judges retreat- April 2008

Discussed Issues

1. Goals
2. Assignments
3. DV calendar

Four Courtrooms in the Watsonville Courthouse

1. Child Support/ Traffic/ Civil
2. Misdos
3. Felony

There is currently three courtrooms doing DV in Santa Cruz

Five Judges- Committee decided

The plan- One department to handle DV

Combine family court and DV court for better communication.

Goal and Plan

ASAP-before end of year to decide what to do.

Talked to P.D., Bob Lee, Heidi to try and balance.

C.C.M.S. program 2010-2011- help with contribution. Decision to have all DV in Watsonville court  
Security issues- concerns for parking.

Open to questions:

**Ofelia-** is there wheelchair access, transportation to Watsonville?

**Irwin-** Very accessible, no transportation provided by court agencies would be present in court.

**Heidi-** problems for San Lorenzo Valley victims to get to Watsonville same for Watsonville to get here.

**Anne-** Trainings?

**Judge Attack-** Court has trainings and education for officers, staff using counselors and educational programs. Communications on a monthly basis always problems will arise.

**Anne-** many more violent crimes happening?

**Judge Attack-** Crime is down; filings are down; county is growing. Crime trend over all is lower.

**Anne-** Concerns about rape

**Judge Attack-** Crime is going down

**Steve Robbins-** Assaults and robbery are up

**Bob Campbell-** Sexual assault going down

**Heidi-** Emailed questions.

Judge Salazar will handle DV until 2009 in Department C

**Heidi-** what and how will communication happen between courtrooms?

Judge Attack- Files and courtrooms are in close proximity.

Commissioner Joseph and Salazar will discuss details further and in charge until 2009

Joseph- Will keep working on issues as we move forward when we see volume. Integrate is critical.

Heidi- Salazar will be jammed up?

Attack- will review after 3-4 months of courtroom adjustments will be made.

Heidi- Watsonville does not have bailiffs in hallways.

Attack- Watsonville bench officer has ability to control courtroom. Will have bailiff check hallways, parking lots and garage next door. Victims are able to leave with security or keep defendant in courtroom until victim leaves completely. Sensitive of hallways and parking lots in Watsonville. Security is #1 issue.

Irwin- Reception area in family law area. Panic button if needed at reception. Some issues can't be protected. Parking lots for example- lots of cameras, holding defendants in court.

Robbins- Sergeant at Watsonville courthouse will be advised of concerns.

Heidi- No officer visible is a concern.

Dee- Family law courtroom integration?

Atack- Case by case basis, right now civil only not criminal.

Bob Lee- Good alternative because Watsonville is more secure. One magistrate handling all develops relationships. Best practice for communication of family law and DV court. DA's office supports the efforts.

Atack- Be assured that we will put this in effect overtime if case begins in Santa Cruz it will remain.

DeLaPena- Full transition of cases

Atack- We will not inconvenience personnel.

Bob Lee- Checking with parties.

Heidi- The tam in Watsonville will be DV?

Bob Lee- Yes, best practice, poor families must commute to Santa Cruz.

Help to hold it in Santa Cruz.

South County

Ofelia-Will there be a public defenders office or translators in Watsonville?

DeLaPena- securing an office in Watsonville very soon.

Bob Lee- Conference rooms between courtrooms in Watsonville will help.

Dee- Good idea to keep one judge in same position to know cases.

Atack- Judges are educated and constant in rulings. Judges are usually on assignments for three years.

Dee- Very effective for advocates. Childcare for night court?

Joseph- Night family court in Watsonville in August.

Dee- Concerned about childcare provided by advocates. Budget cuts are hurting advocates

Heidi- Special Hiring still happening?

Bob Lee- Yes

B. Follow up from April retreat.

1. Reconstruction- Irwin online meeting- reconstruction 90 day deadline

2. Community report- Dee- June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 pm mid county. Laura is the contact for the group.

3. Small task forces

Bob lee- 100% success met in OFC

Alisha- did time line.

o No leader yet for support group

o Will contact others

o Education group to find out about grant

- Put Heidi on the email list

**Postpone voting until the June meeting**

C. Nomination and election of officers:

Steve Robbins will chair the June meeting.

Two terms only and has completed them.

Heidi: educate nominees- do not rout them in without attendance.

8. Task Forces and Committees

A. Report to the community: tabled.

B. Policy and Protocol:

1. Medical: has not heard from anyone since it was originally written.

**Motions to adopt medical and LE-DV guidelines table until the June Meeting**

2. LE-DV Protocol: Irwin- LE guidelines be held for approval, lack of EPO info, guideline changes discussed with Julie and Todd.

**Tabled for June Meeting; Email to Larry, Dee, Heidi, Steve, Julie for additional review.**

C. Educational Committee: there will be a full report next meeting.

9. **Announcements from Commissioners.**

None

Next meeting is June 11

10. **Adjournment.**

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.