

## Criminal Justice Task Force / Criminal Justice Ministry Meeting July 13, 2020

**Present:** Shanique, John, Louise, Roberta, Jo, Ellen, Mark, Betty, Cheryl, Kristi, Grace, Paul, Kathleen

1. **Introductions:** Our sympathies to Kristi on the loss of her dear friend.
2. **Proposed changes:** discuss changing meeting dates of usual CJTF meeting to first Mondays of the month and second meeting chaired by Penny and Roberta on the third Mondays to allow for attendance at HALT meetings on second Mondays. Try to keep to one hour, but will schedule a 1.5 hour zoom so we don't get kicked off abruptly. Decision: Wait and see if the bill passes, which would affect the HALT meetings. We will change our meeting time to 5 pm on the same date, at least for August.
3. **#HALT Update:** Shanique - no update yet, as she and Penny have not met. John notes there is a big push to call the bill to the floor, where it is thought there are the votes to pass it, along with elder parole, fair and timely parole, walking while trans, and protect our courts from ICE.

Reportedly Cuomo is putting a high price tag on HALT implementation and opposes it. HALT requires several provisions that might cost money, but not \$1B. We note that all the requirements are things that DOCS is supposed to be providing incarcerated individuals, anyway. Penny is attending the monthly #HALT Meeting tonight. Roberta represents CJM.

Updates: Jenna Shaw, fellow with the Urban Justice Center is planning a virtual statewide town hall to raise awareness about HALT. July 23 @ 6p. Details re AP to follow.

\*\*Resending link from the Albany Times Union that provides legislative updates. <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/tab=wm&ogbl#inbox/WhctKJVzWGqKqgSVrMgLkJkrvPhMBVtzHdkjVhRbdjwZgvzCnSNnDnjBCmPfvQLDjvRzzZbcompose=SxfkdtxwrHsCscBhNmIMjIdHqFjHVSFtLqtMVHdQNjnGcbWfFRFzHNzsfMqDmfxPhQBvndrVGGqbGgQTItZpbbdDzFKxRsTChhHRqvGtHfJNnTtdzcl>

\*\*Letter to Gov Cuomo. Howie Kirschenbaum: Tabled – unclear what the ask is. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AQPYI4Zzz4mbQtigDho1vS0UnqChhy8BVTrFb9ssw2A/edit>

John will send Kathleen an email from CAIC requesting action and Kathleen will send it to the email list.

### Action Plan

4. **Police Reform:** Position Paper, progress to date, purpose, opportunities to assist, report on recent meeting: Kathleen. Shanique:

Shanique, Roberta and Penny attended a community meeting sponsored by UCLM last week. Defunding is a vague term that means different things to different people. Reallocation involves taking funds from policing to invest in community services. Council voted to reduce funding by 3.7% but it's unclear where these funds will be allocated. John mentioned that there might be a proposal to provide some of these funds to PAB. Loretta Scott and Willie Lightfoot did not indicate that decisions were made about the funds. It was a good meeting about the pros and cons of reallocation, including potential consequences. There are many decisions that will need to be made. Unclear what the budget cycle is, we think it starts in January.

There is a blue ribbon commission on racism forming and a lot of ground was covered. Hopefully there will be more meetings so that the community can give input. Most of the police budget is reportedly personnel and pensions. RPD is working under the old contract.

In NYC, 50% of the budget is allocated to police. What percentage of that comes from the federal government go to the police here? The Democrats are saying one thing and the Republicans are saying something else on this issue. August 12, FiA will do a presentation from 5:40 to 6:45 on defunding, under LIVE FREE.

PAB was patterned on the work done in Oakland, where this work has been underway for many years. The point of the position paper is to develop a knowledge base so that we understand what the concepts are and what the results may be. John indicated that the current police percentage is less than 20% of the overall budget. The largest portion is the RCSD.

Please google Let's Get Real Rochester to learn about the City's initiative. Ellen expressed some skepticism about the effectiveness of Get Real and didn't want us to pattern too much of our paper on that. We're trying to survey all the points of view in the community and then make our position clear. Cheryl volunteered to help as needed. Barbara Brody contacted Kathleen and offered to get information about work done in Oregon.

### **Action Plan**

5. **Advocacy:** Update Plush Dozier: Roberta: has spoken to Shonday and Plush is doing OK, courts are shut down so there is no action there. The DA on his case has taken himself off and assigned an ADA, which may be a good sign. He had a hearing and the judge gave him a choice and he chose a jury trial. He's taking a lot of responsibility and working well with his new attorney, is working on his own case and is considering a civil case about being sent to Attica. There is reportedly a video on the alleged victim being stalked by someone other than Plush. His attitude is positive and he is active on his own behalf.

6. Consider what actions each of us will undertake to ground us in antiracism work. For example, Kathleen took a weeklong online course with Check Your Privilege and signed up to join the Co-Conspirator's Lounge on that site, also following several educators on Instagram. Cheryl sent out an announcement about a FiA. 10

**7. Other news**

There will be two meetings a month. 6p-7p

Next two meetings:

**Monday, 27 July at 6 pm**, Penny and Roberta

**Monday, 10 August at 5 pm**, Shanique and Kathleen

8. Briefly, Faith in Action is the "parent" national organization for RocACTS. Bring the HEAT is a template offered by FiA in which to consider police reform efforts. This outline has been previously sent out as a forward, for your reference. H=Hiring, E=Equipment, A=Accountability, T=Training.

Respectfully,

Kathleen with Shanique for CJTF, and Penny and Roberta for CJM