

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE BI-WEEKLY MEETING  
UU CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY  
ROC/ACTS CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE  
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020  
6 -7 PM**

**Present:** Penny, Roberta, Shanique, Kathleen, Dr. Gayle, Betty, John, Louise, Jo

**1. Introductions**

**2. Minutes** from 7/13/20 meeting: accepted, no changes

**3. 7/13/20 Action Plan.** Police Reform Position Paper (attached)

**Google** Let's get real Rochester <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/REAL/>

Shanique and Kathleen: Report on community interviews and meetings: This paper is an effort to present the position of the CJTF/CJM on the issue of "defunding" or reallocation of resources for police, specifically with regard to the potential impact on Rochester, within the framework of Bring the H.E.A.T., Faith in Action's recommended approach. We spoke with Councilman Willie Lightfoot, Rev. Louis Stewart of UCLM and Prof. Irshad Altheimer, RIT. We reviewed related articles and papers. The paper is long and an abbreviated Summary will be produced soon. The next steps will be to ensure that Rev. Stewart and Prof. Altheimer, who are quoted in the paper, agree with how their positions are cited, and then to consider distribution to local news outlets and possibly a press conference. Dr. Gayle suggested that we consider submitting the piece to the NYT and the New Yorker. Dr. Gayle raised concern over the specifics of mental health testing and examination, as this area can be controversial regarding what instruments are used, etc. We will adjust the paper to reflect that. Betty also mentioned that the pledge #FireAllRacistCops in Bring the H.E.A.T. refers to the data that indicates that across the country, racist groups have made efforts to have members enter police departments. This raises the question of how deep are background checks on candidates, and are these sufficient to uncover such affiliations? Betty has some information on this that she will share. We may also consider doing an educational/informational event for the public, possibly with a well-known speaker to headline. In the process of developing this paper, Shanique and Kathleen have been invited to attend UCLM meetings on police funding, body worn cameras and the Sheriff's Association proposals in reaction to 50a and calls for reallocations of funds. I will circulate to the attendees tonight the Power Point presentation we had from the Public Defender's Office.

Update from Barbara Brody re police reform in Oregon: not available

**4. #HALT:** Penny: The Town Hall meeting included presentations and education from formerly incarcerated people across the country. It was excellent. The NYS

legislative session is essentially over, however, and HALT has not been passed. Buffalo recently did an event that went very well and received considerable positive coverage. We are expecting an influx of more progressive Assembly members, which may improve the chances for passage next session. We have to reach the Governor. The Department of Corrections is a powerful group that opposes changes. One idea is to develop an accountability board for corrections officers.

5. **PAB: Betty:** waiting for the judge's decision on disciplinary power. Meanwhile, the PAB has other powers that it can exercise. Good news about body worn camera data not being redacted and fees for reconstituting. Please see the D&C article on the fired RPD officer blaming the Mayor for the loss of his position, byline: Brian Sharp. We also need to pay attention to the police contract as it is negotiated.

6. **Action items:** Penny will get in touch with a friend about connecting with SURJ, which meets on the same schedule we do. SURJ just had an event with Danielle Ponder, and is a community group we should connect with. We should be attending City Council meetings on Zoom and signing with RocACTS attached to our names. Write letters to the editor and to representatives of all sorts on these issues, as citizens, particularly as an immediate response when there is an incident.

7. **Announcements:** Press conference tomorrow, Tuesday at 10:30 on the Sheriff's Association proposals, also on Facebook. Announcement was sent out previously and will be forwarded again after these minutes.

8. **Next Meeting dates: Please note the following schedule changes:**

**CJTF meeting led by Shanique and Kathleen continues on the second Monday of the month but starts at 5:00 so that Penny can attend the HALT meeting immediately following.**

**The fourth Monday meeting led by Penny and Roberta starts at 6:00. Both meetings are scheduled for one hour.**

**Next meetings: Monday, August 10, 5 pm  
Monday, August 24, 6 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen  
2 Attachments