



Committee Referral: Criminal Justice Advisory Group

Intergovernmental Relations Committee
December 21, 2020



POLICY QUESTION

- Criminal Justice Advisory Group referral was one of several made to City Council committees related to the Safe Charlotte initiative
- Policy Question: Define the city's role in collaborating on the Criminal Justice Advisory Group (CJAG) as well as opportunities to collaborate with Mecklenburg County on re-entry



OVERVIEW

- Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Advisory Group (CJAG) was created in 2005 as an informal forum where criminal justice system leaders engage in systemic planning and coordination
- **Mission Statement:** *“The Criminal Justice Advisory Group is committed to making a positive difference in the Mecklenburg County criminal justice system through communication, research, coordination, and planning. The group collaboratively develops programs and policies, and advocates change, in the interest of improving public safety.”*



CJAG COMMITTEE

POSITION HOLDERS

County Manager’s Designee (Chairperson)	Chief District Court Judge	Chief Magistrate
Child Support Enforcement Director	Clerk of Court	Community Support Services Director
City Manager’s Designee	District Attorney	Health Department Director
Judicial District Manager	Public Defender	Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Sheriff	Trial Court Administrator	Police Chief – Charlotte
Police Chief – Cornelius	Police Chief – Davidson	Police Chief – Huntersville
Police Chief – Matthews	Police Chief – Mint Hill	Police Chief – Pineville



CJAG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Executive Committee:
 - Sets meeting agendas
 - Establishes standing committees
 - Monitors progress

POSITION HOLDERS

County Manager's Designee (Chairperson)	Chief District Court Judge
District Attorney	Police Chief – Charlotte
Police Chief – Town	Public Defender
Sheriff	Trial Court Administrator
Judicial District Manager	



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. To bring together key decision makers on a monthly basis to openly discuss issues that affect the criminal justice system.
2. To identify problems and issues, and to proactively address those issues through planning and coordination.
3. To facilitate the administration of criminal justice and the provision of related services and programs.
4. To generate system-wide data that increases knowledge of the criminal justice system and strengthens decision-making.
5. To continually improve a criminal justice plan that defines systemic goals and objectives, identifies areas of strength and weakness, and includes an action plan with timelines and evaluative aspects.
6. To initiate innovative programs and policies which enhance the functionality of the criminal justice system and increase public safety.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

7. To review costs related to criminal justice agency activities, avoid duplicate spending, and prioritize the use of limited funds.
8. To determine potential grant opportunities, identify eligible agencies and programs, and synchronize the grant application process to ensure that, on balance, no opportunities are lost.
9. To interconnect, and possibly consolidate, existing criminal justice groups, committees, and boards operating in Mecklenburg County to avoid redundancy of efforts and to ensure cohesive systemic planning.
10. To develop and monitor an integrated information system that permits the timely sharing of data among criminal justice agencies.
11. To respond to critical issues and collectively develop resolutions before they become crises.



CITY PARTICIPATION IN CJAG

- City Manager and Police Chief are committed to collaborating with the criminal justice system through the Criminal Justice Advisory Group
- City Manager and Police Chief view the Criminal Justice Advisory Group as a venue to seek other perspectives on criminal justice issues
- Criminal Justice Advisory Group will be utilized to identify greater opportunities for the City to exercise an appropriate role in Reentry issues



REENTRY

- Reentry is a broad term used to refer to issues related to the transition of criminal offenders from prison to community supervision
- 8% of urban and suburban adult population have a felony record – about 55,000 people in Charlotte-Mecklenburg
- State of North Carolina and Mecklenburg County have traditionally exercised a greater role in reentry issues than the City



REENTRY

- Community Relations Committee can investigate complaints filed by people with criminal records related to fair housing
 - US Department of Housing and Urban Development guidance provided in “Application of Fair Housing Act Standards to the Use of Criminal Records by Providers of Housing and Real Estate-Related Transactions”
- Great Neighborhoods Committee is currently considering opportunity to provide housing education for landlords and people exiting prison and the court system



STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the City Manager and Police Chief continue participating in CJAG to collaborate with the criminal justice system and to seek other perspectives on criminal justice issues
- That CJAG be utilized to identify further potential areas of opportunity to collaborate with Mecklenburg County on reentry issues