

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL
WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB MCKENNA
May 18, 2005

930 TACOMA AVENUE SOUTH, ROOM 1045
TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98402
(253) 798-7777 -- FAX: (253) 798-7509 -- TDD: (253) 798-4018
www.co.pierce.wa.us/council

(Note: These minutes are not verbatim. Recorded tapes are available upon request.)

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Pierce County Council was called to order at 10:18 a.m. by Acting Chair Lee.

Councilmembers Present: Timothy M. Farrell, Terry Lee, and Dick Muri.

Other Departments Present: Lyle Quasim, Executive Chief of Staff; Jerry Horne, Prosecuting Attorney; and Paul Pastor, Sheriff.

Council Staff Present: Patty Face, Deputy Clerk of the Council; Steve Gross, Deputy Legal Counsel, Karen Lease-Smith, Councilmember Assistant; Susan Long, Administrator for Legal and Operations; Susan Matthew, Councilmember Assistant; Carolyn Pendle, Senior Research Analyst; Leslie Swalley, Councilmember Assistant; and Tom Weber, Administrator for Research and Policy.

There were approximately 12 visitors present.

Lee welcomed and introduced Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna and thanked him for addressing Council regarding methamphetamine issues.

McKenna thanked Council for the opportunity and emphasized his main theme is that Olympia must and can do more to battle methamphetamine issues. McKenna highlighted three new major components the Attorney General is undertaking to fight methamphetamine crime in Washington State:

1. Attorney General is providing additional funds to prosecute methamphetamine crime in the Criminal Justice Division.

2. Attorney General Public Outreach, Awareness, and Communication Component. The Attorney General is working with community methamphetamine action teams to provide for community education and mobilization. McKenna praised Safe Streets and Pierce County Alliance for their tremendous accomplishments regarding methamphetamine and for being role models nationwide.
3. Attorney General's Advisory Group Component. The Group is partnering with the Washington State Patrol to provide leadership in Olympia and to alleviate the social crises resulting from methamphetamine crime.

McKenna stated the Attorney General's Office is committed to reversing federal cuts, committed to effective State laws, committed to enhancing education and mobilization within communities, and committed to supporting law enforcement on the methamphetamine forefront. He introduced Jackie Rosenblatt, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Tacoma Office; Chris Johnson, Policy Director, and Luke Esser, Outreach Director.

Lee stated Pierce County takes methamphetamine issues very seriously, and the Council adopted a resolution earlier this year sponsored by all Councilmembers in support of House Bill 2266 to get methamphetamine precursor drugs off retailer's shelves. Lee commented that Councilmember Muri, Bunney, and he traveled to Washington D.C. recently and met with Washington's Congressional Delegation regarding the methamphetamine crisis.

Muri stated the importance of implementing tracking of retail pseudophedrine purchases state and nationwide to reduce methamphetamine crime, and referred to successful methamphetamine crime reduction of 80 percent in Oklahoma due to tracking implementation.

Farrell praised the Pierce County Legislative Delegation for their success in working with neighboring states on methamphetamine issues and for passing House Bill 2266. He acknowledged Safe Streets and Pierce County Alliance for their work on the issue.

Quasim thanked McKenna for his leadership practices and said it is important that Safe Streets have the resources to work within the community.

Horne stated the Prosecutor is working to marshall resources to deal with methamphetamine and he looks forward to working with the Attorney General.

Pastor stated Pierce County has a long history and strong record with methamphetamine. The Sheriff partners with Child Protective Services, the Prosecutor, Planning and Land Services, Safe Streets, and communities. He reiterated that public safety is collectively everyone's job, and not a spectator sport. Pastor thanked McKenna for listening and for his efforts.

Public Comments

Priscilla Lisicich of Safe Streets and the Pierce County Methamphetamine Action Team, said Pierce County has 106 methamphetamine labs and 44 percent of the State's methamphetamine problem. She stated Safe Streets wants to increase awareness and education to empower youth and parents against methamphetamine crime.

Lisa Copp of Safe Streets highlighted the agency's success on having precursor drugs removed from retailer's shelves even before legislation was passed.

McKenna said he looked forward to the Pierce County community site visits with Safe Streets representatives after the conclusion of the meeting.

Lee said it has been a privilege to serve as a Safe Streets Board Member, and Farrell currently is a Safe Streets Board Member.

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Dean Wilson said he is proud to have been involved with Pierce County Alliance and the Safe Streets Board and thanked McKenna for his awareness and efforts.

Quasim commended McKenna for his community visit in Pierce County saying it is powerful and very much appreciated.

Lee thanked McKenna and concluded that working together on methamphetamine issues will make a difference.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia L. Face, Deputy Clerk of the Council

Approved:

Shawn Bunney, Council Chair

Date Approved

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