

League of Women Voters

**Kane County Government
Monitoring Report**

MEETING: Judicial & Public Safety Committee and Criminal Justice Project Steering Committee: DATE: April 19, 2007. REPORTING: Darlene Bakk, also in attendance Hal Cattron.

ATTENDING: Chair Mitchell, VC, Mark Davoust, Fahy, Neuberger, Noverini, Shoemaker, Tredup.

WAS PRESS IN ATTENDANCE: Yes, Smith, *Daily Herald*, Lord, *Beacon*, Not sure of others.

DID PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: N/A

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Note: Criminal Justice Project Steering Committee met directly after the JPS committee. Minutes approved/no public comment/monthly financial report. **States Atty.** Barsanti discussed various diversion programs (Second chance, etc.) and success keeping jail numbers down. Reported on newest SCRAM program (he couldn't tell committee what it stood for). However one can learn more about this program by going to *Chronicle* article which mentions this at a March meeting. <http://www.kcchronicle.com/articles/2007/03/31/news/local/doc460ce0f7c8f75967981407.txt> and/or <http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2006/scram-bracelets-monitor.html>. This is a no cost program which consists of ankle bracelets worn by persons with DUI convictions which monitors/senses alcohol consumption. If person is still drinking, they can bring them back to court. Successful in DuPage County.

Coroner: C West reported he was happy with coordination efforts with sheriff and state's attorney's office, however he recently had a problem with coordinating efforts between municipality (Geneva) and animal control. Situation consisted of a Geneva man who was found dead in home. His cat was dead also as well as an animal in backyard. He was unhappy that when he called animal control, they told them they could not pick up the animals. He said he felt this was poor service for Kane County residents when health and life and death issues were involved. As a result of not getting a response, he took dead animals to County Board chair McConnaughy, who just happened to be on vacation. Doesn't know why animals died but does know why man died. Mitchell offered to sit down with West at another time to discuss this. Note: As observers we do not have the luxury of interviewing after meetings, but reporters did, so look for info in newspapers April 20th for the rest of the story. **Adult Corrections:** Numbers are 555 with 120 shipped out of county. By law have to ask those in jail system if they are US citizens. They have to trust answer. However, if they are not, there is a process they must follow which entails letting certain countries know their citizens are in our system. **Sheriff:** Perez reported on his offender watch program. Concerned citizens can track sex offenders one mile away in their neighborhood by going to a web site and/or signing up for e-mail alerts CJ project Steering committee: Short meeting on progress of building

new jail. Mitchell requested a tour soon for board members and was told one would be set up shortly as the citizens' advisory committee also requested one. Resolution amending contract for additional professional services with Voorhis/Robertson Justice Services, Inc, in an amount not to exceed \$260,798. Approved.

MOST CRITICAL ISSUE: It would seem like the public should be aware of what the Coroner was reporting about dead animals and the Geneva man. Is this a health concern for others in the community?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: To listen to the follow-up on this at next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: May 17, 2007