



**Minutes  
Tempe Family Justice Commission  
January 19, 2016**

Minutes for the Tempe Family Justice Commission Meeting held on January, 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room, 3500 South Rural Road Tempe, Arizona 85282.

**Commission Members Present**

Karyn Lathan, Chair  
MonaLou Callery, Vice Chair  
Sarah Buel  
Patrick C. Foster  
Kerby Rapp  
Bill Richardson  
Kristen Scharlau

**Commission Members Absent**

Paul Ferguson  
Beatrice "Bunny" Kastenbaum  
Laura Massengale  
Joan Sisco

**Staff Present**

Naomi Farrell, Human Services Director  
Valerie Kime Trujillo, Human Services Deputy Director  
John Rush, Acting Police Chief  
Christopher Coppala, Arizona Republic Reporter

**Item 1 – Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM**

**Item 2 – Public Appearances**

John Rush, Acting Police Chief – John Rush expressed interest in potentially working together with the Commission to move issues forward. The Police Department is open to a dialogue. Chairwoman Karyn Lathan attended a luncheon with Police Chief Candidates and felt all three candidates were good.

### **Item 3 – Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion by Commission member Bill Richardson to approve minutes; second by Vice Chairwoman MonaLou Callery. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 4 – Develop a mission statement**

Chairwoman Karyn Lathan read the current description of the Commission. Commission member Patrick Foster offered a summarized version including criminal justice, health, and community resources.

- Suggested Language
  - Direct Service
  - Research and relevant data
  - Training
    - Criminal Justice
    - Prosecution
- Education of Victim Issues
  - Holistic Services
    - Not just legal
      - i.e. Coffee shop to learn job skills
  - How do we protect those who are terrified?
- Are we providing “direct services” as a Commission?
  - Commission’s consensus was no
    - Need to examine what direct services are available
      - i.e. Care 7
- Safety Audit
  - Look at community services
  - Make recommendation for eliminating legalese from the forms
  - Getting booking officers to record statements etc.

Commission Member Patrick Foster used most of the language out of the Commission description from the internet; Chairwoman Karyn Lathan asked if the Commission needed any other language other than “training” and wants to assure that victims are also included as well as offenders. Commission Member Sarah Buel asked if the Commission could suggest legislation. Chairwoman Karyn Lathan asked Commission Member Patrick Foster to incorporate suggestions into his draft mission statement and it would be voted on at a next Commission meeting.

### **Item 5 – Needs Assessment**

- **Current statistics**
  - Rape study 2014
    - Rapists prosecution and arrests are low
    - This needs to be a priority
    - Assure that staff/supervisors are trained
    - Reported rapes are increasing
      - Due to education and more proactive reporting

- Rape Kits are now being funded by New York County District Attorney's office
- Police Department is understaffed
  - Staff is 100% dedicated to solving these cases
- Look at the process – What changes can the Commission make?
- Hidden Factors in the statistics
  - Look at cases filed at County Attorney's office
- Look at whether suspects are repeat offenders
- Could the Commission assist in having an attorney assist in developing the defense of non-consensual?
- Maricopa County Attorney's Office John Garcia supervising the Tempe Police Department grant on Rape Kits
  - County has provided training by nurse practitioners to better use/understand these kits
- Look at collaborative efforts, assessing needs of each organization around the table
- Six (6) Domestic Violence Detectives
  - Twenty hundred forty seven (247) cases a year
  - 75% are Domestic Violence cases
- Volume of crises over this last weekend
  - County group working on Domestic Violence guidelines
- Arizona State University talked with Mesa about their assistance with testing
  - Arizona State University has thirteen (13) sexual assault cases
  - Seeking outside sources
- East Valley Police Chief Association or Maricopa Association of Governments would be a good resource
- **Current resources**
  - Victims Advocate in Tempe Court every morning
    - a. Care 7 offers a range of resources – 24 hour assistance
    - b. Makes contact with victims at the scene
    - c. Explain the process
    - d. Get them engaged
    - e. Get kit completed
    - f. Offer support and encouragement
    - g. Assist Tempe Police Department with victims which frees Police Officers to complete their job
    - h. Three full time Victim Advocates on staff – Two of which are bilingual
    - i. Transportation offered
    - j. Care 7 has doubled numbers in the last year

- k. Joint effort with courts, police department, and victim advocates.
    - o Needs are not just today, but long term
- “Start By Believing”
  - o Police Department and Care 7 have been discussing and trained in “Start By Believing”

**Item 6 – Community Center model – Future agenda item**

**Item 7 – Meeting Schedule and location**

**Item 8 – Adjournment** – Motion filed to adjourn, motion passed unanimously

**Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Tempe Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room.**

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Placencia/Valerie Kime Trujillo  
Reviewed by: Naomi Farrell

---

Karyn Lathan,  
Chair, Tempe Family Justice Commission