



## Minutes Tempe Family Justice Commission May 19, 2020

Minutes of the TEMPE FAMILY JUSTICE COMMISSION held on Tuesday, May 19, 6:00 p.m., at the Tempe Public Library – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Margaret “Peggy” Tinsley, Chair  
Jeanette Costa  
Robin Nelson  
Mary O’Grady  
Kristen Scharlau  
Patrick Foster  
Jill Oliver

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Ilene Dode, Vice-Chair  
Jeffery Glover  
Karyn Lathan  
Patricia Riggs

**City Staff Present:**

Paul Bentley, Deputy Human Services Director  
Melissa Placencia, Administrative Assistant

**Public Appearances**

None present

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

Chair Margaret “Peggy” Tinsley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Agenda Item 2 – Attendance**

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of February 18, 2020 Minutes**

**MOTION:** Commission Member Mary O’Grady moved to APPROVE the February 18, 2020 minutes.

**SECOND:** Motion Seconded by Commission Member Jeanette Costa; Motion passed on a 7-0 Vote

**AYES:** Chair Peggy Tinsley, Commission Members Jeanette Costa, Robin Nelson, Mary O’Grady, Patrick Foster, Kristen Scharlau, and Jill Oliver

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Vice-Chair Ilene Dode, Commission Members Jeffrey Glover, Karyn Lathan, and Patricia Riggs

**Agenda Item 5 – Chair Remarks**

- Peggy reached out to Mayor-elect Corey Woods to discuss the Commission's initiatives and would like to invite him to a future Commission meeting.
- Peggy expressed interest in visiting the Maricopa center virtually. This could be scheduled in June/July

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Arizona State University Presentation – Nicole Lujan**

This presentation was tabled for the June meeting

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Review Healing Arts: Recovering from Sexual Assault Through Creativity Article**

This presentation was tabled for the June meeting

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Review and Edit Memorandum to Mayor & Council regarding Sexual Abuse and Child Abuse (attachment)**

The Commission reviewed and edited the attached memorandum.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Review and Update Strategic Plan Accomplishments**

Melissa will send an electronic version of the strategic plan ahead of the July meeting.

#### **1.0 Access to Justice/Safety**

- 1.1 Family Justice Center (Tinsley) – MEMO COMPLETE
- 1.2 Less Fear More Reporting (Scharlau)

#### **2.0 Wrap Around Services**

- 2.1 An EMS Liaison - like A. Carbajal (Carbajal) - COMPLETE
- 2.2 Supporting Next Steps: Re-Entry Program (Lathan) - COMPLETE
- 2.3 Trauma Informed Department Champions (Scharlau)
- 2.4 Better Use of Existing Resources/Identify Partners/Identify Other Agencies Doing Trauma Informed Care\_in Tempe [Combined Accomplishments] (Dode) - COMPLETE

#### **3.0 Training**

- 3.1 Simulation Strategies – (Kastenbaum)
- 3.2 Outreach and Training for Justice, Health Community, Public Officials – (Oliver/O'Grady)
- 3.3 All Departments Use Organization Assessment Tool (Scharlau)
- 3.4 Supervisor Trained to Recognize and Respond to Traumatized Staff (Oliver)

#### **4.0 Education & Opportunity**

- 4.1 Education and Outreach – (Tinsley/Lathan)
- 4.2 Outreach, Networking and Training Activities (Foster)
- 4.3 Identify the Populations that are Vulnerable – (O'Grady)

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Commission Member Updates**

The Commission agreed to move their meeting start time to 4:00 pm.

#### **Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda Items**

- ASU Presentation
- Review Healing Arts Article
- Review and Update Strategic Plan Accomplishments

#### **Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m

Next meeting will be on ~~June 16, 2020~~ June 23, 2020

Minutes Prepared by: Melissa Placencia  
Reviewed by: Paul Bentley

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Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley, Chair  
Tempe Family Justice Commission

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**THROUGH:** Naomi Farrell, Human Services Director  
**FROM:** City of Tempe Family Justice Commission  
**DATE:** June 12, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month



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### **Purpose**

April is designated as Sex Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. To recognize the prevalence and severity of this crime in Tempe, and in support of the City Council's Safe and Secure Communities, the Tempe Family Justice Commission (TFJC) presents the following information based on its research and makes these recommendations for action. The TFJC intended to provide this memorandum to Mayor and Council in advance of April 2020, but as you are aware, COVID-19 has had direct impact on the Commission's ability to meet. More importantly, COVID-19 has had a direct and negative impact on incidents of sexual violence in Tempe. Shelter in Place orders coupled with financial pressures have led to tension in the home. Families are now together twenty-four hours a day seven days a week, dealing with a variety of mixed emotions and stressors. Isolation from others in partnership with forced togetherness in the home has led to increased sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

### **Context**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sexual violence is a serious problem that can have lasting, harmful effects on victims and their family, friends, and communities. The goal of sexual violence prevention is to stop these crimes from happening in the first place. The solutions are just as complex as the problem. Preventing sexual violence requires addressing factors at all levels of the social ecology - the individual, relational, community, and societal levels.

The Tempe Police Department has had to adapt with the increase in reporting. In 2019 there were 141 sexual assaults reported. Currently, there are six specialty detectives that investigate sexual assaults, two that address internet crimes against children, one sex offender notification detective and one detective who investigates child physical abuse and neglect. All of these detectives are required to receive extensive training in these specific areas which can take up to a year to receive with continued annual trainings.

### **Best Practices for Assisting Victims of Sexual Violence**

The City of Tempe, consisting of city government, non-profit organizations, schools, faith community, business community and families must band together in coordination to address this issue and apply the following best practices:

1. Promote social norms to protect against violence, including bystander approaches and mobilizing as many allies as possible. Although men and boys can be targeted for education, they are also victims and should understand the importance of reporting these crimes.
2. Teach skills to prevent sexual violence, including social-emotional learning, teaching healthy, safe dating and intimate relationship skills to teens, promoting healthy sexuality, and empowerment-based training.
3. Provide opportunities to empower and support victims by strengthening economic supports for women and families and promoting leadership opportunities for youth and especially girls.
4. Create protective environments by improving safety and monitoring in schools, establishing and consistently applying workplace safety policies, and addressing community-level risks through environmental approaches.
5. Support victims to lessen harm, with victim-centered services at a trauma-sensitive facility, including treatment for victims of sexual violence and treatment for at-risk children and families to promote healthy behavior.

### **Current City of Tempe Practices**

The City of Tempe incorporates many, if not all, of these best practices through the actions of the Police Department, Human Services Department and CARE 7. Examples include a robust victim assistance program that has embedded advocates in both the Domestic Violence Unit and the Special Victim Unit of the Tempe Police Department. CARE 7 also provides daily advocacy services for Tempe Municipal Court including assistance with obtaining Orders of Protection. Additionally, CARE 7 has placed Youth Specialists in all seven Tempe high schools and four middle schools to provide supportive social-emotional

services and connection to resources. The Youth Specialists are able to directly connect school-aged victims to advocates who can guide the student and their family through the criminal justice system. The CARE 7 program also provides clinical counseling for victims, free of charge. All victim services, including counseling services, can be accessed remotely, via computer or phone.

The Tempe Police Department (TPD) is part of the Maricopa County Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Team which works together to provide resources to victims through victim advocates and investigate reports of sexual assaults, collect evidence and ultimately prosecute offenders. The #MeToo movement along with proactive measures taken by Tempe Police to include additional law enforcement trainings and awareness, have continued to ease the process for victims of sexual assault to come forward resulting in rising numbers of reports. The investigations move forward when the victim is ready and at the pace they are comfortable with/can control. The majority of reports involve known suspects and many cases involve DNA and the use of technology (social media and/or devices), both of which can take time to process and analyze. TPD utilizes the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) crime lab for DNA processing which can take up to a year depending on the case and resources available at AZDPS.

However, services to victims of sexual violence could be enhanced if the Mayor and City Council consider and implement the recommendations set forth below:

### **Recommendations**

1. Expand the purview of the City Council led workgroup on Sex Trafficking to include exploring best practices toward providing centralized services to victims of sex crimes. Centralized trauma-sensitive services at the local level are proven to result in more positive outcomes for victims. Mayor and Council recently approved a Community Services Complex (CSC) Master Plan. We recommend that centralized victim services be included in that planning process. Examples of such services can be found in surrounding jurisdictions such as Phoenix, Scottsdale, Mesa, Glendale, Chandler and Maricopa.
2. Televising existing CDC sexual violence awareness videos on Channel 11.
3. Duplicate the City's recent public awareness video campaign on Domestic Violence for Sexual Assault Awareness.
4. Discuss this issue both officially and in casual conversation.
5. Issue a city proclamation acknowledging retroactively this month-long observation.
6. Display a teal blue light on city hall in honor of this event.

### **Resources:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/prevention.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/index.html>

<https://www.rainn.org/SAAPM#Week 1: Speak Out>

<https://www.nsvrc.org/saam/graphics>

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/prevention-programs/sexualabuse/>

<https://pcaaz.org/>