

**MINUTES  
of the  
THIRD MEETING  
of the  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE  
of the  
COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**October 7, 2020  
Video Conference Meeting**

The third meeting of the Criminal Justice Reform Subcommittee of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee (CCJ) was called to order by Representative Antonio Maestas, co-chair, on October 7, 2020 at 9:06 a.m. by video and audio conference via an online platform.

**Present**

Rep. Antonio Maestas, Co-Chair  
Sen. Sander Rue, Co-Chair  
Rep. Alonzo Baldonado  
Rep. Gail Chasey  
Sen. Richard C. Martinez  
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

**Absent**

Sen. Gregory A. Baca  
Rep. Zachary J. Cook

**Advisory Members**

Sen. Bill B. O'Neill  
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm

Rep. Tara L. Lujan

**Guest Legislators**

Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena  
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo  
Sen. Linda M. Lopez

**Staff**

Elisabeth Johnson, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Sean Dolan, Staff Attorney, LCS  
Erin Bond, Research Assistant, LCS

**Minutes Approval**

Because the subcommittee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the subcommittee.

**Handouts**

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and are posted on the legislature's website.

**Wednesday, October 7**

**Police Accountability and the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy (NMLEA) (9:12 a.m.)**

Kelly Alzaharna, director, NMLEA; Jack Jones, former director, NMLEA; and Matt Baca, chief counsel, Office of the Attorney General (OAG), provided the subcommittee with presentations regarding police accountability and the NMLEA. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CJRS&Date=10/7/2020&ItemNumber=1>.

Questions and comments from subcommittee members addressed the following topics:

- how many recommendations for discipline were made in the last year;
- whether the legislature had provided a proper budget for the tasks the NMLEA has been assigned;
- questions about Mr. Baca's subcommittee and whether that subcommittee is open to the public;
- the NMLEA's staffing needs; and
- the relationship between criminal investigations and discipline of officers.

**Best Practices in Juvenile Justice (10:49 a.m.)**

Danielle J. Lipow, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, provided the subcommittee with a presentation regarding best practices in juvenile justice. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/CJRS%20100720%20Item%202%20Juvenile%20Justice%20in%202020.pdf>.

Questions and comments from subcommittee members addressed the following topics:

- responses from local school districts regarding training in handling students with disabilities;
- whether there is monitoring of New Mexico's adaption of the Missouri model; and
- how the proposals described by Ms. Lipow can help decrease crime.

**Juvenile Justice Panel, A Community Perspective (11:33 a.m.)**

Diana Garcia, deputy district attorney, Second Judicial District; Albino Garcia, La Plazita Institute; Erik Rivera, SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP); and Rodrigo Rodriguez, SWOP, provided the subcommittee with a presentation regarding juvenile justice. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/CJRS%20100720%20Item%203%20Letter%20to%20Secretary%20Blalock.pdf>.

Questions and comments from subcommittee members addressed the following topics:

- the need to reform the Children's Code regarding juvenile justice; and
- how to hold youth accountable without prosecution.

### **Update from the New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC) and Reform Committee (1:40 p.m.)**

Linda Freeman, executive director, NMSC; Douglas Carver, deputy director, NMSC; Angela "Spence" Pacheco, chair, Reform Committee, NMSC; and Monica Ault, Fines and Fees Justice Center, provided the subcommittee with an update from the NMSC and the Reform Committee. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/CJRS%20100720%20Item%204%20NM%20Fines%20and%20Fees%20Reform.pdf>.

Questions and comments from subcommittee members addressed the following topics:

- commendation of the Reform Committee for its work and ideas; and
- concerns about accuracy of police-identified data.

### **Legislation Considered for Recommendation to the CCJ (3:05 p.m.)**

Representative Maestas and Representative Rehm provided the subcommittee with a presentation regarding bills to be considered for recommendation for endorsement by the CCJ. One bill removes the statute of limitations for second degree murder, and the other increases the penalty for first degree felony drug trafficking. The bills can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CJRS&Date=10/7/2020&ItemNumber=5>.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the subcommittee voted to recommend bill .218340.1 with suggested changes to the CCJ for endorsement.

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the subcommittee voted to recommend bill .218341.1 with suggested changes to the CCJ for endorsement.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the subcommittee approved the minutes of the September 4, 2020 meeting.

### **Public Comment (3:30 p.m.)**

The subcommittee heard public comment from Diane McCash and Fernando Trujillo.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.