

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION

Meeting – October 18, 2021

MINUTES

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. on October 18, 2021, in conference room 1A, Grand Tower Building.

Present:

Commission Members:

William Fales

Victor Fitz

Karen Gray Sheffield

Brian Mackie

Robin Hornbuckle

Staff Members:

Jess Averill, Policy Analyst

Shalonna Banks, Departmental Analyst

Aaron Levin, Assistant Attorney General

Michael Bobbitt, Secretary

Emily Ely, Claims Analyst

Tia Johnson, Departmental Tech

James McCurtis, CVSC Manager

Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager

Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services:

Conference line

Introductions were made by the Commission members.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Ms. Hornbuckle made a motion, supported by Ms. Karen Gray-Sheffield to approve the August 16, 2021, meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Public Comment - None.

Staff Report – Mr. McCurtis provided an update regarding adequate staffing. In the next two weeks positions for two new compensation analysts will be posted, to assist with the increase of cases that are coming in.

The campaign is reaching victims and CVSC has seen an increase in cases. Staff is also working on outreach in the communities, providing handouts to advocates and spreading the message about the CVSC program and working with victims. Also, trainings are expected to take place to help spread the word of what our program offers to reach more victims.

Ms. Cain reported that she was recently contacted by a reporter who shared that a crime victim had a great experience working with the Crime Victim Services staff on a compensation claim.

Ms. Averill and Ms. Povilaitis provided a summary of proposed legislative changes to HB 4674-4675, amending the victim compensation statute. After further discussion, the Commission provided amendments and agreed that if those recommended amendments are made, the Commission would support the proposed legislation. Mr. Fitz made a motion to adopt these recommendations and support HB 4674-4675 if the recommended changes are made, Ms. Gray-Sheffield second the motion.

Ms. Povilaitis discussed the Michigan Supreme Court's adoption of amendments to court rules MCR 2.407 and 6.006, that would require courts to use remote participation technology (video or telephone conferencing) to the greatest extent possible in civil and criminal proceedings. The

negative impact this process could have on crime victims was discussed. Mr. Mackie supports writing a letter in opposition to be submitted on behalf of the Commission before the November 1, 2021 comments deadline.

Mr. Fitz moved to oppose the court rule as amended and write a letter to submit to the Court outlining the reasons for opposition and include alternative language, Cpl. Hornbuckle seconded the motion, all unanimous.

Report of the Members – None.
Unfinished Business – None.

New Business – The 2022 schedule for next year was adopted by Ms. Gray-Sheffield and Cpl. Hornbuckle seconded the motion. Unanimously adopted for next year.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2021.

Evidentiary Hearings:

None.

Commission Reviews:

Update:

190402 – Shawana Henderson – Issue: Self defense

Victim: Mark Covington

The record of the claim was reviewed and taken under advisement. A Michigan State Police Trooper stated this was self-defense. Further information from Genessee County prosecutor's office is required. After due consideration and discussion, Mr. Fitz made a motion supported by Cpl. Hornbuckle to table this until further discussion between, Mr. Fitz, Mr. James McCurtis, and the Genessee County Prosecutor's office. The motion carried. (MCL 18.360)

Motion from Mr. Fitz and seconded by Cpl. Hornbuckle adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tia Johnson