SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

July 9, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 2

Action Requested: APPROVE

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS
Meeting of May 14, 2004

1. ROLL CALL

In accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, with a quorum present, upon a motion by Chief William Lansdowne (County Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Association) and a second by Chief Probation Officer Vincent Iaria (County Public Safety), the Public Safety Committee (PSC) appointed Chief Jim Davis (County Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Association) as Chair Pro Tem for this meeting because the Chair and Vice Chair were absent as a SANDAG Board meeting ran past its anticipated schedule. The regularly scheduled meeting of the PSC was called to order by Chair Pro Tem Davis at 1:45 p.m. Other members and alternates in attendance were Charles Lewis (City of San Diego); Ron Newman (Primary) and Morris Vance (alternate), North County Inland); Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego); Steve Lykins (alternate - State Public Safety); and William Lansdowne (County Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Association). An Advisory member in attendance was Vincent Iaria (County Probation).

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2004 MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilmember Ron Newman (North County Inland) and a second by Councilmember Charles Lewis (City of San Diego), the PSC unanimously approved the minutes of March 12, 2004.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Barbara J. Winton, a private citizen living in downtown San Diego, provided a handout and asked the Committee to consider lighted trolley stops and parking facilities that are fenced and staffed during trolley hours plus one hour (one-half hour before and one-half hour after the last trolley).

REPORTS

4. REPORT FROM CHIEFS’/SHERIFF’S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Chair Pro Tem Davis stated the Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Management Committee met on May 5, 2004. At this meeting, Special Agent in Charge Mike Turner, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), provided an overview of Operation Predator, an initiative designed to protect young people from child pornographers, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals.
Also at the May meeting, staff gave an overview on an ADAM project that involved interviewing female ADAM arrestees about domestic violence victimization. The purpose of ADAM is to determine if there is a nexus between drug use and crime, identify drug use trends, and examine the characteristics of arrestees and their patterns of drug use. Chair Pro Tem Davis stated it was interesting that domestic violence victims who used methamphetamine were more likely to receive medical treatment and more likely to report injuries. He noted this type of information can help law enforcement use resources more effectively and better identify and understand important trends.

The final agenda item on the May Management Committee agenda was the update on the San Diego Data Processing Corporation (SDDPC). Staff provided a copy of the memo distributed at this meeting and gave a brief update. The dissolution of SDDPC is scheduled to be heard by the City of San Diego City Council in June or July 2004. If approved, it is anticipated the effort will take approximately two years to complete. Staff has met with the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the City of San Diego and Chief William Lansdowne to discuss the City Manager’s report and its implication to ARJIS. Both the City CIO and SDDPC have assured ARJIS a continued high priority-level of support and services during this transition stage. Staff noted that ARJIS is in good condition, having recently completed a thorough reorganization of the mainframe and upgrade of all other ARJIS database and system hardware and software. Staff has also notified ARJIS legal counsel, Gray Cary, of the recent events.

Staff noted the proposed transition of Information Technology (IT) responsibilities provides an opportunity to research, evaluate, and competitively acquire IT services. It is anticipated that certain services will be outsourced while in-house staff will support other services. The recent consolidation with SANDAG could provide other options for leveraging certain IT services. Over the next several months, the ARJIS Business and Technical Committees will assist in preparing an initial inventory of services and equipment with possible options for transitioning those services.

**Action Taken:** Upon a motion by Chief Probation Officer Vincent Iaria and a second by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego), the PSC unanimously approved sending the memo that details the status of SDDPC re-organization to the ARJIS member agencies.

5. **PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION IN THE FIELD (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Staff presented a PowerPoint show regarding the ARJIS Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) Pilot Program. This ARJIS Project is funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and utilizes PDAs to give officers in the field access to 12 databases containing public safety information. ARJIS has 30 testers from 10 agencies using the PDAs. Part of the project involves evaluating the speed, coverage, reliability, and cost and billing issues for three different service providers (AT&T, Verizon, and Sprint). Users are providing valuable input of what works, what data are useful, and who are the best candidates for these devices. At the conclusion of the PowerPoint, two of the testers (Senior Patrol Agent Mike Riches and Chula Vista Police Agent Steve Guthrie) shared personal anecdotes regarding their experiences with the units, their strong support for making this information available in the field, and the value and utility of the PDAs.

The PDA device costs $710 and unlimited service costs $47 per month. The security infrastructure is $600 - $1,200 a month per carrier and will be shared by the ARJIS member
agencies, instead of each agency negotiating and paying on their own. Throughout the remainder of the calendar year, ARJIS will deploy 50 additional PDAs, which are funded by a BorderSafe grant. ARJIS will test new hardware, digital cameras as an add-on feature, and monitor and test other technologies. In December 2004, a final report will document the project findings and recommendations for production, an equitable billing plan, and help desk support. In early 2005, ARJIS plans to initiate rollout to the agencies.

Councilmember Charles Lewis inquired about how long it takes to get up to speed to use the PDA. Agent Riches stated the application is simple, user friendly, and easy to learn.

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price asked if these would be used in place of vehicle laptops or used in tandem.

Chair Pro Tem Davis commented that there are a variety of operational differences between agencies. There is not a single fit for everyone. Agencies are evaluating and comparing laptops, PDAs, and Tablet PCs.

Chief William Lansdowne inquired about the durability of the units. Both presenters felt they were very functional and could be brought into the field without a problem. Staff noted that if a unit was lost, it could be disconnected from ARJIS. Security measures are in place so the ARJIS data cannot be compromised or inappropriately accessed.

Mayor Morris Vance (North County Inland) asked about coverage. The presenters noted they have excellent coverage within San Diego County.

Councilmember Ron Newman asked about charging the unit and how long a charge would last. The agents noted that they are very reliable and, depending on the model, have lasted up to three weeks.

Staff asked how helpful it was to access photos. The agents noted this function is extremely helpful and staff noted having access to DMV photos is a high priority.

Councilmember Ron Newman asked about officer safety in the field while using the PDA and suggested that guidelines be shared with officers working alone. The presenters noted that safety may be increased because they are able to keep an eye on the suspect while using it.

Staff noted that officers have commented that the PDA returns responses usually much faster than radio communications.

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price asked if the PDA has a card reader to scan licenses. Staff advised that they are looking into this as an enhancement, and there is also an infrared reader on the unit.

6. ANNUAL 2003 CRIME REPORT (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Staff did a PowerPoint presentation on the 2003 Crime Report. These reports are produced on an annual basis and include statistics on Part I and Part II crimes reported to law enforcement for the entire region.
In 2003, the region’s violent crime rate continued to decline (because of assaults going down). However, homicide increased a greater percentage than other violent crimes. The region’s property crime rate continued to increase for the third year. Motor vehicle crimes increased a greater percentage than other property crimes.

Staff suggested that having a panel on the issue of motor vehicle theft and innovative ways to address this problem and target offenders as a future PSC agenda item. Chair Pro Tem Davis commented that another issue would be how the courts treat auto theft.

7. DRAFT FY 2005 CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH DIVISION AND ARJIS WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET (RECOMMEND)

Staff stated the two public safety programs combined have a FY 2005 budget of $6.1 million. ARJIS member assessments and user and connection fees represent 70 percent of the budget. Most of ARJIS funding comes from member assessments and user fees, while the majority of the Criminal Justice budget comes from grants. Staff noted that the Criminal Justice member assessments have not changed since 2002 and ARJIS member assessments and user fees have not changed since 2001.

ARJIS has $735,000 in grants this year for crime mapping, COPLINK, and BorderSafe programs. Highlights of the FY 2005 ARJIS work program are migrating ARJISNET to new technologies, implementing a regional sex offender registry system, enhancing crime-mapping capabilities, implementing a new multi-state crime analysis system (COPLINK), and providing handheld PDAs to public safety officials (BorderSafe).

Staff described FY 2005 Criminal Justice projects that focus on juvenile delinquency prevention, prisoner reentry, hepatitis and HIV prevention programs, and youth gun violence.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Councilmember Charles Lewis and a second by Chief William Lansdowne, the PSC voted unanimously to recommend the inclusion of the Criminal Justice Research Division and ARJIS work program and budget into the SANDAG work program and budget to be approved by the SANDAG Board of Directors in June 2004.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 11, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pro Tem Davis adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

JEFF TAYMAN
Director of Technical Services

Key Staff Contacts: Pam Scanlon, (619) 699-6971; psc@sandag.org
Cynthia Burke, (619) 699-1910; cbu@sandag.org