

JULY 12, 2018 - ITEMS OFF-THE-FLOOR

1. Resolution to vacate, in part, the six (6) month moratorium established by Ordinance C.S. No. 17-3671, and any subsequent extension thereof, on the issuance of permits for construction or placement of building structures on property within a defined area North of North Street, South of Harrison Avenue, West of Ravine Street, and East of Eike Street and Fuschia Street Within Unincorporated Boundaries of Ward 3, District (Toledano)

2. Resolution to support the mission of the 22nd JDC Family Justice Initiative (FJI) and their proposal submitted to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) for the St. Tammany Parish Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI). (Blanchard)

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-OTF #1

COUNCIL SPONSOR: _____ PROVIDED BY: _____

RESOLUTION TO VACATE, IN PART, THE SIX (6) MONTH MORATORIUM ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE C.S. NO.17-3671, AND ANY SUBSEQUENT EXTENSION THEREOF, ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION OR PLACEMENT OF BUILDING STRUCTURES ON PROPERTY WITHIN A DEFINED AREA NORTH OF NORTH STREET, SOUTH OF HARRISON AVENUE, WEST OF RAVINE STREET, AND EAST OF EIKE STREET AND FUSCHIA STREET WITHIN UNINCORPORATED BOUNDARIES OF WARD 3, DISTRICT 5.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance C.S. No. 17-3671, in order to protect and preserve the health, safety and property interests of residents from the adverse effects of flooding hazards resulting from severe drainage problems and flooding within a certain portion of unincorporated Ward 3, District 5 of St. Tammany Parish, it was necessary to impose a temporary moratorium on the issuance of permits for construction or placement of any building structures within said area in order to allow sufficient time for completion of a funded drainage study and completion of drainage improvements; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the properties identified as Red Gap Acres SQ 2 Lot 11 and Red Gap Acres SQ 2 Lot 25 are not contributing to the flooding hazard within the defined area and are therefore to be released from the moratorium.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES that pursuant to Chapter 2, Article XVI, Sec. 2-264 of the Code of Ordinances, the Parish Council vacates, in part, the moratorium established Ordinance C.S. No. 17-3671, and any subsequent extension thereof, on the issuance of permits for the construction or placement of building structures within the designated area of unincorporated St. Tammany Parish, Ward 3, District 5, to remove therefrom the restrictions established by the moratorium on the properties identified as Red Gap Acres SQ 2 LOT 11 and Red Gap Acres SQ 2 LOT 25 .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the moratorium shall continue to be in full force and effort for the remainder of the area established by Ordinance C.S. No 17-3671, and any extension thereof.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 12 DAY OF JULY , 2018, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

S. MICHELE BLANCHARD, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-OTF #2

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MS. BLANCHARD

PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE 22ND JDC FAMILY JUSTICE INITIATIVE (FJI) AND THEIR PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT (LCLE) FOR THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVE INITIATIVE (JDAI)

WHEREAS, ST. TAMMANY PARISH WAS SELECTED BY THE LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AS A SITE FOR JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVE INITIATIVE, PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION BY CONNECTING CHILDREN IN COURT FOR DELINQUENCY, AND THEIR FAMILIES, TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM IN THEIR HOMES; AND

WHEREAS, OBTAINING APPLICATION APPROVAL WOULD ADD ST. TAMMANY TO THE OTHER FIVE PARISHES WITHIN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND POTENTIALLY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INITIATIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO BENEFIT THE NEEDS OF OUR YOUTH; AND

WHEREAS, APPLICATION APPROVAL WOULD RESULT IN COST SAVING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM WHILE ALSO AFFORDING OUR YOUTH WITH IMPROVED RESOURCES.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES that THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL FORMALLY SUPPORTS THE 22nd JDC FAMILY JUSTICE INITIATIVE (FJI) IN THEIR EFFORTS FOR JDAI SITE APPROVAL TO BENEFIT LOCAL YOUTH BY SECURING IMPROVED SERVICES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGES THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FJI AND LCLE.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 12 DAY OF JULY , 2018, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

S. MICHELE BLANCHARD, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK

St. Tammany Parish JDAI Proposal

Mr. Demetrius Joubert
JDAI Coordinator
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement
Post office Box 3133
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Mr. Joubert;

Thank you for the opportunity to apply to the LCLE to become a JDAI site. When Justice Guidry, Alanah Hebert and Opal West presented the initiative, we collectively realized that this was an opportunity to better our practices consistent with the vision and mission we shared.

Oversight and Planning: The Family Justice Initiative

The 22nd JDC Family Justice Initiative ("FJI") includes the District Court, District Attorney, District Public Defender, Sheriff, the Office of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Florida Parish Juvenile Detention Center, and our Youth Service Bureau. This umbrella of stakeholders in children's services meets in person, quarterly, rotating through each member's office headquarters. The FJI reviews policy, planning and programs to meet the needs of our collective cohort of clients, the youth and their families and caretakers. Due to issues of confidentiality for children, the parish government is not a standing member of this group; but it is an active collaborator in providing services, funding and support for many of the programs we sponsor. Our FJI members cross disciplines and populations, to serve the children in both neglect and delinquency situations. We engage in virtual and actual site-mapping, visiting each member agency for meetings, and to observe and understand the work, and workspace, of our fellow members.

Vision and Mission

In undertaking Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative site status, each of our member stakeholders have embraced the following principles:

- Most children do better in family settings than in institutional care
- Evidenced-based practices, with fidelity in implementation, can allow us to keep more kids in family settings.

The nuts and bolts of our mission must be responsive to a comprehensive need assessment for our involved children. Anecdotally, we have experienced gaps in services for youth who are pre-adjudication. We would hope, at a minimum, to create and implement program to address this population through risk assessment, mental health treatment, mentoring, and addressing the special needs of children with

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incarcerated parents. The vast majority of our post adjudication children are returned to the community with supervision by OJJ. We hope to address the needs of these children, especially those on the high end of the risk spectrum. Meaningful opportunities for education and vocation partnerships, mentoring, and prosocial activity will help our FJI keep these children in family settings, in school, and towards better outcomes.

The Data Supporting JDAI

The 22nd Judicial District is comprised of Washington and St. Tammany Parishes. On the pretrial detention side, the Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center received 276 children from our two-parish jurisdiction in 2017. Many of the detentions which resulted in pretrial release to parents or guardians, were for periods of time up to up to 72 hours. Research shows that the detention of children, who with proper services could be maintained in the home, has consequences as it relates to school performance, drug and alcohol use, future delinquency and future violence.

Adjudicated Youth

According to our state Office of Juvenile Justice, below are 2018 Q1 statistics involving children in secure and non-secure care, post-adjudication, by parish:

	Secure	Rate/1000	Non Secure	Rate/1000
St. Tammany	13	.45	17	.59
Washington	2	.39	0	0

We take hope from the fact that these numbers and rates are not at the high end for Louisiana; however, some of these children are in custody for significant periods of time. Ultimately, many will be released to the same homes, caretakers, neighborhoods and systems which failed to correct their behaviors in the first place. Strategic use of evidence-based treatments, such as Functional Family Therapy, Multi-Systemic Treatment, community supervision, afternoon reporting, and mentoring programs, will allow more children to be in home settings rather than custody, at a far lower cost.

Current Funding for Detention

Pre-adjudication detention generally occurs at the Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center (FPJDC), located between St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes. This is a nationally recognized facility with significant advantages over other post adjudication secure care locations where Louisiana children are housed. The FPJDC has an innovative and energetic management team and supervising board, and stands willing to fill gaps in services to help children thrive in our community. The FPJDC is funded by a millage from the five parishes it serves, and has a degree of funding certainty based on its community support.

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Support and Obstacles to JDAI

St. Tammany Parish has had a quarter cent dedicated sales tax which supported the justice system for almost twenty years. The tax was not renewed. The parish will fund the courts and law enforcement through the general fund, but questions remain about both the level of funding and the consistency of revenue streams. Additionally, there is often some uncertainty each year about legislative appropriations which impact the Office of Juvenile Justice. This environment of uncertainty makes it even more critical to find evidence based, sustainable detention alternatives which do not rely on OJJ probation officers to support children in the community.

The schools have been beset by threats of violence, most often evidenced by threats to bring weapons, explosives or other such weapons to the school. St. Tammany Schools are no different than any nationwide, and these threats are taken seriously, often resulting in arrest, detention, prosecution, and expulsion from the school. A robust, validated threat assessment, with the level of reliability necessary to protect school children and staff, has thus far not been developed, nationwide, so these children must be viewed as potentially dangerous or lethal. The number of young children who have been arrested and detained for school related threats alone compels action on our part to seek alternatives to detention.

St. Tammany Parish has demonstrated success in Cooperative Endeavors

The 22nd JDC has multiple interdepartmental cooperative endeavors ongoing with our parish and state partners.

- Currently, there are flagship and nationally recognized specialty courts such as Drug Court, Re-entry Court, Family Preservation Court, Behavioral Health Court, Veteran's Court and Sobriety Court. This commitment by volunteers from the bench, bar, government and treatment, to start and sustain more specialty courts than any other parish in the state, exemplifies the can-do, problem solving reputation St. Tammany Parish enjoys.
- The parish also spearheaded and has begun rollout of Safe Haven, a multiyear and multiagency commitment to locating mental health services in a single location, and as a clearinghouse for all service providers of behavioral health. Our parish leadership not only dreamed big, but sustained a multiyear effort to bring together a very diverse set of interests and stakeholders to make this vision a reality.
- The parish has been selected by the Department of Corrections as a pilot site for the Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative, and as this letter is being drafted, a cooperative endeavor agreement among all stakeholders in reentry is likewise being crafted.

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These are but three of the successful initiatives our parish has built. The atmosphere of cooperation permeates service providers, and turf battles and blame shifting that dog other municipalities is minimal, and non-existent in our FJI.

Data Sharing and Management

Datasets are available from at least three government sources, which would all be stakeholders in detention reform. All three stakeholders are charter members of our FJI.

The Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention District serves five parishes, including St. Tammany, for all pretrial detention, and some post adjudication contempt proceedings resulting from probation violations. FPJDC provides FJI partners with robust and comprehensive statistics of intake, duration of stay, and other critical metrics of detention for our population of children. These statistics are also broken down by referring court, parish of residence, and the usual measures to assess disparate racial impact.

The Office of Juvenile Justice provides the most comprehensive measures of post adjudication detention. The most important measurements include length of stay, whether a child is in secure or non-secure care, and whether a child is serving juvenile life, e.g. adjudicated for an offense enumerated in Children's Code Art. 897.1. These children, no matter what their level of improvement, are legally ineligible for release prior to age 21, at significant cost to the State, their families, and often with limited educational or other opportunities.

Third, dually-involved youth are those who are in the custody of the State due to neglect proceedings, who unfortunately are at a higher risk of involvement with delinquency. These children are tracked for various metrics, such as length of stay, by the Covington District Department of Children and Family Services.

Current Practices in JDAI

The 22nd JDC currently has limited resources as alternatives to detention. Electronic monitoring is limited, expensive, and its efficacy is often outweighed by concerns of privacy, resentment and noncompliance by the child. Pre-adjudication mental health, substance abuse treatment, mentoring and monitoring, particularly in school related incidents, is desperately needed to prevent the rash of suspensions and expulsion of our children.

The Youth Service Bureau is available for both Family In Need of Services (FINS) and post adjudication children, through a comprehensive delivery of drug treatment, truancy remediation, community service and law related education. Our YSB is a model of service delivery. Staff are well-trained, and the facility in Covington is adequately sized and maintained. Risk assessment has already been embraced by

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the YSB, the bench and the bar. The YSB keeps afternoon and evening hours for the youth and parents who have school and work obligations during business hours.

The District Attorney diverts some children from delinquency adjudications. The services for this population are likewise often provided by the YSB. When youth are deemed higher risk, or have reoffended while on community supervision, often the last recourse to detention is completion of the Youth Challenge Program.

Conclusion

The FJI is grateful for the opportunity to partner with LCLE in implementing Juvenile Detention Alternatives. We have a demonstrated devotion to the vision and mission of JDAI. Our parish has a track record of successful collaboration in similar endeavors serving adult populations, and our FJI looks forward to leveraging these partnerships, with the nationwide partners available to JDAI sites.