



COMMISSION VIEWS AND NEWS

ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

July 2019

Letter from our Chairwoman

Over this last legislative session, laws were passed that provide more protections for victims of crimes; the state lowered the hiring age from 21 to 18 years of age for the Department of Correction Officers; much-needed pay raises were approved for Department of Public Safety officers, Department of Corrections officers and Department of Child Safety caseworkers; and texting and driving will be prohibited. In the budget there is a \$20 million allocation for a school safety grant program which will allow schools to apply for counselors and on-campus law enforcement officers, and \$11 million was allocated to hire 48 new state troopers. These are all great wins for Arizona.



The Commission will continue its work during the off session on a number of criminal justice initiatives in preparation for the 2020 legislative year. It is our goal to continue to strengthen laws for public safety and victims' rights, and create more resources to bring greater awareness to all aspects of criminal justice. We are also really looking forward to seeing everyone at the Law Enforcement Summit in mid-July, bringing together our colleagues from across the state to plan for the coming year.



Yavapai County Attorney and ACJC Commission Chairwoman, Sheila Polk



NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

Arizona Passes Texting and Driving Bill

Governor Ducey and the Arizona Legislature passed HB2318 banning texting and driving. The new law makes it illegal to “physically hold” or “support with any part of the body” any phone or other portable wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle. The law not only bans chatting on the phone, but writing, sending and reading text messages, emails, and instant messages. However, drivers can make calls if they use an ear piece, headphones or any type of wireless device. If a vehicle is at a complete stop or parked, you may respond to texts. But if they vehicle is in motion, it is illegal. The fines are as follows:

First offense – a minimum fine of \$75 and up to \$149

Subsequent violations – At least \$150 and not more than \$250.

Note: No points are accumulated on the motorist’s record. However, a license can be suspended for violating the new law or if serious injury or death was caused because of the motorists actions.

The law will go into effect January 1, 2021. The time between now and December 31, 2020, warnings will be issued and a statewide campaign will be undertaken.



City of Maricopa Launches New Family Advocacy Center

In 2014 the City of Maricopa completed a Human Services Needs Assessment (HSNA) identifying a gap in 24/7 services and access to medical services in Maricopa. Victims of Interpersonal Violence who needed a medical exam or forensic interview when required to drive 45-60 miles one way for services at the nearest family advocacy center. In July of 2015 the Maricopa Police Department began meeting with Dignity Health in a partnership to meet with stakeholders and develop a proposal to present to the Mayor and City Council. The kick-off meeting was in December 2015. In September 2016 the stakeholder group which included Public Health, DCS, PCAO, MPD, First Things First, Cenpatico and ACESDV and Winged Hope presented the proposal to the Mayor and City Council. In June of 2017 the Mayor and City Council approved the government-based model to run the Maricopa Family Advocacy Center. We started the remodel in July of 2018 and opened our doors 4/16/19.

Initial funding for the Maricopa Family Advocacy Center was received through 12% gaming revenues with Ak-Chin Indian Community. This initial funding helped to secure one year of the lease of a building and some remodeling costs. Through the assistance of Winged Hope Family Advocacy Foundation and the stakeholders they were able to secure donations of time and materials. The Community came together, local businesses, city departments, and former council members. Many members of the community came together and volunteered their time to build walls, paint, landscape, as well as many other efforts. Funding to maintain operations for a period of five years is through a Memorandum of Understanding with Casa Grande Police Department, PCSO, Dignity Health, Winged Hope and CAAFA. Maricopa Police Department was also able to secure funding through AZDPS VOCA to assist with furniture and medical items needed to serve the victims of crime.



The community is truly grateful to Chief Stahl for his support of this incredible effort. Chief Stahl stated, "It's not the building that counts, it's the passionate people that made it all happen."

Maricopa Police Department Victim Services Unit serves all victims of crime. Maricopa Family Advocacy Center is part of victims' services and it focuses on adults and children affected by interpersonal violence.

For more information on the new center, contact the Maricopa Police Department at 520-316-6800.





FY 2020 Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Control Grant

At its May meeting, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission approved 35 projects for funding under the FY 2020 Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Control Grant Program. The \$9.1 million grant is focused on reducing drug-defined crime and drug-related crime throughout the State. Projects funded for FY 2020 include drug task forces, drug prosecution, crime lab support, drug adjudication efforts, civil forfeiture, and corrections drug treatment.

Funding from this grant is used to curtail the flow of illicit drugs, drug proceeds, and instruments used to perpetuate violence across Arizona and reduce violent crime and illicit drug use and deter repeat offenders in Arizona. In response to drug, gang, and violent crime in Arizona, the following six purpose areas have been identified by the Commission as potential funding areas for the grant:

- Apprehension
- Prosecution
- Forensic Support Services
- Adjudication and Sentencing
- Corrections and Community Corrections
- Prevention and Education



DO YOU NEED TO GET AWAY THIS SUMMER?

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMIT

July 16-18

Space is still available:

visit: www.azchiefsofpolice.org/law-enforcement-summit

DGVCC

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

35

Drug Task Forces	
Apache Sheriff's Office	\$225,301
Cochise County Sheriff's Office	\$122,971
Flagstaff Police Department	\$283,494
Gila County Sheriff's Office	\$331,654
Graham County Sheriff's Office	\$26,934
Greenlee County Sheriff's Office	\$31,967
Kingman Police Department	\$336,832
La Paz County Sheriff's Office	\$73,643
Navajo County Sheriff's Office	\$238,833
Pinal County Sheriff's Office	\$141,380
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office	\$155,915
Tucson Police Department	\$687,640
Yavapai County Sheriff's Office	\$353,946
Yuma County Sheriff's Office	\$241,556
Drug Forensics	
Department of Public Safety	\$380,233
Tucson Police Department	\$65,307
Court Drug Adjudication	
Administrative Office of the Courts	1,336,467

Drug Prosecution	
Attorney General's Office-Medicaid Fraud	\$98,950
Apache County Attorney's Office	\$90,635
Cochise County Attorney's Office	\$152,218
Coconino County Attorney's Office	\$132,461
Gila County Attorney's Office	\$66,567
Graham County Attorney's Office	\$55,000
Greenlee County Attorney's Office	\$42,849
La Paz County Attorney's Office	\$70,426
Maricopa County Attorney's Office	\$1,076,521
Mohave County Attorney's Office	\$156,292
Navajo County Attorney's Office	\$123,117
Pima County Attorney's Office	\$423,250
Pinal County Attorney's Office	\$184,771
Tucson City Attorney	\$269,371
Yavapai County Attorney's Office	\$123,667
Yuma County Attorney's Office	\$263,373
Civil Forfeiture	
Attorney General's Office	\$637,429
Corrections Drug Treatment	
Department of Corrections	\$100,000



ACJC Team Attends AZGIA Conference

The Arizona Gang Investigators Association (AZGIA) asked ACJC to host a booth and participate in their Arizona Gang Conference held annually here in the Valley. The conferences 2019 curriculum was developed to provide Gang Practitioners the most up to date training on the necessary skills to combat Criminal Street Gangs (CSG's), and Security Threat Groups (STG's) Criminal Street gangs and prison gangs have a dependence upon each other for survival.

AZGIA partnered in bringing awareness to ACJC's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) currently seeking active participation from local and state law enforcement in conducting the annual Arizona Gang Threat Assessment, highlighting the immense importance of ensuring accurate gang activity reporting, and the potential impact it has on understanding the scope of the gang problems in Arizona. ACJC staff from the Statistical Analysis Center and Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Control Program area was on hand to speak with Gang Practitioners and Agencies at all levels, about the resources and partnerships ACJC provides in the Arizona Law Enforcement community and had the privilege of attending the most up-to-date training on criminal street and prison gangs.

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AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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July 16 - NICS Task Force Meeting
8:30 AM University of Phoenix

July 17- Full Commission Meeting
Little America Hotel, Flagstaff

Sept. 19 - Full Commission Meeting
1:30 PM, 1110 W. Washington

Oct 3 - ACJC Policy Team Meeting
10:00 AM, 1110 W. Washington

Oct 7 - ACJC Info Tech Meeting
1:30 PM, 1110 W. Washington

Oct 8 - NICS Task Force Meeting
8:30 AM, University of Phoenix

Nov 7 - Full Commission Meeting
1:30 PM, 1110 W. Washington





Legislative Updates

The first regular session of the 54th Arizona State Legislature ran 134 days with Sine Die occurring at 12:58 AM on May 28, 2019. There were 1,318 bills posted and 100 resolutions posted. Governor Ducey signed 320 bills into law and 11 were vetoed. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) tracked 144 bills that affected the criminal justice system.

A number of bills were passed and signed by the Governor that are of particular importance to the criminal justice community.

SB1250 – Injunction Against Harassment; Sexual Violence sponsored by Senator Victoria Steele. This bill is very important to the Criminal Justice Commission and our efforts to protect victims' rights. Existing law required that a sexual assault victim wait until the assault occurred twice before the victim could file an injunction against harassment. The law signed by the Governor states that the victim only needs to be assaulted ONCE before seeking relief through the courts.

SB1315 – Victims' Rights; Refusal of Interviews sponsored by Senator Eddie Farnsworth. This is another bill that protects victims' rights. The right of a victim and a victim's representative to refuse an interview, a deposition or any other discovery request related to the criminal case involving the victims by the juvenile defendant, the juvenile defendant's attorney or any other person acting on behalf of the juvenile.

HB2318 – Driving; Wireless Communication Device Prohibition sponsored by Representative Cambell. But collective efforts were in partnership with many legislators including Senator Brophy McGee. This bill will prohibit the use of cellular devices while the motor vehicle is in motion. Beginning January 1, 2021, citations will begin to be issued, but not before an exhaustive outreach campaign to educate the public is undertaken.

HB2266 – Prisoners; Transition Program; Eligibility sponsored by Representative Payne. The critical aspect of this bill requires inmates to complete a functional literacy program.

HB2466 – Criminal Proceedings; Child Welfare sponsored by Representative Boyer. (Do want to include this one? Had controversy around it and the budget)?

SB1092 – AZPost; Rulemaking Exemption sponsored by Senator Livingston allows for the Department of Corrections to now hire individuals who are 18 years or older. The Department of Corrections has been in a shortfall for officers coming into the system and that has to do with the current hiring age of 21. This new law puts more Arizonans to work.

Additional bills that the ACJC team was tracking for the Commission:

SB1093 – Prisoner Accounts; use; ADOT Credentialing sponsored by Senator Livingston. Before a prisoner's discharge from the Department of Corrections, the DOC is authorized to withdraw from the prisoner's spendable account any applicable fees for the issuance of either a driver license or non-operating identification license to the prisoner, if eligible.

SB1398—Miniature Scooter; Electric Stand Up Scooter. An operator of an "electric standup scooter", defined as a device with a floorboard, two or three wheels and handlebars that is powered by an electric motor and/or human power, is granted all the rights and privileges and is subject to all the duties of a person riding a bicycle.

Contact Us

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"Our mission is to continuously address, improve, sustain and enhance public safety in the state of Arizona through the coordination, cohesiveness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system."