

## Safety and Security Meeting 1-11-2024

Safety committee members present: Dennis Chandler, Bridget Blake, Steve Rand, Joshua Johnson, Chris Street, Mike Finney, Bob Dowd, Steve Butz, Nicholas Hartzler, Abby Crawford, Jim Sahaida

Committee members absent: Janice Taylor, John Cuniff

7:00 meeting commenced

Bob Dowd made a motion to approve minutes from previous meeting, was seconded by Steve Rand

Tonight's meeting is a town hall sponsored by the Safety and Security committee. Featured speaker is St. Louis Circuit Attorney, Gabe Gore.

Steve Butz did an introduction of Mr. Gabe Gore

Remarks by Mr. Gabe Gore:

We have hired 25 attorneys in the Circuit Attorney's Office. They are experienced prosecutors. A number of prosecutors came back to the Office because they wanted to restore the Office. The Chief Trial Attorney is Marvin Teer. Mr. Gore stated there were 250 homicides pending when he was sworn in. An additional 37 homicides have been indicted. The usual number that are pending are 100 to 115. The Office has resolved 60 homicides. The Office is taking a second look at 24 homicides. Mr. Gore said he regularly meets with the St. Louis Police Chief and said there is cooperation down the line. He said there were 6,700 applications for warrants that were never reviewed when he took over. So 6,700 defendants were never charged for what they were arrested for. That includes nine homicides and one hundred felonies. Mr. Gore stated 1% of individuals in our community are those who commit violent crime. Now that the Office is back to regular business it's decided within 24 hours to review a case. Mr. Gore is working to create a workplace environment where staff want to stay. When he took over a diversion program was virtually nonexistent. A diversion program is for first time offenders to give them an opportunity at a second chance. He said

his Office will have a robust diversion program. Mr. Gore said he is excited about community engagement. He also said witness cooperation is the number one barrier that has to be met. At this time there are about 600 persons detained in the City jail. He noted that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit is the busiest Circuit in the State. In the time he has been in Office the victims services unit has gone from half staff to full staff. The Office is now starting the budget process for the Office as they currently are under the budget from former Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner, June 2024 will start a new budget. Currently there are 3,000 felonies pending with a 45% increase of charges from the previous Circuit Attorney. There are now 2,800 more cases to be reviewed of which 700 are misdemeanors. Some will be forgiven as there is a limit of one year to file a charge.

Joshua Johnson made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Jim Sahaida