

Task Force to Consider the Balance between Victim Privacy under the Freedom of Information Act and the Public's Right to Know

Minutes

Thursday, August 1, 2013 at 11:00 am

Legislative Office Building, Room 1B

I. Members Present

Representative Angel Arce, Co-Chair, Don DeCesare, Co-Chair, Senator Eric D. Coleman, Hakima Bey-Coon (*substitute for Victim Advocate Garvin G. Ambrose*), Jillian Knox, Deborah D. Sullivan (*substitute for Chief Public Defender Susan O. Storey*), Brian C. Koonz, Jodie Mozdzer-Gil, William V. Dunlap, Representative Debra Lee Hovey, Chief State's Attorney Kevin T. Kane, Andrew Woods

II. Members Absent

Colleen M. Murphy, Susan O. Storey, Garvin G. Ambrose, James H. Smith, Reuben F. Bradford, Klarn Depalma, Senator Leonard A. Fasano

III. Convene Meeting

Co-Chair DeCesare called the meeting to order at 11:15 am and made opening statements

Co-Chair Arce followed with introductory remarks

Co-Chair DeCesare read enabling legislation, Public Act No. 13-311

IV. Co-Chair DeCesare Introduced the members and each member gave brief opening remarks.

V. Co-Chair DeCesare opened discussion of provided materials

Schedule of Regular Meetings  
Public Act No. 13-311  
The Connecticut Freedom of Information Act

VI. Co-Chair DeCesare opened discussion of a Short-hand Title for the Task Force and asked members to consider other short names.

VII. Co-Chair DeCesare opened discussion of a Parliamentarian.

VIII. Co-Chair DeCesare opened discussion of plans for regular meetings and of public hearings in or outside of the Legislative Office Building.

IX. Co-Chair DeCesare opened the discussion to a Committee structure of the Task Force.

Co-Chair DeCesare suggested a Communications Committee, Rules Committee, Hearings Committee, Research Committee, and opened discussion regarding suggestions on Committees not mentioned.

Representative Debra Lee Hovey suggested a Research Sub-Committee on the review of information included on documents subject to the Freedom of Information Statute.

Chief State's Attorney Kane commented on the topic of victim privacy and the public's right to know, in regard to the scope and previous study of the topic, and suggested a steering committee to provide a means of focus to determine if the Task Force should specifically address the sunset provision, which provides for access or lack of access to voice recordings.

X. Co-Chair DeCesare asked members to consider the date of the next meeting along with the schedule of meeting dates provided and the possibility of having meetings outside the Legislative Office Building

Representative Debra Lee Hovey suggested that the meeting dates and times be within the discretion of the Chairs. And in regard to the subject of public hearings and the possibility of meetings outside the Legislative Office Building, that those meetings be held with a focus on parts of the State with higher crime rates and further expressed the availability of resources to Task Force members in the Legislative Office Building.

Jodie Mozdzer-Gil suggested the Task Force schedule meetings in a variety of times, early afternoon and evening, and a variety of days of the week to better accommodate to the schedules of the members of the Task Force.

Chief State's Attorney Kane informed the Task Force that he would not be present for the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, and inquired through the Co-Chairs as to the possibility of having a designee attend on his behalf.

Co-Chair DeCesare in response to Chief State's Attorney Kane's question regarding designees, expressed that he wished to seek the advice of the Task Force's Counsel.

XI. Upon coming to the conclusion of the Task Force Agenda Co-Chair DeCesare asked Task Force Members to reflect upon the issues ahead.

Co-Chair Arce made closing remarks and expressed an eagerness to learn, listen and work alongside other Task Force members.

Jodie Mozdzer-Gil inquired to the Co-Chairs as to when the Committees stated earlier in the meeting would be set-up.

Co-Chair DeCesare in response asked members to consider the Committees that were mentioned earlier in the meeting, and expressed that it is the intention of the Co-Chairs to hold a vote on Committees and other items at the next meeting.

XII. Co-Chair DeCesare adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm.

Ken Neal  
Administrator of Task Force