

BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING

JULY 16TH, 2026

THOSE PRESENT: Judge Raquel West
Judge Clint Woods
Judge Ransom "Duce" Jones
Becky Bertrand
Keith Day
Haylee Fournier-Williams
Tim Funchess
Kellie Holmes
Leslie Hughes
Sandra Mott
Quentin Price
Glenda Segura
Tom Roebuck
Chief Shauburger

1 JUDGE WEST: All right. I'm calling the
2 meeting to order. I need a gavel. All right. Thanks
3 everybody for being here. The first thing on the agenda
4 is to review and approve the minutes from the meeting
5 last month. Everybody should have been E-mailed in a
6 copy of those a while back.

7 MR. FUNCHES: I make a motion to approve.

8 JUDGE JONES: Second.

9 THE COURT: I've got a motion and a second.
10 Any discussion about the minutes? All in favor?

11 (ALL RESPONDED.)

12 THE COURT: Any opposed?

13 All right. That passes. Applications,
14 Becky.

15 MS. BERTRAND: Y'all don't fire me right
16 now. Look, a lot has been going on. So I did have a
17 renewal application for Chris Romano. I got it on
18 June 30th. I just passed it out and E-mailed it today.
19 Everything is in order. Y'all have any questions or
20 want to see the original, it's right here.

21 JUDGE WEST: All right.

22 JUDGE JONES: Everything in order?

23 MS. BERTRAND: Yes, sir.

24 JUDGE JONES: So moved.

25 JUDGE WOODS: Second.

1 JUDGE WEST: We've got a motion and a
2 second to approve Romano's renewal. Any discussions?
3 All in favor?

4 (ALL RESPONDED.)

12:32PM 5 JUDGE WEST: Any opposed?

6 All right. That passes. Any complaints?

7 MS. HOLMES: No, ma'am.

8 JUDGE WEST: Treasurer's report.

9 MR. FUNCHES: It's been distributed.

12:32PM 10 JUDGE WEST: I didn't ask you if there is
11 any complaints. Anybody have any questions on the
12 treasurer's report? All right. Any requests for
13 release of property?

14 MS. SEGURA: No.

12:33PM 15 JUDGE WEST: Auditors office's reports.

16 MS. BERTRAND: She dropped them off. She
17 was unable to stay for the meeting, but they are on the
18 table available for anyone to pick up.

19 JUDGE WEST: All right. Everybody got a
12:33PM 20 copy of that.

21 MS. BERTRAND: There was no changes.

22 JUDGE WEST: So that's it on the agenda.
23 There is a couple of things that I want to just quickly
24 talk about. I feel like we could make a record, though,
12:33PM 25 if I didn't. Two minutes. Anyway. First thing is

1 accusations are over. It was coming. Everybody knew it
2 was coming. We had done away with accusations on
3 certain felonies several months back. I don't know that
4 it was probably communicated effectively to all the
12:33PM 5 bondsmen, and I apologize for that. But the actual date
6 for all of them, and so I will take responsibility for
7 not getting that communication out that that started
8 July 1st. But surprise, it started July 1st.

9 So I know there is probably some questions
12:34PM 10 about that. Becky sent me an E-mail if you want to talk
11 about that real quick, Becky.

12 MS. BERTRAND: Yeah. So Patsy at Allied
13 sent me an E-mail. And she -- I think that a lot of
14 miscommunication getting out there or -- you know,
12:34PM 15 things changed with the way that we kind of attacked
16 this. So the question was: At the time the arrest is
17 made is a case going to be filed right then and there to
18 put that case number on the bond? The answer is no.

19 JUDGE WEST: No.

12:34PM 20 MS. BERTRAND: That's not going to happen.
21 So they will be held on -- in jail until they either go
22 to Court on a jail run or they make bond.

23 JUDGE WEST: So what will happen -- there
24 is some timelines that are already set up in the code
12:34PM 25 that have always been set up in the code. And so you've

1 got your -- misdemeanors have -- certain misdemeanors
2 have a 15-day window where if a case isn't filed then
3 that person should be released from custody. There is a
4 30-day window. And there is a felony 90-day window.

12:35PM

5 That's not going to be an automatic the jail makes the
6 decision about that date and they just walk out. But
7 what is happening is MIS has created a report that the
8 judges get, the jail gets, the district attorney's
9 office gets that is keeping us aware of who is getting

12:35PM

10 close on those numbers. And then Mark Derouen or myself
11 or the judges if we see that happening are going to
12 do -- will do kind of like a PR type bond, so there is a
13 paper trail that will show why they got out on that
14 date. Attorneys could file something if they want.

12:35PM

15 We're not going to wait for them to file stuff. We're
16 watching it also, so that's kind of how that's going to
17 work now is just actually following what the law says --
18 provides for that.

19 MS. RITENOUR: I have a question.

12:36PM

20 JUDGE WEST: Yes.

21 MS. RITENOUR: When y'all do a so-called PR
22 bond, when a case gets filed will they have the warrants
23 issued like they do now when they're released on
24 accusation or will that bond follow them through?

12:36PM

25 JUDGE WEST: I would think they will have a

1 warrant.

2 MS. RITENOUR: Okay.

3 JUDGE WEST: Yeah. Because -- I mean,

4 we're having -- it's a legal requirement that they're

12:36PM 5 released. If they're really -- no. There is not going

6 to be. Hold on.

7 MR. DAY: A PR bond -- go ahead.

8 MS. BERTRAND: That bond will follow --

9 JUDGE WEST: That bond will follow. Okay.

12:36PM 10 MR. DAY: Only if they're -- I guess, only

11 if they're released and the case hasn't been filed; and

12 the case is filed afterwards that a warrant will be

13 issued.

14 JUDGE WEST: Correct. No.

12:36PM 15 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Only if they don't show

16 up for court.

17 JUDGE WEST: Yeah.

18 MR. DAY: But if they don't get a court

19 date at that point and they --

12:36PM 20 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: They'll be released, and

21 PR bonds are -- I don't know why we still use that.

22 It's called a personal bond.

23 JUDGE WEST: It's a personal bond.

24 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: So if they get out on a

12:37PM 25 personal bond, there is actually a dollar amount

1 attached to that personal bond. No, they're not going
2 to --

3 JUDGE WEST: Correct.

4 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: -- put it up at the time
12:37PM 5 of release. If they do not go to court -- if the case
6 is filed and they have a court date set and they do not
7 go to court, then it will be just like a bond
8 forfeiture. They'll forfeiture that bond, and a warrant
9 will be issued.

12:37PM 10 MR. DAY: So if the case isn't filed within
11 that period of time then it's automatically a personal
12 bond.

13 JUDGE WEST: It's not going to be --
14 nothing is going to be automatic. Because the jail
12:37PM 15 isn't going to make that decision because other things
16 might -- so we're getting this report, and it has a
17 number, for instance, that says, hey, this person is on
18 their 89th day on a felony. They're not just going to
19 cut them loose the next day and make that legal decision
12:37PM 20 or determination. It's going to be a judge or a
21 magistrate that way there is the paper trail that says
22 17.151 released on personal bond of \$5,000. But they
23 didn't have to pay that money. And that way we also
24 have their address. It's going to be an issue for the
12:38PM 25 courts because we're going to have to send letters out

1 to everybody that gets released like that to get them to
2 come to Court because you're not going to have a
3 bondsman involved. So there is another side that's
4 going to be bit of an issue. On the felonies at least,
12:38PM 5 I think the misdemeanors probably won't be the same. On
6 the felonies, the D.A. is catching them pretty quickly.
7 They're getting things indicted and filed and things are
8 happening. But the 15-day misdemeanor thing is going to
9 be a problem, so that's -- we're working on that. But
12:38PM 10 no, there won't -- it will -- so yeah. My first answer
11 was wrong.

12 MS. FOURNIER-WILLIAMS: It's not a personal
13 recognize plan. It's a personal bond, right?

14 JUDGE WEST: Correct.

12:38PM 15 MS. FOURNIER-WILLIAMS: There is two
16 different --

17 JUDGE WEST: Correct.

18 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: Personal bond --

19 MR. PRICE: No. It is based on their
12:38PM 20 own --

21 (SPEAKING ALL AT ONCE.)

22 JUDGE WEST: So --

23 MS. FOURNIER-WILLIAMS: The judge would
24 give out.

12:38PM 25 JUDGE WEST: We don't -- I haven't done a

1 true -- or what we used to call a PR bond in a longtime.
2 We realized a couple of years that we were calling
3 things the wrong name for what we really intended. So
4 the only time I do a true PR bond is typically a medical
12:39PM 5 issue. I will do a medical PR. I don't attach an
6 amount to it, nothing like that. If someone is in court
7 or something like this where they're going to be let out
8 of jail but they're not going to have to pay any money,
9 you still -- it's called a personal bond. Take the R
10 out of it because that's not -- they're two separate
11 things. And so the personal bond, you say: I'm setting
12 your bond at \$5,000 but I'm making that a personal bond.
13 You don't have to pay it unless you don't show up when
14 you're supposed, so...

12:39PM 15 MS. FOURNIER-WILLIAMS: You can forfeit
16 this?

17 MR. PRICE: What's the difference between
18 that and a PR bond?

19 JUDGE WEST: You can forfeit a personal
12:39PM 20 bond. You cannot forfeit PR bond.

21 MS. BERTRAND: Back in the day when we were
22 doing PR bonds, personal recognize bond, that was done
23 during the time when we had pretrial diversion office.
24 Kind of different rules were in place back then. But
12:40PM 25 since it came to our attention -- Judge Derouen brought

1 to our attention -- the difference between a personal
2 recognize bond and a personal bond, there is different
3 statutory requirements on each bond. On a personal
4 bond, they have to list their date of birth, where they
12:40PM 5 were born, where their job is, their phone number. I
6 mean, there is a lot of personal information that they
7 are required to put on that personal bond versus a
8 regular personal recognizance bond where they would just
9 sign.

12:40PM 10 JUDGE WEST: And it gives us the ability to
11 hopefully to be able to send letters and say: Okay.
12 Your case has now been indicted or filed or whatever you
13 have a court date. And then you can forfeit it.

14 MS. BERTRAND: If they would write their
12:40PM 15 E-mail address on that personal bond -- I mean, you
16 could serve them by E-mail --

17 JUDGE WEST: Right.

18 MS. BERTRAND: -- if you can't get a good
19 service on the address after --

12:41PM 20 JUDGE WEST: That's kind of --

21 MR. DAY: A text too.

22 JUDGE WEST: Right. So that's kind of
23 going down -- that answers your question.

24 MS. FOURNIER-WILLIAMS: The reason why I
12:41PM 25 asked that was because you said that the judges are

1 going to watch that report and they're going to --

2 JUDGE WEST: Act on it.

3 MS. FOURNIER-WILLIAMS: Okay. So from
4 there. Okay.

12:41PM 5 JUDGE WEST: Typically, it will probably be
6 Mark Derouen doing it out there. And it will be
7 personal bonds not PR bonds.

8 MR. DAY: Could the judge choose to --
9 instead of doing a personal bond, lower the bond as
10 well.

11 JUDGE WEST: Technically, you can on a 151
12 with those dates. And so kind of depends, if it's a --
13 like the misdemeanors typically they're going to
14 probably do a personal. If you've got a big one --
12:41PM 15 like, we got kind of close on a robbery and murder
16 recently. And we were talking and discussing with Mark
17 is like don't -- don't just let them out. Let's lower
18 it. Let's make sure the D.A. -- but they got it done
19 and got it taken care. So yeah, it can be a reduction.
12:42PM 20 But technically the law it has to be reduced to
21 something they can make.

22 MR. DAY: Right.

23 JUDGE WEST: So that's just kind of
24 questionable. You lower it a little bit if they don't
12:42PM 25 make, then worry about it later.

1 MR. PRICE: If they don't have to put up
2 any money, it's not a cash bond. They don't put up any
3 money then --

4 JUDGE WEST: You can either lower it or
12:42PM 5 you're required in 17.151 is what the -- look at that
6 one. It says either you're required to lower it or set
7 a personal bond. Do something that they can afford. If
8 they can't afford anything, you're supposed to do a
9 personal.

12:42PM 10 MR. PRICE: But they can afford a personal
11 bond because they don't put up any money.

12 JUDGE WEST: Correct.

13 MR. PRICE: So you can make it 3 million
14 dollars.

12:42PM 15 JUDGE WEST: Yeah. But that doesn't -- you
16 want them -- if it's a serious -- if it's a serious
17 offense, I think it's going to be more likely that it
18 gets lowered and not made a personal bond. And then
19 that buys you a little bit of time legally for the
12:43PM 20 D.A.'s to get caught up or do whatever it needs to
21 happen, if they're waiting for certain information to
22 get it indicted.

23 MS. BERTRAND: Yesterday, I had a
24 conversation with Judge Woods because there have been
12:43PM 25 occurrences happening where cases are filed. We were

1 not issuing a warrant at that time because our new
2 process is the J.P. judge has to sign an order, the time
3 the case is filed telling us to issue a warrant for the
4 person's arrest. So if that doesn't get done and it
5 gets set on a docket, instead of doing a bond
6 forfeiture, they're going to issue an at-large without
7 bond. You can do a setting on it so that it goes into
8 the back screen. So when the person gets arrested,
9 there is already a bond setting on it. The judge has
10 already reviewed it, set the amount. They can bond in
11 and bond out, not house overnight and arraign the next
12 day, because we did have some new DPS troopers come
13 over, and they were issuing summons for possession
14 charges, not realizing we don't issue summons in
15 Jefferson County. So that's since kind of been
16 corrected. Those are the cases that are kind of now
17 coming that the warrant wasn't issued. So those have
18 been taken care of, but that's kind of how we're
19 handling them now. If they manage to make it on the
20 docket and there is no bond, a warrant goes out at that
21 time.

22 JUDGE WEST: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. PATSY: Captain runs the jail -- at the
24 sheriff's department had told me like 8 months ago that
25 something like this was going to go into effect. He

1 said they've working with Harris County. It's going to
2 be very similar to Harris County. And he explained that
3 when they're pulled over -- this is what he said -- when
4 they're pulled over, the D.A.'s office is contacted,
12:44PM 5 given all the information. The D.A.'s file a case
6 number right then.

7 JUDGE WEST: We're not doing that.

8 MS. PATSY: That's what I want to see.
9 Because I assume --

12:44PM 10 JUDGE WEST: I say we. Our D.A.'s office
11 has refused to have 24-hour intake. That's the answer
12 to that.

13 MS. PATSY: That's what I was trying to see
14 if this was going to go into that --

12:45PM 15 JUDGE WEST: That would be great. That
16 would solve a lot of issues, but that's not happening.

17 MS. PATSY: So this could go with no case
18 number, no more accusations.

19 JUDGE WEST: Correct.

12:45PM 20 MS. RITENOUR: But everything still goes on
21 the accusation docket, correct? So we still drop the
22 cases the same way we've been doing even accusations are
23 no longer?

24 MS. BERTRAND: Right. If they're still in
12:45PM 25 custody you may divine that same process to get off of

1 it is not changing.

2 MS. RITENOUR: Okay.

3 JUDGE WEST: All right, so that's that.

4 The other thing that I wanted to bring up, obviously,

12:45PM 5 Becky has told all of us that she's going to be retiring
6 in what three months?

7 MS. BERTRAND: 3 months, 10 days.

8 JUDGE WEST: So I think it's time for sure
9 for us to talk about how we get a replacement. I know

12:45PM 10 that's an executive board issue. I cannot remember. We
11 were just trying to talk about how we did it. Kelly was
12 the last one that came on when Mary left. If we posted
13 it and then we got -- how did we do that?

14 MS. BERTRAND: The last time, I think, each
12:46PM 15 representative nominated someone. And then it went kind
16 of in an executive discussion about it. And then that
17 decision was made at that time.

18 JUDGE WEST: Okay. And I feel like we even
19 put it on -- everybody wrote it on a little piece of
12:46PM 20 paper and we --

21 MS. BERTRAND: Yes. On actual vote.

22 MR. DAY: I thought you were just retiring
23 from the county clerk's office. You're retiring from
24 the board too?

12:46PM 25 MS. BERTRAND: Peace out, man.

1 MS. FOURNIER-WILLIAMS: I tried to the same
2 thing, believe that.

3 JUDGE WEST: So I think that being said, I
4 think it would be nice and probably timely if we do this
12:46PM 5 in August at our next meeting, if you'll put that on the
6 agenda for us. Everybody on the executive board talk to
7 your people in your departments and around the
8 courthouse. And if there is anybody interested that you
9 want to nominate, we'll take those nominations. And
10 then I think what we'll do -- if I remember, we actually
11 had everyone leave.

12 MS. BERTRAND: Yes.

13 JUDGE WEST: Other than the executive
14 board, we did that discussion and that vote and then had
12:46PM 15 everybody come back in. So let's do that at the August
16 meeting and that way whoever it is can start hopefully
17 getting all of your knowledge --

18 MS. BERTRAND: Yes.

19 JUDGE WEST: -- in their brain. So we're
12:47PM 20 going to miss your knowledge a lot. We'll be calling
21 you from the meetings.

22 MS. BERTRAND: I mean, there are several
23 people that are -- that work in our offices that
24 absolutely do this. So it just --

12:47PM 25 JUDGE JONES: Absolutely, tell me. Call

1 me.

2 JUDGE WEST: All right. Those are the only
3 two thing that I wanted. Is there anything else?

4 MR. DAY: Two things. I wasn't going to
12:47PM 5 bring this up because it's been brought up before. We
6 talked about it. I talked to Shauberger about it and
7 I've talked to Sheriff Woods about it the other day.
8 The bondsmen wanted me to bring it up again.

9 MULTI VOICES: Sheriff Woods?

10 12:47PM MR. DAY: Oh, did I say Sheriff Woods?

11 MULTI VOICES: Sheriff Stevens.

12 MR. DAY: Sheriff Stephens. Let me tell
13 you why I've got Sheriff Woods on my mind, because Eddie
14 Francis that used to work for Sheriff Woods lives -- I
12:47PM 15 found out lives across the street from my daughter in
16 Dallas. I just saw her the other day. So I had sheriff
17 Woods on my mind, looking at Clint right there. And I'm
18 just -- anyway Sheriff Stephens.

19 But the scam stuff that's going on is
12:48PM 20 continuing to hit. And it actually -- now they're using
21 bondsmen names when they call. Lisa Martin, the other
22 day, her name was used. So I just want to throw it out
23 there again. We put it on our Facebook page, our
24 website. And I guess it's on the county website as well
12:48PM 25 as the sheriff's website.

1 MS. BERTRAND: Can you tell me exactly
2 what's happening?

3 MR. DAY: Well, basically what's happening
4 are there is a scam going to where people are calling --
12:48PM 5 they're finding family members of people that are
6 arrested basically. And this is not the only scam
7 that's going on in the country. There is my mom --
8 somebody called my mom the other day trying to get her
9 on something. But basically, what they're doing is
12:48PM 10 calling. They're finding family members whether on
11 social media, however they're finding them, getting
12 phone numbers, calling and saying so-so went to jail.
13 And we're -- you know, to send us this money and we'll
14 be able to get him out basically. I don't know if
12:49PM 15 they're using the term bond. I don't know and -- then
16 you've got people that have never dealt with these
17 situations before, they're panicking. Don't know what's
18 going on, and they're sending this money and then
19 realizing that they have been scammed.

12:49PM 20 JUDGE WEST: Do you want to get maybe with
21 the two news agencies and see if they'll do a little --

22 MR. DAY: Well, sheriff is. She's supposed
23 to get with Angel San Juan. I know she told me the
24 other day doing a report on it but...

12:49PM 25 JUDGE WEST: Good.

1 MR. DAY: I know -- you know, I don't know
2 how much people pay attention to this stuff on the news
3 and whatnot.

12:49PM

4 JUDGE WEST: Well, it's worth a try to get
5 something out there at least.

12:49PM

6 MR. DAY: And people that don't deal with
7 this on a regular -- like a lot of our clients are
8 people that go to jail all the time. Their family
9 members deal with it all the time. But you get new
10 people that go to jail. And they don't know the -- you
11 know what's going on.

12:50PM

12 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: There are a couple of
13 them going on, one about GPS monitors, one about bonds,
14 the other one is you didn't show up for courts, so we
15 have a warrant for your arrest. City warrants.

16 MS. SEGURA: They called me on that.

12:50PM

17 MR. DAY: But it's going on all over. And
18 the AP, that was something that was discussed. But like
19 we talked about, there are people that are getting
20 contacted before they even hit the AP, before they're
21 even booked in. So I don't know if it's police scanners
22 that people have and you know -- so I was asked to bring
23 it up, so I brought it up.

12:50PM

24 MS. BERTRAND: It's happening before it's
25 happening before it's even hitting that site.

1 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: It's AI. It's coming
2 directly.

3 UNKNOWN VOICE: You know, they're watching
4 that site. They're looking them up. They're calling
12:50PM 5 all their relatives that I told them about the spot they
6 look them.

7 UNKNOWN VOICE: But the site is not
8 always --

9 (MULTIPLE VOICES.)

12:50PM 10 MR. DAY: You have a police scanner. You
11 hear somebody's name. You immediately start calling.
12 You're not going to get everybody. 90 percent are not
13 going to fall for it. But all of you've got to find is
14 that ten percent that are going to, you know, so...

12:51PM 15 And the other thing is Patsy is also
16 retiring. She's Patsy with Allied.

17 MS. PATSY: 27 years.

18 MS. RITENOUR: Questions about accusations,
19 you're not even going to be here.

12:51PM 20 (MULTIPLE VOICES.)

21 JUDGE WEST: Well, congratulations to
22 everybody retiring and whatever.

23 MR. PRICE: I've never said this before.
24 I'm just throwing that out there. I'm just telling you
12:51PM 25 this three years ago, is that when you retired? No,

1 Becky retired. You were scheduling your retirement.

2 MS. SEGURA: That was Haylee.

3 JUDGE JONES: And she came back.

4 JUDGE WEST: Hold on. Glenda, go ahead,
12:51PM 5 because I've got to get out of here.

6 MS. SEGURA: We're still getting bonds
7 without addresses on them.

8 MS. MOTT: And E-mail and --

9 MS. RITTENOUR: You're looking at us?

12:52PM 10 MS. MOTT: Residential and phone numbers.
11 You're pointing --

12 MS. SEGURA: We still get -- that has
13 transient and then some of them just don't have
14 anything. And it's kind of hard for us to --

12:52PM 15 JUDGE JONES: But transients don't have any
16 business, but you want to put on.

17 CHIEF SHAUBERGER: What do you do with a
18 transient?

19 MS. SEGURA: I don't know. I don't know.
12:52PM 20 Some of the addresses are just left blank.

21 MS. BERTRAND: Well, that's okay if you do
22 the forfeiture. There is a process that the D.A.'s
23 office can do by posting -- we can still get service on
24 it. So we can talk about that outside of this.

12:52PM 25 MS. SEGURA: Okay.

1 MS. BERTRAND: But I do want to throw out
2 before we adjourn. This is Eva, she is replacing me
3 downstairs in the civil/criminal side, not the probate
4 side. So Eva Legendre.

12:52PM

5 JUDGE WEST: Hi, Eva.

6 MS. SEGURA: Wait a minute.

7 JUDGE WEST: Angie's daughter.

8 MS. LEGENDRE: My step mom, yeah.

9 MS. FOURNIER-WILLIAMS: Motion to adjourn.

12:53PM

10 JUDGE WEST: All right. We have a motion
11 to adjourn. Thanks everybody meeting is adjourned.

12 (ADJOURNED.)

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