



**COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA  
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA**

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**AGENDA**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025  
12:00 NOON  
COURT ADMINISTRATION 5TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
M.C. BLANCHARD JUDICIAL BUILDING  
190 GOVERNMENT STREET**

***Chair: Commissioner Lumon J. May***

- I.** Call to Order
- II.** Was the meeting properly advertised?
- III.** Introduction of Council Members/Designees
- IV.** Adoption of Agenda
- V.** Approval of Minutes from Wednesday, June 4, 2025, Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting
- VI.** Corrections Population Update
- VII.** Open Forum
- VIII.** Adjournment

**Escambia County Public Safety Coordinating Council  
Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2025  
M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building, Pensacola, FL  
Fifth Floor Conference Room**

**Agenda Item I: Call to Order**

12:00 PM: Meeting called to order by Chairman Lumon May.

**Agenda Item II: Was the meeting properly advertised?**

Jose Gochez confirmed the meeting was properly advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on May 30, 2025.

**Agenda Item III: Introduction of Council Members / Designees**

**Members present:** Chairman Lumon May, County Commission District 3, Circuit Judge Linda Nobles, County Judge Kerra Smith, Demetris Taylor, Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Rich Powell, Chief of Corrections, Chip Simmons, Sheriff, Clara Long, Neighborhood & Human Services Department Director, Nick Thomas, Chief Assistant Public Defender Designee for Bruce Miller, Public Defender and Kasey Watson, Trial Court Administrator.

**Others present:** Frederick Longmire, Deputy Chief Assistant State Attorney, Allen Upson, US Marshals Service, Jose Gochez, County Administration, Cary Carlisle, Bail Agent, Florida Bail Agents Association, Tommi Lyter, Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Whitney Lucas, Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Ashley Harvey, US Marshals Service, Shawn Hankins, Escambia County Corrections, Debbie Bowers, County Administration, Cecilia Amos, County Administration, Michelle King, Deputy Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Brenda VanBrussel, Escambia County Clerk of Court's Office, Audrey Washington, District 3, and Carla Cooper-Kriegel, Scrivener, Court Administration.

**Agenda Item IV: Adoption of the Agenda**

Chairman May called for adoption of the June 4, 2025, Agenda.  
Motion made to adopt Agenda.  
Motion Seconded.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item V: Approval of Minutes from Wednesday, March 5, 2025, Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting**

Chairman May called for approval of the March 5, 2025, PSCC Meeting Minutes.  
Motion made to approve March 5, 2025, PSCC Meeting Minutes.  
Motion seconded.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item VI. Benefits of the Escambia County Jail becoming a contract facility for the United States Marshals Service (USMS):**

Presentation by Allen Upson:

Allen Upson introduced himself and provided biographical and background information for the council members. Mr. Upson was hired by the US Marshals Service in 2003 and has 22 years of service. Mr. Upson has been the supervisor for the Pensacola office since 2017. In 2017, he discovered Escambia County Jail had at one time been a contract jail for the USMS. This arrangement ended in 2015 after the gas explosion at the Escambia County Jail.

Mr. Upson presented the following information concerning the current federal inmate population in the local area. Almost all federal inmates in this district are being housed at the Santa Rosa County Jail. USMS used Walton County Jail over the past year and a half but stopped using them because they stopped transporting federal inmates to and from court. Santa Rosa County is currently housing 128 inmates, including 2 females. Santa Rosa County houses more than 95 percent of federal inmates in the area. Santa Rosa County by contract is being paid \$95 per day per inmate. This year they are on track for 3.3 to 3.6 million dollars. From January to April, Santa Rosa received more than 1.2 million dollars. The May payment will be approximately \$340,000. USMS is hopeful Escambia County will consent to again be a contract jail.

Mr. Upson explained that Escambia County signed a CAP agreement in 1996. At that time, the federal government gave Escambia County one million dollars to develop a medical wing in the jail. The wing was completed in 1999, and Escambia County Jail agreed to house federal inmates for the next 20 years. Due to the explosion at the jail the agreement did not last 20 years. The last contract Escambia County had with USMS was in 2008, and Escambia County received \$65 per day per inmate. The bed space was limited to 45 for males and 5 for females. Moving forward, USMS would like to partner with Escambia County again. Mr. Upson could not promise a price per day, but the county and the federal government could negotiate the price. The negotiation process could be completed within a couple of months.

Mr. Upson said there are several benefits to this process, with the foremost being the revenue generated by housing federal inmates and transport fees. When the jail transports Escambia County inmates to court and transports one or more federal inmates to federal court, then the USMS pays for the entire trip. The transport fee includes time, mileage, and two deputies. If Escambia County needs to transport an inmate halfway across the state and they coordinate the trip with the USMS to transport a federal inmate from the same place, then the trip becomes a federal trip and the USMS pays for the entire trip.

Mr. Upson further stated there is no need to separate federal inmates from state inmates. They can be housed in the same pod. Frequently, certain inmates need to be separated from other inmates, and it would be beneficial for the USMS to have two available jails in such circumstances.

Judge Nobles asked if it would be easier to continue to have state court proceedings which pertain to a federal inmate, either by Zoom or in person, if the federal inmates were housed in

Escambia County. Mr. Upson explained it is possible and explained how the government takes custody of the inmate. The movement of the inmate would be easier in a practical sense, but the approval process would still need to be done at the federal level by the US Attorney's office with the agreement of the defendant's attorney. The USMS is not involved in the decision-making process.

Chairman May asked Mr. Upson if there was a federal prison facility at Corry Field, and if so, was it still being utilized. Mr. Upson confirmed there is a federal prison camp at Corry Field. However, the camp is not a detention facility. The closest federal detention center is in Tallahassee. It is not practical for USMS to move inmates back and forth to court in this area from Tallahassee.

Chairman May asked what variables are considered in determining the daily rate to house inmates. Mr. Upson responded that several variables are considered in determining the rates, including what it costs to run the jail and salaries. Santa Rosa County renegotiates their contract every 36 months.

Chairman May asked if Escambia County was still under the 20-year commitment that Mr. Upson mentioned in exchange for the one-million-dollar construction of the medical wing. Mr. Upson responded that due to the explosion at the jail the agreement was set aside. Mr. Upson further stated he would like to reestablish the partnership between the USMS and Escambia County.

Chairman May asked Chief Powell the cost to house inmates at the Escambia County Jail. Chief Powell responded that it runs slightly more than \$100 per day. Chief Powell noted that the issue should be addressed with the County and expressed concern about meeting any new demand for housing federal detainees given current staffing challenges. Chief Powell noted that the County should strongly consider the cost of operations and manpower before entering an agreement. Chairman May agreed this should be a voting issue for the Board and further stated he would like to have the opinion of the Public Safety Coordinating Council.

Sheriff Simmons asked if there was anything that needed to be voted on at this meeting because two different issues had been raised – the decision to enter into an agreement, and negotiation of the rate. He inquired whether an agreement could be entered to house a limited number of inmates. Sheriff Simmons asked if Chairman May wanted the council to make a recommendation. Sheriff Simmons recommended that negotiations take place based on the presentation made by Mr. Upson.

Sheriff Simmons made a motion to direct County staff to investigate how the County can work with the USMS on housing federal inmates.

The motion was seconded.

Members of the council voted.

Vote: passed unanimously.

Commissioner May turned the meeting over to Judge Nobles. Judge Nobles called for the next agenda item.

### **Agenda Item VII. Corrections Population Update:**

Corrections population update provided by Chief Powell, Escambia County Corrections.

Current population: 1,531

Community Corrections: 1,661

Juveniles: 8 males. 5 are being held on murder charges. 1 female, also being held on a murder charge.

The population seems to be undergoing the normal summer increase.

28 inmates are waiting for a bed at Florida State Hospital.

### **Agenda Item VIII. Open Forum:**

Judge Nobles shared information concerning a local member of the defense bar filing an order to show cause regarding the jail. Chief Powell was aware of the issue and the dismissal of it. Judge Nobles stated there is an increase in the number of complaints she is hearing about the jail.

Judge Smith shared she received a letter at her personal post office box from an inmate. The mail was stamped Jail Mail, Dorm K. The contents of the letter were non-threatening; however, her concern was how the inmate got her address while being housed at the jail. Chief Powell requested additional information so he could investigate the incident. He also stated inmates cannot be restricted from sending mail. Judge Smith suggested a review of the jail's outgoing mail policy.

### **Agenda Item VIII: Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.