

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 1/2/2015

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

- **Development Review Board Meeting:** Monday, January 5th, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
- **“Montpelier in Motion” Steering Committee Meeting:** Monday, January 5th, at 5:30 P.M. in the Memorial Room.
- **ADA Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, January 6th, at 10:00 A.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room.
- **Special City Council Meeting:** Wednesday, January 7th, at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

FOR YOU CALENDAR ...

- **Council Photo for the Annual Report: Arrangements have been made to have a photographer at City Hall on January 7th, at 6:00 P.M. PLEASE let staff know as soon as possible if you are unable to be there.**
- “Welcome Legislators” Reception: Thursday, January 29th, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the Capitol Plaza.

ATTACHMENTS ...

-  Community Justice Center Survey

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

Budget

The FY16 Proposed Budget is complete. An electronic version is posted here: http://www.montpelier-vt.org/upload/pages/703/files/proposed_fy16_rev.3.pdf. The budget discussions will be held on January 7, 14 and 22 (Thursday).

DPW Director Search

The posting period for the Director of Public Works position closed this week. We have received 24 applications for this position with 8 candidates from Vermont. Resume review and the scheduling of interviews will begin next week.

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Legal

Hallsmith vs. City, Fraser, Baker – Being appealed to Supreme Court. Represented by Bernie Lambek. Oral arguments were held on December 18, 2014. Awaiting decision

VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal. – in discovery. Represented by Robert Fletcher.

Steuernwald vs. Fraser, Cleveland, City –Motions being filed. Represented by Nancy Sheahan through VLCT.

Bettis/Powers vs. Bean – Motions being filed. Represented by Nancy Sheahan through VLCT. Mandatory mediation was held on Monday, December 22nd.

WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Community Justice Center

The Community Justice Center routinely asks program participants to complete a survey that evaluates their participation and how well staff and volunteers did their jobs. This document is a compilation of answers received from people who resolved their offenses through a restorative justice process during FY 2014.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

January 7	Budget Georgetown University Energy Prize VTrans Letter of Intent on behalf of the Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee Appointments to the Investment Committee
January 14	First Public Hearing: Budget & Warning Montpelier Community Fund Board Appointments to Conservation Commission
January 22 (Thursday)	Second Public Hearing: Budget & Warning Deadline for Petitions Approve Budget and Warning
February 11	Review of Flood Mitigation Plan City Manager's Review

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February 18 or 25

Montpelier in Motion

March 3

City Meeting Election



Jessie C. Baker
Assistant City Manager



FY 14 MCJC RESPONSIBLE PARTY SURVEY July 2013 – June 2014

Program: 20- Reparative Probation 12- Restorative Justice Alternative 5- Reparative w/o Probation

Please circle the response below that best describes your experience with the restorative program.

1. As a result of the restorative process, I learned how my actions affected others.

Disagree *Barely Agree* *5-Somewhat Agree* *5-Mostly Agree* *26- Completely Agree* *NA*

If you agree, what did you learn?

To always be responsible

That by choices I have made affected my community as well as my children

That it is more than just you (the offender) that the actions affect and that there's amends to be made to people.

Everything about the effects of alcohol

I learned how I affected the people closest to me.

That my actions and decisions can have a tremendous effect on others. Taking the time to stop and think about my actions is important and will hopefully positively impact the community.

It's better to come clean than to try to run

There are options to help one become a better person

I have learned that even the littlest of things could affect someone's day

I have learned that my voice, behaviors and actions have a direct impact on the well being and lives of others and that working together collaboratively can help make positive interpersonal relationships with others.

I agree, some of the process was unhelpful. The therapist part and the woman acting like she ran the place when she was only part of the board.

I believe it reiterated what I knew but didn't practice

That my situation not only affects me, but affects friends, family and can potentially hurt people I don't know (victims).

The task established in my first meeting focused on beginning a process of self discovery through education, meeting people who had lost loved ones, self reflection and taking responsibility.

The hurt that my actions can cause other people.

Just the numbers of people my actions affected.

I am indeed part of the community—what I do influences/or has the possibility of impacting them.

How my mistake can affect anyone and everyone around me.

Acts such as the one I did are all done selflessly [selfishly?]

That in addition to the financial and professional consequences there were emotional and relationship consequences suffered by members of my immediate family.

It made everybody sad and worried about me.

I learned I am not the only one that is in my life; what I do affects others

How things affect family and the community because of my actions

The amount of shoplifting that Shaw's has experienced, and the number of people this affected there/coming to the Reparative Board

That it isn't always about the money or damage. But it's about the people involved.

I learn to be more calm in my axeing want they rive (? Asking that they leave?)

Doing the writings that I had to do really helped and listening to what every board member had to say.

How they affect the community members sitting in front of me as well as my immediate family—the writing assignments I did helped to provide me with insight into how my actions affected others.

Even without injury there are negative effects

Mostly that there are people who care about the community

Long term effect on families; effect on first responders

I've known what I did affected my mom and dad but getting the chance to sit in a room and talk to them about [it] helped me realize exactly how much I affected them.

I learned that if I hit someone it can hurt them

This could lead you to serious consequences

2. I learned at least one thing that will help me not repeat my offense.

Disagree Barely Agree 3-Somewhat Agree 8-Mostly Agree 26-Completely Agree NA

If you agree, what did you learn?

I do not want to drink because I realize I am an alcoholic.

I came up with a safe driving plan that will positively affect my choices and stop the choices of an offense when I can drive again.

Don't drive under the influence

That there are chances to move on if you want to improve yourself.

To ask for help by using my support system.

Be patient. Be thoughtful

I really got a lot out of the safe driving class

I'll go to jail if this happens again and I'll get a huge fine.

How shameful and offensive it is to self and others.

Not worth risking custody of son, job and hurting not only myself or someone else.

That I am an alcoholic and cannot drink

That if I reoffend, I risk losing everything

I learned not to be afraid to ask for help and that it is important to be a continued contributing member of our community

I have learned that removing myself from the situation is the best thing to do.

There are ways to cope and be a good person and when bad things happen somehow find the good.

Walk away/meet in the middle

This time I learned that a lot more people are forgiving than I thought they were (DUI #2)

To just walk away (simple assault)

To step back, not fight back (simple assault)

I learned my triggers and have worked to resolve my food insecurity issues (shoplifting)

To always get a hold of police if in a crash is important (leaving the scene)

Think about things before I do them (DUI)

Determination—make up my mind to do what's right (DUI #4)

Not worth it.

Do not drink at all

Hurting anyone emotionally or physically it just makes things harder for everyone.

Is to look at both sides before making a decision.

That drinking and driving kills, only takes one second of bad judgment to take somebody's life.

I have learned/continue to learn how to bridge the intellectual gap on drinking and driving and the actions I take with this knowledge

Taking care of the consequences is a labor (?)

Drinking and driving or being in a car with a drunk driver could instantly become fatal.

I learned that I can get into a lot of trouble.

Working helps, but don't do this kind of stuff on purpose.

3. I feel I have made amends for my offense.

Disagree 1- Barely Agree 3- Somewhat Agree 8-Mostly Agree 25-Completely Agree NA

4. I feel like I am more a part of my community.

Disagree 1-Barely Agree 6- Somewhat Agree 16-Mostly Agree 14-Completely Agree NA

5. I feel satisfied the incident is resolved.

Disagree 1-Barely Agree 2-Somewhat Agree 5-Mostly Agree 28-Completely Agree NA

No answer circled, comment "I will never make up for what I have done, not fully"

If you answered disagree, barely agree or somewhat agree, please explain

I barely agree because Family Court Judges are not willing to see all the work I have done to make amends to allow me more time with my children. They allow the other parent to dictate visitation despite my efforts to make amends (DUI #2).

I helped the community some but not closer to them in any way

I answered somewhat agree for resolving the incident because luckily the repercussions all fell on me, so resolving it is something I've done on my own which the rep board helped with.

I still feel embarrassed by my behavior—drinking and driving

6. The Community Justice Center staff and volunteers:

Prepared me sufficiently for the meeting

Disagree Barely Agree 2-Somewhat Agree 5-Mostly Agree 30-Completely Agree NA

Helped make it comfortable to talk

Disagree 2-Barely Agree 2-Somewhat Agree 8-Mostly Agree 25- Completely Agree NA

Handled things fairly

1-Disagree Barely Agree 1- Somewhat Agree 5-Mostly Agree 30-Completely Agree NA

Treated me and others with respect

Disagree Barely Agree 3-Somewhat Agree 3-Mostly Agree 31-Completely Agree NA

Responded appropriately to issues and emotions

Disagree Barely Agree 2-Somewhat Agree 6-Mostly Agree 29-Completely Agree NA

Gave me a chance to say what I needed to say

Disagree 1-Barely Agree 2-Somewhat Agree 4- Mostly Agree 30-Completely Agree NA

Gave me information that I needed

Disagree Barely Agree 2-Somewhat Agree 6-Mostly Agree 29-Completely Agree NA

Comments:

Learned a lot

They are very helpful and resourceful.

You were all wonderful, thank you!

Pleasantly surprised by the experience.

Great staff and Volunteers!

I felt a little rushed during the second meeting. I did a lot of work and felt that members of the panel were in a hurry to leave.

This is an important community program and I was grateful to be allowed to be part of it.

You were all great. It was way better than expected. Thank you.

All the staff and volunteers were great about listening to me, and were very caring.

Very personable people

Good set of people, smart/caring

This program is definitely helpful and should continue to be used.

Some people handled things fairly. The woman was acting rude and trying to run the whole meeting and act like a therapist. Judy handled it very well and so did the other man.

Thank you so very much community justice center staff, as I truly appreciate the opportunity to have this learning experience.

I wasn't aware of MCJC but it's an option to court that was very meaningful vs. just punishment and not resolving issues.

Thanks!

7. Please check the one activity that was most meaningful to you:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12- Conversations with members of the Community Justice Center. | <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Meeting with victim(s) of my crime. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10- Writing a research or theme paper. | <input type="checkbox"/> 3- The Restorative Program meeting(s). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Attending the Victim Impact Panel program. | <input type="checkbox"/> 10- Work performed for the community. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1- Education/improvement classes. | <input type="checkbox"/> 8- Letter of Apology to Victim(s) (one mentioned family).
Work performed for the victim(s). |
| | 1- Other (Please list) “Insights into Conflict” class |
| | 1- All of these were meaningful to me |

Why was this activity meaningful?

Because I feel as if I gave back to my community by offering a helping hand.

Opened my eyes up.

It made me think about how I affected my family [letter of apology]

Helped me get involved with the community in a positive way and engaged my interest to further volunteer my time and effort

To teach me to look at things differently

To learn to control fights in a better way

It gave me and members of my family an opportunity to reflect on the incident several months after it occurred.

It let me talk to victims and learn about DUI

Politeness [at meetings], being treated like a human being

To hear her [victim’s] experience of how my actions affected her/the community

It really woke me up and let me realize some realities around me

It showed me the other side of things (meeting with victims of my crime)

I can’t narrow it down to one thing, because I really believe the whole process was meaningful.

All items occurring here at the reparative board meetings

It’s good to know people care about safety and are willing to do something besides punish.

The little research I did and the health class both gave me a lot of well-needed information that I will take with me forever.

It made me think before I act.

So I can be successful when I am older.

Truly understood what the consequences could have been

It made the possibility of destruction real. It gave a face to victims of drunk drivers (marked “attending victim impact panel” as most meaningful)

It gave me a chance to make the lives of others better (marked “Work performed for the community”)

Brought feeling of worthiness! (marked “Work performed for the community”)

Thanks!

It helped me to understand my actions.

To write everything out put it all in perspective (marked “Writing a research or theme paper”)

I enjoyed being able to participate and feel accepted by my neighbors and community. I love to help others and try to make a difference.

The victim impact panel made things real in the worst way possible

Really made me think and feel and make amends

[community service contact] was very thankful and it felt nice to make him so happy for doing so little.

Comments:

Thank you all so very much!

Thank you for taking your time to volunteer on the Reparative Board. This was a very rewarding and educational experience.

I think that this was a much more meaningful way to address and make amends with what I did. It made me think a lot about what I did.

Enjoyed it—good people—pleasure to run into people who treat you with respect

Me and my family all felt this program worthwhile. It demonstrates that if given an opportunity one can be forgiven especially if one strives to do the “right thing” after.

Reparative Board is not a bunch of “meanies” [in response to something a board member had heard from others]

Thank you to all of the thoughtful and caring members of the Restorative Justice/Reparative Board meeting. Your time and energy and heartfelt feedback has helped me tremendously!

I think it is much more effective in reducing crime and enhancing public safety than the penal system.

Victim wasn't really a victim, he was the officer, but I wanted to talk with him about the event and to apologize.

Thank you for your service

Thanks for your help! ☺

It was a way to express thoughts and writing it out was more effective and personally meaningful.

Thank you again for this life changing experience and opportunity.

Thank you Judy

To write something on paper and to see what effects it has on other people—your actions and behaviors.

Note: All of the low scores in number 6 were from teens. It may indicate that we have work to do to engage them, make them feel comfortable, heard, etc.