

Community Justice Board Charge

Purpose:

To work with the Williston Police Department, the Vermont Department of Corrections and with pre-charge and court referrals in order to assess the impact of specific crimes on victims and ascertain what actions the offender might take to repair any damage the offender may have caused and to increase the sense, by the offender, of belonging to a community so that the chance of repeat criminal acts is less.

Background:

The Williston Reparative Board was formed in 2001 and since its formation has grown to include 15 volunteers. In 2009, 58 offenders successfully completed the program. It was formed by the Vermont Department of Corrections as a way of relieving pressure on the court system, reducing recidivism, and providing more of a voice to victims of crime.

The Board works closely with the Police Department and Vermont Department of Corrections and accepts referrals in one of two ways - "pre-charge" cases and "Court Referrals". Pre-Charge cases are usually first time offenders who have committed non-violent crimes, with retail theft the most common. Referrals are most often made by the police officer but some are referred by the State's Attorney in lieu of criminal prosecution. Court Referred cases involve offenders who have been mandated by the court as a condition of their probation to meet with the Reparative Board.

Membership:

Membership on the Community Justice Board shall consist of up to 30 members appointed by the Williston Selectboard to staggered three-year terms with the exception of one position which is reserved for a high school student who will serve a one-year term. Members are appointed by the Selectboard upon the recommendation of the Williston Community Justice Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Selectboard.

The Police Department will provide staff support to the Board, as needed.

Charge:

Members of the Board shall work with offenders who have been referred to it by proper authorities. This includes "Pre-Charged" offenders as well as "Court Referrals". As part of their evaluation of each case, the Board shall consider, where possible any victims involved and the impact the crime may have had in their lives. In addition, the Board shall attempt to ascertain whether the offender takes responsibility for the crime, understands what harm their actions may have caused the community, family members or friends. If the Board so determines, an agreement may be prepared for the offender to repair the damage caused by the crime. Such agreements may include, but are not limited to: writing letters of apology; learning about community resources, such as substance

abuse programs or GED opportunities; completing an assigned number of hours of community services.

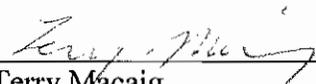
If the agreement is satisfied, the offenders record may be expunged as provided for by law.

The Board shall prepare a set of bylaws within six months of the adoption of this charge, subject to review and approval by the Selectboard. The Bylaws shall serve as a guide for its operation as a town board. A training program for new volunteers should also be developed.

The Board is required to provide the Selectboard with an annual report by December 31st, detailing the number of offenders referred to it, number of offenders who have successfully completed the process, any expenses incurred and other related information.

Approved by Selectboard: April 4, 2017

Williston Selectboard



Terry Macaig



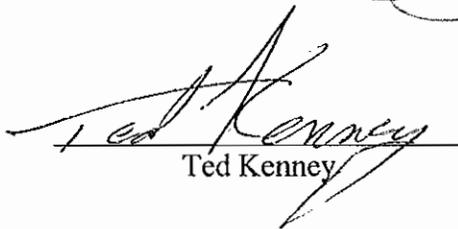
Jeff Fehrs



Theresa Zittritsch



Joy Eimoge



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