

From: DGT PeerJuryFriends <dgtpeerjuryfriends@gmail.com>
Subject: Peer Jury Agenda Item Request for 12/19
Date: December 8, 2017 at 1:56:12 PM CST
To: art.donner@dgtownship.com, abby.ferguson@dgtownship.com, karen.kelly@dgtownship.com, dave.vanderlaan@dgtownship.com, "mark.thoman" <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Cc: jmadden@burr-ridge.gov, mickey@mayormickey.com, bfarmer@clarendonhills.us, laustin@clarendonhills.us, gthomas@darienil.gov, kweaver@darienil.gov, Kurt Bluder <kbluder@downers.us>, mtully@downers.us, ksimpson@villageofhinsdale.org, tcauley@villageofhinsdale.org, jkruger@oak-brook.org, glalmalani@oak-brook.org, jgunther@westmont.il.gov, rgunter@westmont.il.gov, rpavelchik@willowbrook.il.us, ftrilla@willowbrook.il.us, bcunningham@vil.woodridge.il.us, gcunningham@vil.woodridge.il.us, chris.west@dgtownship.com, cathy.rager@dgtownship.com, margaret chaidez <margaret.chaidez@gmail.com>, Clifford Grammich <cagrammich@gmail.com>, Yvonne Mayer <ymayer@msn.com>, jowens3285@aol.com

Dear Downers Grove Township Board of Trustees:

On behalf of supporters of the Peer Jury Program that was terminated by Supervisor Thoman on July 24, 2017, we formally request that you add to the agenda of your December 19, 2017 meeting discussion on the program's suspension and possible reinstatement. As you may be aware, for over four months we have been working as a group to accomplish two things:

1. Identify avenues to reinstate the Peer Jury program. This has culminated in our development of the attached reinstatement plan that would enable the Township to reinstate the program. As discussed below, this plan was to be submitted for your consideration in early November for your consideration at the November 21 meeting. Mr. Thoman was aware that we were working on this plan that would answer your questions about a brief earlier version of this proposal sent to him by Community Member Bill White, and that we planned to submit it to you before the November 21 meeting.
2. As part of the development of the plan, and also to identify why Mr.

Thoman terminated Peer Jury and why the trustees have not publicly discussed its termination (or possible reinstatement), we filed Freedom of Information Act Requests to access public records. We have learned that on November 9, ***before*** we submitted the detailed proposed implementation plan for your consideration, Mr. Thoman informed all of the Police Chiefs via email that our proposal "***ambitious and sincere as it is, raises more questions than it answers. It lacks safeguards against financial shortfalls and liability, does not incorporate law enforcement authority, and offers no participant recourse, among other issues.***" We were informed that the police chiefs viewed this email from Mr. Thoman as shutting the door on any possibility that the Township would consider reinstatement of the Peer Jury program.

Having now received responses to our Freedom of Information Act Requests, we have concluded that there has been a lack of proper process followed by Mr. Thoman in terminating a long-standing, successful, popular and community supported program. We do not believe that he made accurate representations to the community or to Township Trustees, about the basis for terminating the program, the costs of the program, or efforts by Peer Jury supporters to provide you with information you requested to publicly discuss a possible reinstatement of the program. Moreover, we believe that Mr. Thoman acted prematurely in sending his November 9 email to the police chiefs, with the intended effect of ending our efforts. We further believe that the Board of Trustees has not properly discussed the Peer Jury program as required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act. This email will explain how we have come to these conclusions and request that you – as our elected officials -- publicly discuss our concerns and our proposal to have the Township reinstate Peer Jury.

The Process to terminate Peer Jury was Flawed. What We Have Learned About the Process to Terminate the DG Peer Jury Program from Mr. Thoman's Public Statements and Township Public Records

A. Inadequate Notification of Peer Jury Termination to Jurors and Parents

As parents of current and past Peer Jurors, our source of information regarding the program always was Lori Wrzesinski. She would email or text jurors and parents any updates or information needed. We were never told

to closely monitor the Township website or Facebook page for relevant Peer Jury information. It was therefore shocking, to say receive a text message from Ms. Wrzesinski on August 2, 2017 that stated:

"Peer Jury Parents: I've been waiting for the township to announce this but as far as I know nothing has gone out yet. Township supervisor eliminated peer jury."

Ms. Wrzesinski was correct that no parents or jurors had been notified of the programs cancellation by anyone at the Township prior to her text message—even though Mr. Thoman announced the program's termination in a July 24 message to local mayors and police departments. In that message, Mr. Thoman represented that ***"Due to a reorganization of the Human Services Department compelled upon the Township by funding cuts by the State of Illinois, the Township can no longer provide the longstanding Peer Jury Program to our Township residents."***

B. The August 3 Township Meeting – No Trustee Discussion in Public and Supervisor's Public Claims about Cost of Peer Jury Program

To get more information, more than 50 parents and current and former Peer Jurors and supporters (including all of us) attended the August 3 Township meeting. Many attendees made public comments in support of the program and asked for an explanation why Peer Jury was terminated.

Mr. Thoman responded that it cost \$118,000 per year to run the Peer Jury Program, that the Township had lost state funding and had to let two employees go and that Ms. Wrzesinski was one of them. We asked whether the Trustees had discussed terminating the actual Peer Jury program at any point in public prior to July 24. None of you answered the question. Rather Mr. Thoman ultimately stated that HE alone had made the decision, although apparently you did discuss terminating two employees during an executive session in July. Despite stating that his decision was a personnel move, Mr. Thoman cited policy justifications for terminating the program. Under the Open Meetings Act, termination of programs or policy reasons for ending a service program funded with taxpayer dollars must be discussed in a public meeting. To the extent that Mr. Thoman discussed termination of Peer Jury with you in executive session or via email seeking your input on related matters, the Open Meetings Act may have been

violated.

C. Mr. Thoman's Representations at the August 17, 2017 Township Meeting

At the August 3 meeting, Mr. Thoman indicated that he would be willing to meet with a committee of community members to consider alternatives to the program that would not require Township funding. At the next meeting, on August 17, Mr. Thoman gave you a verbal update on Peer Jury, representing that he had spoken with Community Member Cliff Grammich and had a couple of emails with Community Member Karen Kobialka. He represented to you that these community members were willing to move forward with a community based organization to assume the duties and responsibilities of running a peer jury program. He further represented that he and a couple of trustees spoke with a couple of mayors and police chiefs and that at least four municipalities were interested in working with a community based organization. He said two trustees who are CPA's offered audits, accounting and information to the committee to give them a "good transparent base to go with" and he ended his report by saying "***it's all good news.***"

Unfortunately, Mr. Thoman's report to you on August 17 was not accurate. He did not speak with Mr. Grammich after the 8/3 meeting and before the August 17 meeting. Mr. Thoman did send Mr. Grammich an August 4 email in which he summarized notes he took during the August 3 meeting and said, "***I will reach out to you three when I have the remaining program numbers and a firm cost. Hopefully early next week.***" Mr. Thoman did not send Mr. Grammich program numbers and his detailed estimates of the cost of running Peer Jury until Mr. Grammich made a freedom-of-information request in late November. Nor did Mr. Grammich hear directly from any Trustee with an offer to help. Instead, this group was essentially left on its own to explore and identify any viable options for other organizations to "assume responsibility of Peer Jury."

D. Our Committee's Efforts

1. Determining the Actual Cost of Running the Peer Jury Program

Following up on Mr. Thoman's representation of August 3, 2017 that it would cost \$118,000/year to run Peer Jury, we met with Lori Wrzesinski.

She drafted a budget of what it actually cost to run the program. That budget, attached as part of the proposed implementation plan, shows that the annual cost is (at most) \$36,000 – one-third of the amount Mr. Thoman publicly represented.

2. Need for an Umbrella Organization

Ms. Wrzesinski also communicated early with police chiefs, who advised her that they were not able to assume responsibility of the Program, but might be able to provide some future funding IF a third-party entity could serve as an umbrella organization overseeing the day-to-day operations of the program. Without assurance that an umbrella organization would oversee the program, they would not be able to provide funding or participate. Moreover, the police chiefs also expressed more confidence in contracting with a governmental organization.

We were unable to identify any private organization willing to serve as an umbrella. We therefore returned to the idea of having Downers Grove Township reinstate the program IF it did not require expenditure of Township revenue. We also considered establishing a 501(c)(3) organization to run the program but learned that this would take more than one year. During this time, the existing program infrastructure would deteriorate and providing on-going administrative leadership for such an organization would be challenging.

Mr. Bill White, a Downers Grove village commissioner, whose wife Karen Kobialka was on the original small committee, also sent Mr. Thoman an email on August 3 proposing in theory the idea of the Township serving as an umbrella organization to oversee the program that could potentially be funded without Township revenue.

Again, in an email Mr. Thoman sent to Mr. White dated August 8, 2017, he informed Mr. White that "***I am still putting together information for Karen and Cliff.***" He further represented that "***Two Trustees are CPA's and one has professional experience as an independent auditor. Between them setting up a NFP books is something they could readily do so the 501 has good accounting and auditing oversight right out of the box.***"

It is unclear if Mr. Thoman was simply speaking "for" the 2 Trustees by volunteering their services without their actual knowledge, or if he actually

discussed Peer Jury alternatives with them outside of a meeting (which would have been a violation of the OMA). Either way, this process was inappropriate. Moreover, as stated above, Mr. Thoman did not follow up and provide Mr. Grammich with the promised information.

3. Our Conclusion that DG Township Must be the Umbrella Organization and Special Revenue Fund Proposal

All of our efforts led us back to the conclusion that Downers Grove Township should consider reinstatement of the Peer Jury Program in some form. Mr. White contacted Mr. Thoman again asking that the Trustees discuss his proposal at the October 19 meeting. He submitted a brief conceptual proposal outlining our concept that Peer Jury expenses would be paid with a Special Revenue Fund funded by participating communities and offender fees. -The Township would only receive and disburse funds for the program (and provide liability coverage as it had in the past under its umbrella policy). The fund would keep the Township umbrella that had served the program well for 17 years and was trusted by the Police Departments. Peer Jury was not put on the agenda for the October 19 meeting nor discussed substantively, but following the October 19 Township meeting Mr. Thoman did meet with Mr. White on October 25 to discuss the proposal. During this meeting, Mr. Thoman provided Mr. White with substantive questions that various Trustees and Mr. Thoman wanted answered before being willing to discuss at a Township meeting. Mr. Thoman did not give Mr. White any deadline for submission of answers. You should be aware that less than 40 hours after Mr. White's October 25 meeting with Mr. Thoman, several members of our committee met to address the Trustees' questions and concerns. We then began drafting a implementation plan that would provide answers to the Trustees. We planned to submit the detailed plan no later than November 11 so that you could publicly discuss the plan during your November 21 meeting. We also began seeking private donations to sustain the program in its first year and had secured \$6,000 in pledges.

4. Mr. Thoman's Undermining of Our Efforts

However, as we stated at the beginning of this letter, on November 9, Mr. Thoman emailed the Police Chiefs to oppose our plan and inform them that our proposal was riddled with problems. He did not inform them that he

was waiting for answers to the Trustees questions that he had submitted to Mr. White. We first learned about this e-mail when police chiefs told us. The Township's responses to our FOIA requests confirmed this. At no time did Mr. Thoman contact our group to inquire what specific date we would be submitting our answers to him and the trustees or if we still planned to do so prior to the November 21 meeting.

The FOIA responses also disclosed that even before Mr. Thoman contacted the police chiefs, he had circulated a draft Press Release on the Peer Jury program for your comments. The press release was not produced to us – nor was one published on the Township website, so we do not know why it was not released. It is, however, clear from the emails to and from the Trustees to Mr. Thoman that substantive discussion on the termination of the Peer Jury program took place by and amongst the Trustees, discussions that should have properly been conducted in a public meeting under the OMA requirements. Mr. Thoman even commented how our group seemed to be "running out of steam" which seemed to indicate a belief that we were not going to answer the Trustees' questions. At no time did Mr. Thoman seek to obtain a date certain from us on when our answers would be forthcoming before drafting the press release and contacting the police chiefs.

Responses to our FOIA requests and clarifying emails with the Township FOIA officer disclose further misrepresentations about the Peer Jury Program. Mr. Thoman has repeatedly attempted to justify his public representation that the program cost \$118,000/year to run. However, the attached proposed budget is based upon actual hours worked by Ms. Wrzesinski on Peer Jury in her capacity as the Public Relations Director. According to Ms. Wrzesinski, only one-third of her job was spent on Peer Jury, and limited time was spent by other DG paid employees on Peer Jury. In addition, two volunteer parents spent approximately five hours weekly assisting her.

We would like to draw your attention to an email Mr. Thoman sent you, the Trustees, on August 7, 2017 in which he stated that ***"so far we're confirming the Peer Jury was the most expensive youth program addressing the fewest youth. My pencil on napkin figuring remains pretty solid but we'll take a closer look to see if there are any more significant costs undiscovered."*** On August 8, 2017, at least one trustee emailed Mr.

Thoman asking him to "***please send over the break down of the \$118,000, once you've completed.***" To our knowledge, Mr. Thoman did not provide the requested break down.

Even more concerning is the fact that despite the detail we provide in the proposed attached Implementation Plan, on December 4, 2017, in an email clarifying some previous FOIA responses, the Township represented to us that: "***Peer Jury was the full-time job of the position listed as Public Relations, and roughly ¾ of the job listed as the lower paid of the two Prevention Specialist DHS.***" This is not true and should indicate to you that Mr. Thoman continues to inflate and misrepresent the true cost of the Peer Jury program. We have confirmed with Ms. Wrzesinski that she did not spend 100 percent of her time on Peer Jury. Furthermore, the prevention specialists could not have spent three-fourths of their time on Peer Jury. They were limited by grant funding and, had they spent that much time on Peer Jury, they would have violated the grant provisions.

Our Request that You Publicly Discuss the DG Peer Jury Program at the December 19, 2017 Township Meeting.

Attached you will find our draft proposed Implementation Plan with different viable options. As we outline in our first option, the easiest and cleanest way to reinstate the Peer Jury program is to have an existing Township employee(s) absorb the program with the assistance of current Peer Jury volunteers and, perhaps, Lori Wrzesinski serving as a temporary consultant during the transition and paid by the donation commitments we have received. Cathy Rager has already been significantly involved with the program; if she were to continue her involvement, she would help provide a seamless transition within the Township. Given that Mr. Thoman has stated on several occasions that the primary reason for the termination of the program was funding, and we have determined that the actual hours spent on the program by Township employees would not prohibit them from assuming responsibility for the program, we see this option as a very workable solution to the reinstatement of the Peer Jury program.

If, however, the Township determines it does not have the capacity to administer the program as it has in the past, then it may consider our second proposal. This proposal would ask for financial contributions from participating police departments to pay a consultant (Lori Wrezinski) to

help administer the program. As described earlier, we were seeking commitments from the police chiefs and had had numerous conversations – both in person and via e-mail – when Mr. Thoman sent them his e-mail stating that the Township would not act as an umbrella organization.

In the interest of full transparency, we note that we were hoping to include commitments from the police departments to participate in funding the program in the future. After Mr. Thoman's email to them of November 9, however, including his claim that our proposal was inadequate (even before we submitted it to you for your consideration and discussion), we could not in good conscience meet with the police chiefs to ask them for a financial commitment.

We firmly believe that our proposal is sound and affords an opportunity to reinstate the Peer Jury Program under the Downers Grove Township umbrella. We would like you to review our draft proposal and discuss it as a group on December 19 during your public meeting. We ask you to discuss and decide as a group if our proposals have merit and, if it does, to work with us to determine next steps. We believe that Mr. Thoman has not afforded the Township Trustees the opportunity to fully vet and discuss the viability of reinstating the Peer Jury Program. We hope that you would want to openly discuss your position on continuing this valuable 17-year program.

As you consider our request to put this item on your December 19 agenda, please consider that while running for election to be the Township Supervisor, in arguing against elimination or consolidation of township services, Mr. Thoman stated in his Candidate Profile that Peer Jury was a service that operates "**at minimal cost to the taxpayer**" (Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20170310/submitted/303109406/>). Further, in June 2017 (just one month before he terminated the Peer Jury Program), he commented that "**Downers Grove Township leverages efficiencies via collaboration, cooperation, and coordination at every opportunity; from our Youth Services partnerships with schools, our Peer Jury diversion program utilized by all police departments in the Township, to the volunteer driven, non-profit FISH Pantry housed in our building that meets the food gap of those in need. These are some of the examples of how we work to meet a variety of needs through these approaches.**" (Source: <https://patch.com/illinois/hinsdale/downers-grove-township-supports->

meals-wheels-program)

The need for this program remains. It can run at minimal cost—and far less cost than Mr. Thoman has represented recently. The township provides an ideal scale for it, by ensuring offenders may have their cases heard with greater confidentiality (i.e., by students from other schools than their own) and enabling smaller communities not able to provide such a program on their own to still offer this service. It is a shame that a program that Mr. Thoman touted as a success and cost-effective and efficient earlier this year was eliminated and described very differently to you in his August 7 email.

We look forward to discussing this plan with you at your December 19 meeting. We are also available to meet with you before or after that meeting should you wish to speak further about it.

Margaret (Peg) Chaidez, Downers Grove

Cliff Grammich, Downers Grove

Yvonne Mayer, Burr Ridge

Susan Owens, Hinsdale

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From: Lorraine Grimsby <lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com>
Subject: FOIA requests for Peer Jury
Date: December 7, 2017 at 3:32:26 PM CST
To: DGT Board <board@dgtownship.com>, DGT Trustee
<trustee@dgtownship.com>

Everyone:

I have been receiving numerous FOIA requests regarding Peer Jury.

To comply, I need copies of any and all documentation/emails provided to/ from the DGT trustees dated on or after January 1, 2017.

There are time limitations, therefore if you request assistance in retrieving emails, please call Supervisor Thoman or myself.

If you have no emails or documents, please respond accordingly.

Supervisor Thoman: 630-719-6610
Clerk Grimsby: 630-719-6613

Thank you
Lorraine Grimsby, Clerk

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From: Edward H Schwartz <eschwartz@csd99.org>
Subject: Re: Peer Jury
Date: November 27, 2017 at 2:10:21 PM CST
To: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Cc: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

Hi Mark,

That is an interesting thought that I would have to discuss with many

people around here. There was always strength in having the structure out of the school so as to keep those clear lines of authority. I am not sure it would be good practice to having the school be in charge of school discipline AND being involved in the law enforcement end.

I will talk to some people here to see if this is something we would consider.

Thanks again,

Ed

On Wed, Nov 22, 2017 at 11:30 AM, Mark Thoman

<mark.thoman@dgtownship.com> wrote:

My question to you-

Do you think it possible that 99, 86 and 201 might be open to the idea of forming a "Jurors Club" at the respective high schools?

Students interested in law, law enforcement, and counseling might learn more about youth law, restorative justice, community policing, and youth court diversion programs. As a result, the school districts might be able to provide a pre-qualified pool of peer jurors to local law enforcement. This would save local police departments time, energy and money as they work toward standing up their own programs. A simple IGA would suffice to provide a legal basis for them to use your pool of jurors as part of their process.

As a Principal, how do you think an idea like that might be received if presented as a request at, say, a board meeting. Four months in, the parents of jurors don't seem to have traction moving forward. I'm pretty sure some PD's are looking hard at the six peer jury programs currently running in DuPage County at Bloomingdale, Elmhurst, Itasca, Roselle, Wood Dale and Bensenville.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

[4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515](#)

Main [\(630\) 719-6611](#) • Fax [\(630\) 719-6608](#)

mark.thoman@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 25 of 2002 apply to this email notice and make it enforceable and binding on the recipient/addressee.

On Nov 21, 2017, at 4:36 PM, Mark Thoman
<mark.thoman@dgtownship.com> wrote:

I appreciate you taking time to reach out on the topic. Loss of state funding compelled a reorganization of Human Services. The 17 year running Peer jury had about 100 offenders and about 200 jurors. Our remaining programs, that have been in place for 27 and 37 years, youth education and life skills reach 3,400 youth age 13 and under every year in 25+ schools. We continue to involve several hundred youths in Snowflake and Snowball events. Senior services reaches out to over 20,000 households. Despite the much wider reach of the other programs, it was still a very difficult decision.

Peer jury is one of several youth court diversion options available to local law enforcement, and we have provided both residents and local LE with information about the six communities in DuPage County that run their own peer programs either alone or in partnership with a neighboring community. These programs are well received by all stakeholders.

Release to parents, municipal tickets, and internal station adjustments are options in use by local LE while they move forward seeing if they can also stand up their own programs. Right now it looks like some will, and be mavens that bring along other communities. It won't happen right away — they have the same funding shortfalls we all have. It's my hope residents can find a way to help their efforts by funding snacks, shirts, awards etc for the jurors, volunteers and coordinators, even grants to help offset any potential extra hours required of Juvenile officers — much like the 99 Foundation raises funds and awareness for our high schools!

Thanks again for the email.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

<mail_art.png>

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

[4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515](#)

Main [\(630\) 719-6611](#) • Fax [\(630\) 719-6608](#)

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On Nov 21, 2017, at 4:06 PM, Edward H Schwartz <eschwartz@csd99.org>

wrote:

Good afternoon,

Over the summer, I learned that the Downers Grove Township Peer Jury was being discontinued. Today I was told that it's future was subject to a discussion at the township meeting tonight. While I admittedly do not know all of the issues that have caused the future of the jury to be in question, I can speak to the value it adds to our community.

Working with teenagers each day, I have come to understand that they don't always make perfect decisions. In fact, at times, students will make decisions that violate laws. When this happens, it is important to hold them accountable for their actions. The Peer Jury provided a system where students could learn from their mistakes, without becoming part of the "system." They were held accountable, in part, by owning up to their mistakes in front of their classmates and neighbors. This program promotes and implements the restorative justice practices that we try to teach our students each day. Without the program, there are very few options for our students when we experience the need to refer them to the local police. Finally, I feel that we need to also look at the benefits of the program from the jurors point of view. Having the opportunity to be involved in the law enforcement process, without being arrested, is very powerful as well. The opportunities for our students to learn and experience empathy in this setting cannot be matched.

I know that you all have difficult decisions to make and I know there is a passionate group of parents presenting alternatives. I felt that it was important that you hear from the perspective of a community partner and what the program has meant to us.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts. Have a great Thanksgiving!

Ed Schwartz

--

Edward H. Schwartz
Principal

Downers Grove South H.S.

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Edward H. Schwartz
Principal
Downers Grove South H.S.

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Re: Peer Jury
Date: November 22, 2017 at 11:30:56 AM CST
To: Edward H Schwartz <eschwartz@csd99.org>
Cc: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

My question to you-

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Students interested in law, law enforcement, and counseling might learn more about youth law, restorative justice, community policing, and youth court diversion programs. As a result, the school districts might be able to provide a pre-qualified pool of peer jurors to local law enforcement. This would save local police departments time, energy and money as they work toward standing up their own programs. A simple IGA would suffice to provide a legal basis for them to use your pool of jurors as part of their process.

As a Principal, how do you think an idea like that might be received if presented as a request at, say, a board meeting. Four months in, the parents of jurors don't seem to have traction moving forward. I'm pretty sure some PD's are looking hard at the six peer jury programs currently running in DuPage County at Bloomingdale, Elmhurst, Itasca, Roselle, Wood Dale and Bensenville.

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Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

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Release to parents, municipal tickets, and internal station adjustments are options in use by local LE while they move forward seeing if they can also stand up their own programs. Right now it looks like some will, and be mavens that bring along other communities. It won't happen right away — they have the same funding shortfalls we all have. It's my hope residents can find a way to help their efforts by funding snacks, shirts, awards etc for the jurors, volunteers and coordinators, even grants to help offset any potential extra hours required of Juvenile officers — much like the 99 Foundation raises funds and awareness for our high schools!

Thanks again for the email.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

<mail_art.png>

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Main (630) 719-6611 • Fax (630) 719-6608

mark.thoman@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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On Nov 21, 2017, at 4:06 PM, Edward H Schwartz <eschwartz@csd99.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Over the summer, I learned that the Downers Grove Township Peer Jury was being discontinued. Today I was told that it's future was subject to a discussion at the township meeting tonight. While I admittedly do not know all of the issues that have caused the future of the jury to be in question, I can speak to the value it adds to our community.

Working with teenagers each day, I have come to understand that they don't always make perfect decisions. In fact, at times, students will make decisions that violate laws. When this happens, it is important to hold them accountable for their actions. The Peer Jury provided a system where students could learn from their mistakes, without becoming part of the "system." They were held accountable, in part, by owning up to their mistakes in front of their classmates and neighbors. This program promotes and implements the restorative justice practices that we try to teach our students each day. Without the program, there are very few options for our students when we experience the need to refer them to the local police. Finally, I feel that we need to also look at the benefits of the program from the jurors point of view. Having the opportunity to be involved in the law enforcement process, without being arrested, is very powerful as well. The opportunities for our students to learn and experience empathy in this setting cannot be matched.

I know that you all have difficult decisions to make and I know there is a passionate group of parents presenting alternatives. I felt that it was important that you hear from the perspective of a community partner and what the program has meant to us.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts. Have a great Thanksgiving!

Ed Schwartz

--

Edward H. Schwartz
Principal
Downers Grove South H.S.

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Re: Peer Jury

Date: November 21, 2017 at 4:36:32 PM CST

To: Edward H Schwartz <eschwartz@csd99.org>

I appreciate you taking time to reach out on the topic. Loss of state funding compelled a reorganization of Human Services. The 17 year running Peer jury had about 100 offenders and about 200 jurors. Our remaining programs, that have been in place for 27 and 37 years, youth education and life skills reach 3,400 youth age 13 and under every year in 25+ schools. We continue to involve several hundred youths in Snowflake and Snowball events. Senior services reaches out to over 20,000 households. Despite the much wider reach of the other programs, it was still a very difficult decision.

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potential extra hours required of Juvenile officers — much like the 99 Foundation raises funds and awareness for our high schools!

Thanks again for the email.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

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Ed Schwartz

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From: Edward H Schwartz <eschwartz@csd99.org>
Subject: Peer Jury
Date: November 21, 2017 at 4:06:58 PM CST
To: supervisor@dgtownship.com, art.donner@dgtownship.com,
abby.ferfuson@dgtownship.com, karen.kelly@dgtownship.com,
dave.vanderlaan@dgtownship.com
Cc: dgtpeerjuryfriends@gmail.com, cagrammich@gmail.com

Good afternoon,

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know all of the issues that have caused the future of the jury to be in question, I can speak to the value it adds to our community.

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Re: Peer Jury Update--November 19, 2017
Date: November 21, 2017 at 11:19:38 AM CST
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

What was sent out by residents.

mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

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On Nov 18, 2017, at 9:57 PM, DGTPeerJuryFriends@gmail.com wrote:
Dear Peer Jury Supporters,

When we last wrote, we hoped to have the township consider a Special Revenue Fund proposal for continued operation of Peer Jury. Unfortunately, this will not happen at this time.

Our proposal would have continued the program under the township umbrella, as it has operated so well for 17 years, but without township funds. Increased offender fees and one-time community contributions would have funded the program in the first year. In fact, three parents had, without solicitation, pledged \$6,000 for first-year operations. In subsequent years, offender fees and participating police departments would fund it. Our budget, carefully constructed after deliberation with Lori Wrzesinski and others who had been involved with the program, was less than one-third what the township had been claiming to spend on it.

On October 19, 2017, two representatives of our group attended the Downers Grove Township Board of Trustees meeting to encourage the

supervisor and trustees to consider the Special Revenue Fund proposal. Mark Thoman, the township supervisor, acknowledged receipt of the plan and promised to meet with a representative of our group.

On October 25, 2017, the township supervisor met with a representative of our group to raise several questions about our plan. The township supervisor said his questions would have to be answered before the township would consider the plan but indicated no pressing deadline. Our representative promised to get back to him with answers as soon as possible.

On October 27, 2017, several of us met to discuss how to address township concerns and non-township funding streams for the proposal. In subsequent days, we drafted answers to address the township's concerns. We planned to submit a detailed business plan to the township by November 11. This would have allowed trustees time to consider the plan at their November 21 meeting.

On November 9, 2017, Mark Thoman, the township supervisor, wrote to area police chiefs to discourage support for our plan. This email—which we only received through a freedom-of-information request from one of the recipients—made several misrepresentations of our plan. As a result, we have no choice at present but to suspend our efforts with the township until we receive a response to additional freedom-of-information requests on township communications and we better understand all of Mr. Thoman's misrepresentations. We will seek to correct Mr. Thoman's misrepresentations for you with local reporters who have long expressed an interest in this story.

In the meantime, we are pursuing efforts with individual villages, two of which have indicated some preliminary interest in forming a partnership to continue the program. We will apprise you of these efforts as they warrant. At this point, it appears unlikely the program will re-launch in any form before January 2018.

As a group, we will have no further communications until we get all documentation we need to re-assess our current position and next steps. Some of us may be speaking individually, and we understand some of you may express your own opinions as well. We welcome any further inputs

you might have (write to us at DGTPeerJuryFriends@gmail.com or comment at facebook.com/PeerJuryFriends).

We would be interested in hearing anything you learn from your contacts with local officials, whether those in your own municipalities or at the township (which next meets on 11/21, 12/7, and 12/19). Contact information for the township trustees and supervisor is as follows:

Trustee Arthur Donner art.donner@dgtownship.com

Trustee Abby Ferguson abby.ferguson@dgtownship.com

Trustee Karen Kelly karen.kelly@dgtownship.com

Trustee Dave VanDerLaan dave.vanderlaan@dgtownship.com

Supervisor Mark Thoman supervisor@dgtownship.com

Although frustrated, we do not believe that this process is over. We will continue to pursue all avenues for the reinstatement of Peer Jury.

Many thanks for your interest and support.

Cliff Grammich
Tel 1-630-541-5306

Peg Chaidez

Karen Kobialka

Yvonne Mayer

Susan Owens

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "DGTPeerJuryFriends" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to DGTPeerJuryFriends+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To post to this group, send email to
DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/DGTPeerJuryFriends/93dc7ec8-9fed-42bd-a1d6-41313a0c1deb%40googlegroups.com>.

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Peer jury talking points
Date: November 8, 2017 at 11:06:41 AM CST
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>
Cc: Allan Alongi <aalongi@alongilawoffice.com>

Thank you again for your input on this, and for the time you have invested in this topic. I've stripped out any emotional content or personal perspective and believe it's boiled down to the objective facts.

I expect more residents at Nov. 21 demanding immediate action, but they seem to be running out of steam. It's possible a press release may reinvigorate their efforts. Use this as talking points if needed, for now. There is a Facebook page at Peer Jury in Southeast DuPage County.

See also attached from 18th Circuit Court. First sentence of the first paragraph has the pertinent information. Other court diversion avenues for youth offenders exist and are being used by our muni's. Note July 2017 date.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Main (630) 719-6611 • Fax (630) 719-6608

mark.thoman@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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Township of any privilege or the confidential nature of the information. The e-mail address of the sender may not be used, copied, sold, disclosed or incorporated into any database or mailing list for spamming and/or other marketing purposes without the prior consent of Downers Grove Township. Neither the sender of the e-mail, nor Downers Grove Township shall be liable to any party for any direct, indirect or consequential damages, including, without limitation, loss of profit, interruption of business or loss of information, data or software or otherwise. The provisions of Section 11 of the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 25 of 2002 apply to this email notice and make it enforceable and binding on the recipient/addressee.

From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Presser
Date: November 6, 2017 at 1:42:23 PM CST
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

Good feedback all around. Word count is down from 741 to 503, It's in 3rd person, skipped hanging out proposals, and stuck to facts instead of possibilities.

Comments appreciated on this. Again, this is a draft confidential product.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Peer Jury help

Date: October 27, 2017 at 9:48:23 AM CDT

To: SAO@dupageco.org

I had discussions in July/August regarding Downer Grove Township suspending participation in the Peer Jury program in SE DuPage County. At that time it was indicated your office faces the same budget challenges as everyone, which I understand.

Today I am writing asking if the DCSA office would be willing to act as an overarching sponsor of an IGA that would include juvenile court and probation, police departments in Downers Grove Township willing to participate, high schools districts that might cooperate to supply peer jurors, and finally including a 501c3 that would fundraise in support of juvenile court diversion programs for participating communities. The LE participation of your office, and the IGA, provide credibility to the 501c3. Would the DuPage County States Attorney's Office participate?

The DuPage County Juvenile Officers Association already operates as a 501c3 and could potentially fulfill that support role, creating a subcommittee of concerned residents. I have not contacted them at this time.

Residents of SE DuPage County have expressed interest in seeing the Peer Jury programs in SE DuPage County continue. I made phone calls this week to Elmhurst and Bloomingdale, and found they have efficient self run programs that are very well received by all. I also discovered that Roselle/ Addison, and Wood Dale/ Bensenville already have cooperative IGA diversion programs. I have just started down this path after seeing the residents having difficulty establishing their own way forward.

I am at your disposal to pursue this topic, and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: More on a peer jury proposal
Date: October 26, 2017 at 8:57:53 AM CDT
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>
Cc: Allan Alongi <aalongi@alongilawoffice.com>

See attached proposal. The blue ink underlines and emphasis are from Mr. White as we went through

I met with Bill White. The discussion, at times, was animated.

1) His incorrect impression is that the Township, as it had operated in the past, offers the simplest model, and that police departments are hesitant to continue unless the Township is involved.

2) The Proposal posits that the Township is not involved.

3) My discussions and research since last Thursday leads me to believe there has been no good faith effort to study and prepare a viable program to police departments.

4) He was very resistant to the idea that other communities have working, effective, efficient and thrifty diversion programs and that the goal should be the program, not the format.

5) I rejected the idea of any timetable. If the goal is to save the programs, it will take however long it takes.

6) He seemed unaware that juvenile officers do all the initial enforcement paperwork, make the diversion decision, attend the peer jury meetings, and do the final paperwork either for community files or for forwarding to the court and or probation department. In short, even though we spent an excessive amount of money in support of peer jury, it was largely lard

added on.

7) He seemed unaware of other communities cooperating between themselves.

I reformatted trustee questions and comments, removed identifications, and watermarked them as draft. He agreed to respect the working copy nature of the questions and comments, and said he will provide responses and additional information as requested.

This is for your study. Comments as always. I made specific note that there can be no timetable if a good faith effort to bring Peer jury.

At this point, and having researched the background of Human Services, it appears Township involvement in Peer Jury is an unnecessary additional layer of government inserted into the law enforcement court diversion process. When the Township touched it, the program became larger and more complex, became less efficient, and cost taxpayers more. I respectfully maintain that's not what we're here for.

I'm prepared to approach Police Chiefs with my alternate proposal, and forward to them the contacts for existing programs here in DuPage County, and with the DuPage Juvenile Officers Association. As well, I'm prepared to outline how concerned residents can form a 501(c)(3) foundation, similar to education foundations, that could support peer jury efforts including but not limited to:

- Providing snacks,
- People to act as check-ins at the front door,
- Organizers of willing agencies that would provide community service hours to offenders,
- Providers of polo shirts for jurors,
- Pay for plaques and letters of recognition,
- Organize and pay for appreciation luncheons or pizza parties
- In short, all the background incidental expenses and time wasters police departments don't want to incur. That's where fundraising can be very effective.

I believe even if no one does anything, police departments will move to this community bare bones model, either singly or in small IGA groupings. That has already happened across the north side of the county. There is little to

no extra expense, and the resulting programs are taut, thrifty, and well received across the spectrum.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Mark

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Re: Remarks tonight
Date: October 25, 2017 at 4:24:03 PM CDT
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

FYI if I forgot to send this. Cliff Grammich's extended remarks.

mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor
Downers Grove Township
4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
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On Oct 19, 2017, at 9:20 PM, Clifford Grammich <cagrammich@gmail.com> wrote:
Mark,

Below are the remarks I originally prepared tonight. As I mentioned, most were made superfluous by your commitment to meet about the Special Revenue Fund idea, so I truncated accordingly.

I think the consensus among parents who have been most involved with this and most seek a resolution with as little controversy as possible is that we simply seek a commitment to work with us (through Bill White) at this time. Obviously lots of details need to be worked out, but meeting with Bill within the next week, as you promised to do, would address our concerns for now.

Thanks for your consideration.

Cliff Grammich
6021 Grand Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
Tel 1-630-541-5306

>>

Supervisor Thoman and honorable Trustees,

My name is Clifford Grammich. I live at 6021 Grand Avenue in Downers Grove.

At your August 3rd meeting, Supervisor Thoman asked Karen Kobialka, who is here tonight, Peg Chaidez, and myself to consider ways to continue the Peer Jury program that the township had discontinued for lack of funding. Since then, we have met with several other parents to explore the possibilities.

Earlier this week, the supervisor received the outline of a proposal for a Special Revenue Fund, which we believe the most-feasible means to re-launch the program at this time. My understanding is that he has shared this outline with the trustees, for which I thank him. Under this Fund, the Township would collect monies from third parties to pay for the program.

We have already discussed a variety of means to raise non-township revenues for this Fund and ensure the township incurs no expense for it. These include increased fees for offenders, contributions from participating municipalities, and donations from the community. Our best estimate is that the program can operate in this way on a budget of \$36,000 per year, which we believe is a reasonable fundraising goal. Ms. Chaidez is making plans to meet with several corporate donors who would be amenable to making year-end donations to this cause.

This Fund would also provide a structure that is satisfactory to area police departments, the state's attorney, and local courts. Area police and civic leaders that we have briefed on this proposal to date have all expressed support for it. This Fund would, in short, continue the good work of Peer Jury on both reducing youth recidivism and involving jurors in helpful

community service under the good name but no other involvement of Downers Grove Township government.

I come here tonight to ask you to consider this proposal and approve it as soon as possible. I understand that not all details can be ironed out tonight, but all the parents who have worked on this proposal, as well as, I'm sure, several others here tonight, are ready to do what we can to expedite this and to ensure we find a solution that does not tax township resources in any way. I understand the supervisor has expressed willingness to meet about this as early as next week, for which I also thank him. I ask the trustees to join him tonight in this commitment to identify a way to relaunch the program under the name but without the resources of the township.

Our goal is to re-launch the program within two months, which we believe feasible given community support for it and the infrastructure that still stands for it. We believe this program too critical to let lapse or languish. Finding a way to relaunch without taxing the resources of our township will demonstrate to residents concerned about the program that the township government has heard their concerns and can act creatively to address them. The Special Revenue Fund can provide a win for township government seeking to be good stewards of taxpayer resources and a win for residents seeking to work with township government to improve our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

<<

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Fwd: Remarks tonight

Date: October 23, 2017 at 4:24:55 PM CDT

To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

Follow up from Cliff Grammich. I'm meeting with Bill White Wednesday at 7pm so any questions or comments about the peer proposal in your folder let me know. Thanks!

mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Main (630) 719-6611 • Fax (630) 719-6608

mark.thoman@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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data or software or otherwise. The provisions of Section 11 of the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 25 of 2002 apply to this email notice and make it enforceable and binding on the recipient/addressee.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Clifford Grammich <cagrammich@gmail.com>

Subject: Remarks tonight

Date: October 19, 2017 at 9:20:50 PM CDT

To: mark.thoman@dgtownship.com

Mark,

Below are the remarks I originally prepared tonight. As I mentioned, most were made superfluous by your commitment to meet about the Special Revenue Fund idea, so I truncated accordingly.

I think the consensus among parents who have been most involved with this and most seek a resolution with as little controversy as possible is that we simply seek a commitment to work with us (through Bill White) at this time. Obviously lots of details need to be worked out, but meeting with Bill within the next week, as you promised to do, would address our concerns for now.

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Cliff Grammich
6021 Grand Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
Tel 1-630-541-5306

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Thank you for your consideration.

<<

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Your article from October 25, 2017 re: peer jury
Date: October 25, 2017 at 2:33:51 PM CDT
To: Bob Rakow - Downers Grove <brakow@shawmedia.com>

The proposal Bill White and I will discuss, you accurately reported as “very preliminary”.

I was taken by surprise, however, by the first sentence of paragraph four, which contains two errors of significance.

The article says:

"The peer jury program, meanwhile, would resume under much the same framework as it did prior to its discontinuation in April."

The first error is it states a foregone conclusion that all will be as it was...

when that has never been guaranteed to anyone at any time. Ask Mr. Grammich, Mr. White, or any of the folks who have emailed me, mistakenly thanking me for making everything like it was. The second error is the program was discontinued near the end of July, not April.

A correct sentence would have read "There is no plan, meanwhile, to resume the program under much the same framework as it did prior to its suspension at the end of July." Our press release is still online here, and is still accurate. <http://www.dgtownship.com/?p=8896>

Many questions remain to be sorted out. I would reemphasize the proposal, which I sent you a copy of, is very preliminary in nature.

Again, the proposal Bill White and I will discuss, you accurately reported as "very preliminary".

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Main (630) 719-6611 • Fax (630) 719-6608

mark.thoman@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Peer Jury questions
Date: October 25, 2017 at 1:19:31 PM CDT
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

Thank you for your draft feedbacks. I spoke with Karen Monday and she had mostly the same concerns. Please note that the two of the documents attached are drafts, not documents for forwarding or publication.

I need to know what efforts the residents have made to organize and establish a "beachhead" with communities, asking how they could help their own community get a program up and running. There is a DuPage Juvenile Officers Association, so the idea of community based court diversion programs run by the JO's is not unknown.

I spoke with Officer Hawkins of the Elmhurst Police Department (pop

40,000), and Office Odoi of the Bloomingdale Police Department (pop 20,000). Both communities run in-house programs.

- Meetings: both meet once a month.
 - Number of cases: both cited heavy case loads from last month, Elmhurst 4 new, 3 finals (the second, and last meeting appearance); Bloomingdale 1 new, 4 finals, 2 who blew off the previous month.
 - Jurors: both have 20-25 jurors they interview and pick.
 - Force Training: Both had one meeting for all officers laying out decision ladder for putting a first time juvenile offender into the peer jury program. First timers only. Retail theft and curfew the usual.
 - Levels: both said they can use "interior station adjustments", and Elmhurst also said they use "adjudication tickets" to sidestep the courts. Parents pay the fines on "adjudication tickets".
 - Meeting place: Both at Village Hall meeting rooms.
 - Community service: Both use a predetermined list of agencies that provide service hour opportunities. They make a call and say they have a person, both require the offender to contact the agency, schedule the hours, get it done on their own. Papers about what they did usually required. Parents bought into process, both very much like community policing.
 - Costs: Both overtime if required for Juvenile officers.
 - Food/snacks: Elmhurst Pizza at end of jury night for the attendees (usually 10-12); Bloomingdale snacks cookies for attendees monthly, pizza at end of year, polo shirts supplied and are required uniforms that must be kept clean and neat and worn to meetings.
- There seems to be little call for the Township. It's not mentioned once in any part of 705 ILCS 405.

I've interviewed employees and found that the program began when the Human Services had seven and at times eight full-time employees. They were searching about for something to do, and Peer Jury was something to do. As a comparison, we currently provide the same services seven full-time employees provided in 1987, with two full-time and one part-time employee.

Attached are the questions.

Attached is what I came up with for a replacement program for residents to try and execute.

Attached also is pages 14 and 15 of the DGT Peer Jury Manual I found, from

2011. Note the first section clearly lays out that the police departments are responsible for everything, and that the Township is an afterthought add-on, looking for something to do to justify being involved. '

I look at the meeting as a listening session and an opportunity to press for much more specificity as expressed by the questions. Thank you for your help.

mt

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Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Re: Peer Jury
Date: October 25, 2017 at 10:20:12 AM CDT
To: Joan Landry <->

Dear Mr. and Ms. Landry,

This is turning into a copy/paste response, so bear with me.

First, thank you for your email. I received an outline proposal Tuesday of last week, and distributed it to the Trustees to study and get feedback. Two have been "on the job" over three months now, one started in August, and

one last week, and I've inundated them all with emails and a ton of information about this type of program from multiple sources, as well as court diversion programs in general as covered by state law (705 ILCS 405 if you like REALLY dry reading).

The outline proposal as presented recognizes the need to change a court diversion program from what it was, into something it can sustainably be on a continuing basis. It's now clear to all this will require some creative thinking, so upon receiving the proposal I agreed to meet and discuss it off-line.

Some people have indicated willingness to financially support an effort, and if you are I ask that you contact Mr. Grammich.

Mr. Grammich also spoke at Thursday's monthly board meeting about it, again last Thursday. That meeting, with my and his comments (near the beginning) are on our meeting video which is posted on our transparency page here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh-v3HPOWqU&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks again,

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

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On Oct 24, 2017, at 10:01 PM, Joan Landry <-> wrote:

Dear Mr Thoman,

We are so pleased to hear that every effort is being considered in reinstating the Peer Jury program. It is such an important community program for our youth. It allows our youth to engage & collaborate in turning peers poor choices into positive learning experiences. We are hopeful that the program will be supported & running soon.

Thank you for your time & considerarion.

Joan & John Landry

Parents of present & past peer jurors

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Re: Peer Jury
Date: October 25, 2017 at 9:47:12 AM CDT
To: Suzanne Austin <->

Dear Ms. Austin,

This is starting to look like a copy/paste response, so bear with me.

First, thank you for your email. I received an outline proposal Tuesday of last week, and distributed it to the Trustees to study and get feedback. They've been "on the job" over three months now and I've inundated them with emails and a ton of information about this type of program from multiple sources, as well as court diversion programs in general as covered by state law (705 ILCS 405 if you like REALLY dry reading).

Upon receiving the proposal I agreed to meet and discuss it off-line. Some people have indicated willingness to financially support an effort, if you are I ask that you contact Mr. Grammich.

Mr. Grammich also spoke at Thursday's monthly board meeting about it, again last Thursday. That meeting, with my and his comments (near the beginning) are on our meeting video which is posted on our transparency page here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh-v3HPOWqU&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks again,

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

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On Oct 24, 2017, at 5:40 PM, Suzanne Austin <-> wrote:
Hi Mark,

My name is Suzanne Austin and I am a parent of a peer juror who has served for several years. He felt that his role as a juror was an extraordinary experience for himself and certainly for the offenders who came before the peer jury. He gave each case before him a lot of thought and made a monthly commitment every single month to be there for four hours.....all

while he had homework and sports commitments calling to divide his attention.

Teens can make very unfortunate split second decisions that can cause many problems. Coming before the peer jury to receive justice and a second chance is meaningful to their experience and frankly, sets an example and reminder for everyone of what NOT to do.

I urge you to reinstate the Peer Jury program at your earliest convenience.

Thanks in advance for your attention to this very worthy program.

Suzanne Austin

-

"A negative mind will never give you a positive life."

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Re: Please Support Peer Jury
Date: October 24, 2017 at 12:10:07 PM CDT
To: Galinda Tunney <->

Dear Ms. Tunney,

Thank you for your email. I received a proposal outline one week ago last Tuesday, and heard from Mr. Grammich at Thursday's monthly board meeting, also last week. That meeting, my and his comments (near the beginning) are on our meeting video which is posted on our transparency

page here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh-v3HPOWqU&feature=youtu.be>

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

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On Oct 24, 2017, at 10:52 AM, Galinda Tunney <-> wrote:
Hello,

I would like to express my thoughts about the Peer Jury program. My daughter, Maya, is a senior at Downers Grove South. She is a peer juror. I am blessed with such a great girl. She is an honors student, has been captain of the girls' golf team for two seasons, volunteers everyday in the deans office at school, actively participates in our church youth group and regularly babysits. Presently, she is completing her essays for various college applications. A common subject for her essays has been Peer Jury. She has to explain (in 650 words or less) what her most influential extracurricular is. She has explained how Peer Jury has made her aware of her community. She respects the program that gives her peers a second chance. She values the training she received from her township leaders, law enforcement officers, and community mentors. She is proud that her village values the voice of its younger members. One college application asked how she would solve one world problem. She was able to reference Peer Jury. She sees how being involved in this small, but influential, program has made a positive change in her world.

Please find a way to continue this valuable program. I hope you will choose a way to support Peer Jury, a program that gives young people, like my daughter, a way to serve their community and feel like they matter. More importantly, Peer Jury gives the defendants such a positive view and respect for the judicial system that almost all of them never repeat their offenses. My daughter is one of my greatest pleasures. It is a highlight to see her becoming a responsible and caring young adult. This program is an avenue for her to practice the tenets that most of us hold as important in our society. I ask that you support this program by taking all ideas into consideration to reinstate the program in our community.

I appreciate the group of parents that have been working tirelessly on finding ways for you and your other council members to easily reinstate Peer Jury. I have not been involved thus far (other than attending the last township meeting this past week), but hope that every voice counts as you consider this next step. I know that the proposal ahead of you includes fundraising. My family is dedicated to donate to the funds necessary to meet the need of the program. What a great lesson you can teach my daughter! Leaders, regardless of their differences, can work together to get the job done. She is anxious to start serving again before she heads off to college and represents her community as a responsible, respectful and empathic young adult that will share what she has learned from Peer Jury.

Thank you for your time,
Galinda Tunney

-

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Galinda Tunney <->
Subject: Please Support Peer Jury
Date: October 24, 2017 at 10:52:47 AM CDT
To: mark.thoman@dgtownship.com, art.donner@dgtownship.com, abby.ferguson@dgtownship.com, karen.kelly@dgtownship.com

Hello,

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Thank you for your time,
Galinda Tunney

-

From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Re: Peer Jury
Date: October 24, 2017 at 9:20:29 AM CDT
To: Stacy Kinnas <->

Dear Ms. Kinnas,

Thank you for your email. I received an outline proposal Tuesday and heard from Mr. Grammich at Thursday's monthly board meeting, all last week. That meeting, my and his comments (near the beginning) are on our meeting video which is posted on our transparency page here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh-v3HPOWqU&feature=youtu.be>

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Main (630) 719-6611 • Fax (630) 719-6608

mark.thoman@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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On Oct 23, 2017, at 10:56 PM, Stacy Kinnas <-> wrote:
Dear Mr. Thoman,

I'm so pleased to hear that significant consideration is being given to reinstituting the Peer Jury Program!
For the past two years, it's been an important volunteer opportunity for my son and we were sad to see the program terminated.

It is my hope that Peer Jury will be functioning as of January 2018, so I hope action can be taken at the November 21st township meeting. My family is willing to offer financial support should it be needed. We believe strongly in the good work of Peer Jury.

Thank you for your efforts!

Warmly,

Stacy Kinnas

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Re: Peer Jury
Date: October 23, 2017 at 3:42:23 PM CDT
To: Mary Newton <->

Ms. Newton,

Thank you for your feedback and your comments and support for the program.

The loss of state funding compelled a complete reorganization of the Human Services offered by the Township. Primary concern was maintaining the reach of positive programs to the widest number of Township citizen recipients. The Peer Jury program reached 100 offenders and involved 200 jurors each year. The Youth Education and Life Skills programs reach 3,400 students across 21 schools each year. Senior services reach over 20,000 senior households each year. Descriptions of the continuing youth programs are on our website pages here: http://www.dgtownship.com/?page_id=203 and here: http://www.dgtownship.com/?page_id=3305 Senior services are described here: <http://www.dgtownship.com/?cat=25>

I've focused on provided resource material and direction to the parental group. Included is information from the Illinois Attorney Generals office, as well as information on existing programs here in DuPage County that can be adopted, getting a program up and running. Cliff Grammich appeared last week Thursday at our monthly meeting and spoke for consideration of a proposal I received via email, also last week. His comments are also on line here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh-v3HPOWqU&feature=youtu.be>

Thank you again for your time to write and express your support.

Sincerely,

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

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On Oct 23, 2017, at 2:19 PM, Mary Newton <-> wrote:
Mr. Thoman,

I was extremely upset when I learned Peer Jury had been summarily ended. I was further upset when I learned more details such as the actual budget vs. the numbers you used to end the program.

I sincerely hope that after all the work done by others to reinstate the program - including funding without tax dollars - you will do the minimum requested which is to structure the program under the Township in a special fund.

The program existed for 17 years. It provided a valuable service to the entire Township. This is not something you should end.

Thank you. Mary Newton

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Peer Jury and tomorrow night

Date: October 19, 2017 at 1:52:46 PM CDT

To: Clifford Grammich <c.grammich@comcast.net>

Gmail will not allow me to respond to the group, so I leave this in your capable hands.

The meeting date is correct but it is tonight. I ask that a single spokesperson be designated. Any questions should be submitted in writing via email.

To the point of the original email and FYI — I received an emailed proposal from Bill White this week that I copied and put in the Trustee packets for them to read and digest. He asked for a meeting and I will try to accommodate him next week but want Trustee feedback first. Interested parties should also read over Elmhurst and Bloomington internal court diversion programs. Information is available on their websites.

Thank you.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Fwd: Peer jury update
Date: October 19, 2017 at 1:49:11 PM CDT
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

FYI forgot to copy. The proposal is in your folders.

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Re: Peer jury update

Date: October 19, 2017 at 1:48:14 PM CDT

To: DGTPeerJuryFriends@gmail.com

Cc: DGTPeerJuryFriends

<DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com>

The meeting date is correct but it is tonight. I ask that a single spokesperson be designated. Any questions should be submitted in writing via email.

To the point of the original email and FYI — I received an emailed proposal from Bill White this week that I copied and put in the Trustee packets for them to read and digest. He asked for a meeting and I will try to accommodate him next week but want Trustee feedback first. Interested parties should also read over Elmhurst and Bloomington internal court diversion programs. Information is available on their websites.

Thank you.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

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On Oct 19, 2017, at 9:23 AM, DGTPeerJuryFriends@gmail.com wrote:

We wanted to update everyone on our efforts to have Peer Jury reinstated. A small committee of parents (listed below) have been working with Lori Wrzesinski to come up with a plan to keep Peer Jury under the DG Township umbrella, but in a self-sustaining manner, without use of tax dollars. Earlier this week we sent the township supervisor a preliminary proposal for a Special Revenue Fund. Under this, the township, at least temporarily, would collect monies from third parties to pay for the program. The township would not provide any support beyond that needed to administer the Fund.

Lori Wrzesinski has prepared a proposed budget that shows that Peer Jury can operate in this way with an annual budget of \$36,000 (not \$118,000 as previously represented by the township supervisor). We have several ideas for raising this money, but need a structure in place first. The Special Revenue Fund would provide a structure that satisfies area police, prosecutors, and courts. We have briefed several police chiefs and civic leaders on this plan, and all support it.

We will present further details during public comments at the township board today this evening meeting tomorrow, Thursday, October 19, 7:30 pm., at 4340 Prince St., Downers Grove. It is extremely important for the DG Trustees to understand that we all still support Peer Jury and have been working diligently to reinstate it. Please join us to hear further details of the plan, and to offer support for it during public comment. It is our hope that the program can be reinstated within 2 months.

Questions? Feel free to ask by email to DGTPeerJuryFriends@gmail.com, on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PeerJuryFriends/>, or at the meeting tomorrow.

Thanks for your continuing support of this program and our community!

Cliff Grammich
Tel 1-630-541-5306

Michael Campo

Peg Chaidez

Cindy Go

Kim Hogan

Karen Kobialka

Yvonne Mayer

Susan Owens

Catherine Rager

--

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To post to this group, send email to DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/DGTPeerJuryFriends/1e3397e5-c99e-4774-9466-b55e3c69d9eb%40googlegroups.com>.

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: 2011 Peer Jury Manual

Date: October 6, 2017 at 10:18:38 AM CDT

To: Clifford Grammich <c.grammich@comcast.net>, Karen Kobialka <karenkobialka@aol.com>

In the process of looking for documents in the basement for a FOIA, I found this 2011 Peer Jury Manual. Don't know if it might help, but attached is a

scan of the manual.

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mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Fwd: Update--9/28/17
Date: October 2, 2017 at 8:37:27 AM CDT
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

FYI-

We continue to wish them well as they move forward. It doesn't appear the individual Chiefs have contacted Elmhurst and/or Bloomingdale to see how those municipalities run their internal program.

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor
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Begin forwarded message:

From: dgtpeerjuryfriends@gmail.com

Subject: **Update--9/28/17**

Date: September 28, 2017 at 6:36:41 PM CDT

To: DGTPeerJuryFriends

[<DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com>](mailto:DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com)

Hello all.

I spoke to Jim Gunther, Westmont Chief, today. The chiefs met after their monthly all-county chiefs meeting. The crux of this remains structure, liability and then funding.

The chiefs were all given "homework" assignments to look into questions that were raised as they relate to operating peer jury. For

instance, Itasca-Roselle operates a program and it is done in-house by their own personnel. I did advise them of this as well as how Wheeling Township and Vernon Hills Township run their peer jury.

The structure and liability issues must be addressed before anything can move forward. Chief Gunther said that the chiefs all agree that the program is valuable. They also felt that given the situation and the questions to be answered, including what each department would be willing to "kick in" once the issue of structure and liability are addressed, the earliest they see this getting up and running again would be the beginning of the next school year.

I will continue to update you as appropriate. Thanks for your continued support!

Lori

--

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Fwd: 9/18 meeting follow-up

Date: September 19, 2017 at 8:53:28 AM CDT

To: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Update on Community-based organization to run Peer Jury.

mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

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Begin forwarded message:

From: dgtpeerjuryfriends@gmail.com

Subject: 9/18 meeting follow-up

Date: September 19, 2017 at 7:20:33 AM CDT

To: DGTPeerJuryFriends

[<DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com>](mailto:DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com)

Hello, all,

Good evening all. Here is an update from the meeting that I (Lori) had on Monday, 9/18, with some of the chiefs and/or designees from the police departments.

1) A formal structure needs to be put into place that would assure that the liability for running the program is addressed. Chief Krueger from Oak Brook suggested that the best format for this would be an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) between the departments. This is important not only for liability but for checks that would be written to fund the program.

2) Funding is the challenge right now. All of the departments have a fiscal year that runs on the calendar year. For 2018, their budgets are being finalized now and the reality is, since there is no formal structure right now to operate peer jury under, putting funds in for the program is just not possible at this time. A Downers Grove officer suggested that we approach school districts for funding. There was quite a bit of back and forth discussion on that suggestion. I would love to hear your thoughts on that idea.

3) Another issue regarding the budget: some departments expressed a question about the amount they would put in based on how many kids they referred to the program in the past. Some discussion centered around departments working a little more on making sure the officers understand the program more which could impact their referrals. This is something that

would have to be discussed more once a IGA was formed which means on principle, the departments have said they are supportive of getting the program up and running under that structure.

4) The budget that I presented included fees collected from offenders and the SMS class and those fees have the potential to fund 1/3 of the budget.

Next steps: 1) Chief Krueger from Oak Brook was going to e-mail all the chiefs (only 2 chiefs of the 8 departments were present and the rest were designees) to determine if they are supportive in principle and would be willing to participate in forming an IGA so we could proceed with addressing funding; 2) Whatever departments are willing to participate in an IGA, I would work with the chiefs, likely Krueger and Gunther (Westmont) to develop the language and structure; 3) Funding: the community could begin to talk about coming up with initial funding to get the program up and running in 2018 under the IGA, this would allow time for the departments to discuss what they would be willing to put in for FY 2019. It is important to understand that this would be an annual process so making sure that community funding would be an element of the budget would be important.

I will follow up with Chief Krueger on Wednesday if I don't hear from them to learn what feedback he received from the other chiefs. I am also asking that the parent group that formed get together to begin to discuss possible fund raising efforts once the issue of a formal structure is settled with the departments.

Thank you for the letters of support that you sent. I gave everyone at the meeting copies.

Lori

--

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[cd4b-4b88-8e0b-45daac5986b0%40googlegroups.com](https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/DGTPeerJuryFriends/1929e37c-cd4b-4b88-8e0b-45daac5986b0%40googlegroups.com).

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Fwd: Update--and request for your help

Date: September 13, 2017 at 12:18:06 PM CDT

To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

It appears from the email below that the community based group has moved ahead, and that former Township Peer Jury Coordinator Lori Wrzesinski is on board. We and they can now move forward down our separate paths. Thank you all for your help on this.

mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

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Begin forwarded message:

From: dgtpeerjuryfriends@gmail.com

Subject: **Update--and request for your help**

Date: September 11, 2017 at 6:26:15 PM CDT

To: DGTPeerJuryFriends

[<DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com>](mailto:DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com)

Hello all,

I know it's been nearly 2 months since the Township Supervisor eliminated peer jury. But, because of all of you, it was clearly communicated how valuable the program has been to the communities it serves.

One of the most important things we need right now is patience. That is because we want to make sure that all the right steps are taken, the right questions are asked so that solid answers are given.

Here is the status of where things are right now:

1) I am waiting to hear back from Chief Gunther of Westmont. He is sending out an e-mail to all of the chiefs so he can convene a meeting the week of 9/18. That will happen either on the 18th or 19th.

2) I met with Sgt. Kadolph of Oak Brook to put together an agenda and also shared with him the budget that I put together. That budget is just under \$36,000 per year.

3) At the meeting, we need to address any concerns the chiefs may have regarding the value of the program as it relates to any funding they would put into it. Sustainability is important so we need to make sure that all departments are on board and would continue to sustain future funding at whatever level they would agree to at the very beginning.

Here is where you all can help. Please send an e-mail to DGTPeerJuryFriends@gmail.com that speaks to your feelings about the program and its value, be it from the parent of a juror or a juror perspective. It would be helpful to have such email by this Friday, September 15, so that I can have them all printed and ready for the meeting.

I will report back to everyone once the meeting happens to let you know the results and what steps need to be taken next to move forward.

I am so honored to know all of you. Your participation in peer jury has shaped me in so many ways and you inspire me!

Lori

--

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Subject: Fwd: Greetings and welcome!

Date: August 15, 2017 at 2:25:01 PM CDT

To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

FYI - They are moving forward!

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Main (630) 719-6611 • Fax (630) 719-6608

mark.thoman@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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Begin forwarded message:

From: dgtpeerjuryfriends@gmail.com

Subject: Greetings and welcome!

Date: August 14, 2017 at 9:42:09 PM CDT

To: DGTPeerJuryFriends

[<DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com>](mailto:DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com)

Greetings!

Many thanks for accepting our invitation to join this email list. In coming weeks, we will use it to inform you of developments in efforts to reinstate Peer Jury in Southeast DuPage County. Please feel free to invite others to join by having them write DGTPeerJuryFriends@gmail.com.

We are working with a group of parents and other supporters of the program to explore a variety of public and private means for its future support. In particular, we are working with Lori Wrzesinski to determine costs of the program outside township support. She is working with local police to gauge possible support from individual municipalities.

We may hold a informational session or fundraiser in September. We will use this email list to announce these events.

In the meantime, you may also follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/PeerJuryFriends/>. We will use this site for discussions and to share and

generate ideas about future efforts.

Should you have any questions, you may write us at DGTPeerJuryFriends@gmail.com.

Thanks again for your support! Working together, we can help ensure the continuation of this program which has served our community for the past 17 years.

Cliff Grammich (Peer Jury parent)
Tel 1-630-541-5306

Cindy Go (Peer Jury moderator and parent)

Kim Hogan (Peer Jury moderator and parent)

Karen Kobialka (Peer Jury parent)

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "DGTPeerJuryFriends" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to DGTPeerJuryFriends+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To post to this group, send email to DGTPeerJuryFriends@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/DGTPeerJuryFriends/cf31caa5-ef71-4b67-925a-2b0e55ba7103%40googlegroups.com>.

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

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From: Lorraine Grimsby <lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Board Packet
Date: August 15, 2017 at 10:33:16 AM CDT
To: DGT Board <board@dgtownship.com>, DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>, "Alongi, Allan"

<aalongi@alongilawoffice.com>

Cc: DGT Deputy <deputy@dgtownship.com>,
art.donner@dgtownship.com

Everyone:

I am attaching the Board Packet for our meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2017.

Attached:

Agenda

Minutes - August 3rd

Engineering Solutions - bids/recommendation memo

DoGoodDuPage

Draft cash policy

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you

Lorraine

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Lorraine Grimsby - *Clerk*
Downers Grove Township
4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
Main (630) 719-6613 • Fax (630) 719-6608
lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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From: Lorraine Grimsby <lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Board packet
Date: August 11, 2017 at 10:09:04 AM CDT
To: DGT Board <board@dgtownship.com>, DGT Trustee
<trustee@dgtownship.com>, "Alongi, Allan"
<aalongi@alongilawoffice.com>

Everyone:

I am attaching the following documents for our next Board meeting on September 7th.

If you have any comments/edits for the agenda or minutes, please send them ASAP.

Any additional documents will be sent by Tuesday, August 15th.

Thank you
Lorraine

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Lorraine Grimsby - *Clerk*
Downers Grove Township
4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
Main (630) 719-6613 • Fax (630) 719-6608
lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Peer jury front page article
Date: August 9, 2017 at 9:28:13 AM CDT
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>
Cc: Allan Alongi <aalongi@alongilawoffice.com>

In Downers Grove paper that hit the driveways this morning. The interview was pretty rough, but the reporter is empathetic to local govt's getting squeezed and social programs losing traction, and came around to where we were talking about how residents can move forward without us. The Peer Jury article published focuses on the community moving forward.

Hasn't shown up on-line, but they put the Meals on Wheels piece back up front, which is weird — that's old news.

I spoke with DG Mayor Tully, he's in favor of DG being a part of what may come, and Cliff has also reached out to Hinsdale, and I believe Westmont, and Darien. Chief Simpson in Hinsdale has expressed support for the program already.

mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Youth diversion links
Date: August 8, 2017 at 1:38:41 PM CDT
To: Clifford Grammich <c.grammich@comcast.net>, karenkobialka@aol.com

Dear Mr. Grammich and Ms. Kubialka,

This is the section of the ILCS statutes that regulates youth court programs. The language on who has corporate authority is plain and specific, and includes pathways for funding.

http://www.ag.state.il.us/communities/youthadvocacy/iyca_youthcourt.html

This is the ILAG page with general headings.

http://www.ag.state.il.us/communities/youthadvocacy/youth_courts_fact_sheet.pdf

A general fact sheet put together by Lisa Madigan's Office in collaboration with the Illinois Youth Court Association.

http://www.ag.state.il.us/communities/youthadvocacy/youth_courts_fact_sheet.pdf

I don't know if this would be of help but it talks about funding and cost factors.

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/pdo/ppw/SESAP/Documents/SCHOOL%20RJP%20GUIDEBOOK.pdf>

This is a guide to Restorative Justice, and discusses specifically Peer Jury pathways.

I believe you two and Ms. Chaidez are perfect for the core of a 501(c)(3) to move forward.

I won't speak for them, but we have two Trustees that are Certified CPA's with about 80 years experience between them, so there's possible but not guaranteed support setting up bookkeeping and audit procedures to get a

501(c)(3) up and running as an independent community based organization. I believe Karen K. has experience with paperwork for foundations. If not, our Township attorney might steer you to the proper forms.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Re: Peer Jury update
Date: August 8, 2017 at 8:47:22 AM CDT
To: Bill White <->

Dear Mr. White,

Thank you for your comments. As one experienced in local government, you know the majority of the cost of govt is personnel, and when major funding is lost it's never a matter of buying fewer paper clips.

I am still putting together information for Karen and Cliff. I believe they can be an effective core to startup a 501(c)(3). I am waiting on information as to which communities used the Peer Jury most, but I suspect DG and Hinsdale, and possibly Westmont and Darien as a second tier, would be most likely interested in supporting a community based organization.

Elmhurst has a well documented municipal program also. Don't overlook them as a source for information and size structure.

Two Trustees are CPA's and one has professional experience as an independent auditor. Between them setting up a NFP books is something they could readily do so the 501 has good accounting and auditing oversight right out of the box. That may matter to potential "subscriber"

municipalities.

Thanks again. We'll be in touch.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

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On Aug 8, 2017, at 7:41 AM, Bill White <-> wrote:
Hi Mark -

Over the weekend I send Tully and Fieldman an email to inquire whether the Village can or would consider being a sponsors of the peer jury program, either by itself or as one of several collaborating municipalities.

Fieldman responded that he will discuss the matter with his staff and he, Marty and I can talk about it at our weekly mayors meeting this Friday 8/11.

Also, please know that Lori has prepared a budget for peer jury that shows a total cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000. I suggest being cautious about throwing around the \$120,000 figure.

I'll let you know what we discuss Friday morning.

Bill White

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Agenda Item for first meeting in Spetember
Date: August 7, 2017 at 10:48:53 AM CDT
To: Lorraine Grimsby <lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com>

Discussion about how we can help residents get an independent community based organization 501(c)(3) up and running to contract with and oversee a Peer Jury program for municipalities choosing to participate. Note that the corporate authority to create or contract with a community based organization clearly rests with the county or a municipality.

(705 ILCS 405/5-315)

Sec. 5-315. Teen court. The county board or corporate authorities of a municipality, or both, may create or contract with a community based organization for teen court programs.

(Source: P.A. 90-590, eff. 1-1-99.)

More direction, information, and regulations here at Lisa Madigan's IL AG website:

http://www.ag.state.il.us/communities/youthadvocacy/iyca_youthcourt.html

mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Peer jury
Date: August 7, 2017 at 8:51:00 AM CDT
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

So far we're confirming the Peer Jury was the most expensive youth program addressing the fewest youth. My pencil on napkin figuring remains pretty solid but we'll take a closer look to see if there are any more significant costs undiscovered.

Should the folks who attended the 8/3 meeting wish to proceed we should be able to give them some reasonable idea of what costs may be. A community based program funded by charitable donations should come in for far less than the Township program funded by taxpayers. Similarly, the oversight of a independent board focused singly on the program will be better.

The reporting history of the program seems nonexistent beyond budget numbers. I have no idea of the efficacy of the program, nor of the history/ breakout of how many annual participants and where they came from. I will be getting a report on the 50 or so that are in files.

Peer jury is the newest program, starting 2003 (14 years) on a \$10,000 grant. Life Skills began in 1981 (36 years) and Youth Skills started in 1991 (26 years).

Personally I reject the thinking that since the Township always did things a certain way in the past, we should keep doing it the same way.

mt

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

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From: Abby Ferguson <abby.ferguson@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Organizational chart and Peer Jury feedback
Date: August 3, 2017 at 3:58:37 PM CDT
To: Karen Kelly <karen.kelly@dgtownship.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Abby Ferguson** <abby.ferguson@dgtownship.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 3, 2017 at 3:58 PM
Subject: Re: Proposed Organizational chart and Peer Jury feedback

To: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Mark,

Can you send a cost breakout of the \$118,197 of identified Peer Jury program costs? Also, was the \$128,000 grant used solely used to support this program?

Thanks,
Abby

On Thu, Aug 3, 2017 at 8:37 AM, Mark Thoman
<mark.thoman@dgtownship.com> wrote:

There appear to be compatibility issues with the proposed Organization Chart as a docx. Below is the proposed organizational chart as a pdf which seems to load okay.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From the large volume of phone calls and emails generated by peer juror parents I expect an overflow crowd tonight, all very much opposed to our suspending the Peer Jury Program. Please please refrain from trying to parse out a very difficult decision.

Here is some additional information I now know:

Peer jury had 50 cases in process through November. Each is being addressed and resolved individually. There were 200 Peer Jurors involved, and almost every call, email, and the majority, if not all, of the emails, calls and posting are from parents of jurors who got community service credit hours and a very worthy line item on their college application resume. I don't see any way to fund its return.

I have just over \$118,197.35 of identified Peer Jury program costs. There are probably several thousand more in discovery as we assess the total program costs. The state funding cut was \$128,000.

We continue to address over 3,400 students with prevention education and youth skills, and provide over 20 schools in the Township with accredited programming. See attached copy off our website of continuing youth programs, which I am considering as a handout for interested attendees.

Lauren Aramburu is also giving a short presentation at the meeting on what she's doing this year.

So to summarize, Peer jury: 50 juvies over 5 months, 200 jurors, \$118k/yr cost; prevention ed: 3,400 students, 20 schools, \$80k/yr cost.

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

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From: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Proposed Organizational chart and Peer Jury feedback
Date: August 3, 2017 at 8:37:36 AM CDT
To: DGT Trustee <trustee@dgtownship.com>

There appear to be compatibility issues with the proposed Organization Chart as a docx. Below is the proposed organizational chart as a pdf which seems to load okay.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

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