

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

MT

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

mt



Downers Grove Township | my township!

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor
Downers Grove Township
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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.

<<

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

MT

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".




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

MT

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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Questions.docx



peer jury 2.docx



peer jury manual 2011
p14.pdf



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

MT

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



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On Oct 24, 2017, at 10:01 PM, Joan Landry <[REDACTED]> 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 & consideration.

Joan & John Landry

Parents of present & past peer jurors

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

MT

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-v3HPQWqU&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks again,

Mark Thoman, Supervisor



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On Oct 24, 2017, at 5:40 PM, Suzanne Austin <[REDACTED]> 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

Cell # [REDACTED]

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

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

MT

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



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On Oct 24, 2017, at 10:52 AM, Galinda Tunney <[REDACTED]> 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

~~SECRET~~

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From: **Mark Thoman** mark.thoman@dgtownship.com
Subject: Re: Peer Jury
Date: October 24, 2017 at 9:20 AM
To: Stacy Kinnas and ~~Redacted~~

MT

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



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On Oct 23, 2017, at 10:56 PM, Stacy Kinnas <~~Redacted~~> 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 PM
To: Mary Newton ~~marynewton2k@hotmail.com~~

MT

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



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On Oct 23, 2017, at 2:19 PM, Mary Newton ~~marynewton2k@hotmail.com~~ 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

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From: **Mark Thoman** mark.thoman@dgtownship.com
Subject: Peer Jury and tomorrow night
Date: October 19, 2017 at 1:52 PM
To: Clifford Grammich c.grammich@comcast.net

MT

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
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: Fwd: Peer jury update
Date: October 19, 2017 at 1:49 PM
To: DGT Trustee trustee@dgtownship.com

MT

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



Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor
Downers Grove Township
4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
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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@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 

Michael Campo

Peg Chaidez

Cindy Go

Kim Hogan

Karen Kobialka

Yvonne Mayer

Susan Owens

Catherine Rager

--

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

From: **Mark Thoman** mark.thoman@dgtownship.com 
Subject: 2011 Peer Jury Manual
Date: October 6, 2017 at 10:20 AM
To: Clifford Grammich c.grammich@comcast.net, **Karen Kobialka** karenkobialka@aol.com

MT

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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Peer Jury Manual
2011.pdf

mt



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From: **Yvonne Mayer** ymayer@msn.com
Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request
Date: October 2, 2017 at 11:56 AM
To: clerk@dgtownship.com, chris.west@dgtownship.com



To Downers Grove Township Freedom of Information Officers:

This email serves as a Freedom of Information Act Request. My name is Yvonne Mayer. My address is 6100 S. Elm Street, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 and my day time phone is 630-710-9445. Today's date is 10/2/17.

I am requesting production of the following responsive documents in PDF electronic form. It is unclear from your website whether you charge \$0.15/page for copies in excess of 50 pages produced in electronic form or only those produced in Paper form. IF YOU DO CHARGE for electronic copies in excess of 50 pages and more than 50 pages of documentation are produced, then I am requesting FIRST TO INSPECT them and select the documents I want copied. If you do not charge for electronic copies, then please produce all responsive documents via email without inspection. If you need clarification on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please produce the following documents:

1. Any and all documentation provided to the Downers Grove Township trustees dated on or after January 1, 2017 through today's date, that relates to any review and/or discussion of the Peer Jury program and the determination whether to keep it or eliminate it. This includes, but is not limited to emails, written correspondence or reports to and/or from Mark Thoman to any of the trustees.
2. Any report or analysis that was conducted by Mark Thoman or any employee or trustee of the Downers Grove Township on or after January 1, 2017, that addressed the Peer Jury Program, including but not limited to a discussion on:
 - a. the possible or actual suspension or termination of the Peer Jury program;
 - b. reasons for possible or actual termination of the program;
 - c. the costs to continue the program in light of the loss of funding;
 - d. any efforts or ideas to continue the program prior to its suspension/termination by Mark Thomas;
 - e. any efforts or ideas to reinstate the program after its suspension/termination by Mark Thoman.
3. Job description of Lori Wrzesinski, Cathy Rager and any other prevention specialist who was employed by Downers Grove Township on May 1, 2017.
4. Current job description of any prevention specialist who is currently employed by Downers Grove Township.
5. Any documentation that reflects the portion of PAID/SALARIED time that Lori Wrzesinski or any other prevention specialist spent on the Peer Jury Program in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
6. Any documentation that reflects the portion of UNPAID/VOLUNTEER time that Lori Wrzesinski or any other prevention specialist spent on the Peer Jury Program in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
7. For Fiscal Years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Downers Grove Township budget, including any pages of the budget that reflect revenues and expenses incurred in operating the Peer Jury program.
8. For Fiscal Years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017:
 - a. all documentation related to expenses to operate Peer Jury, the SMS class and the

- MASK class, including receipts for these expenses;
- b. all documentation related to funds/revenue taken in by the Peer Jury program, the SMS class and the MASK class.
 - c. any documents related to the operation of the Peer Jury program from the Townships' annual audits for Fiscal Years 2014, 2015, and 2016.
9. At the August 3, 2017 Township meeting, Mark Thoman represented that over the last five years, on average \$131,000 per year was received in funding for Youth Services and that the cost of running the Peer Jury program was \$118,000 per year. (Source: <https://youtu.be/TOhb51i8Jh0?t=24m24s> Thoman's statement on funding and costs follows a question from a resident.) With respect to these representations,
- a. all documentation that Mark Thoman used to support his 8/3/17 representation that on average \$131,000 per year was received in funding for Youth Services;
 - b. all documentation that supports Mark Thoman's 8/3/17 representation that the Peer Jury program costs \$118,000/year to operate and/or a line by line itemization that shows the purported \$118,000/year to operate the Peer Jury program.
10. Salary and benefits for Lori Wrzesinski and the other 2 Township Prevention Specialists for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.
11. The Downers Grove Township Grant Budget for FY 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017.
12. Any and all emails and written correspondence from January 1, 2017 through today's date from Mark Thoman to any Police Department or any other organization that is involved in the Peer Jury program that discuss the possible or actual suspension or termination of the Peer Jury program.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Mayer

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

MT

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.



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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>

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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To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/DGTPeerJuryFriends/8df97960-1fce-4e84-aa65-5c3d3b02341f%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: 9/18 meeting follow-up
Date: September 19, 2017 at 8:53 AM
To: Mark Thoman mark.thoman@dgtownship.com

MT

Update on Community-based organization to run Peer Jury.

mt



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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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>

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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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 PM
To: DGT Trustee trustee@dgtownship.com

MT

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

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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FOIA

MT

From: **Mark Thoman** mark.thoman@dgtownship.com
Subject: Re: FOI Request
Date: September 6, 2017 at 10:24 AM
To: Sidney Lee slee0466@csd99.org

I wanted to follow up with you that you did receive the Township responses we put together. I had this email on Friday morning, but your follow up emails it wasn't clear you got it.

There is follow up in that there is an active group of residents, many who provided feedback, working on a community-based organization to continue forward with a youth court diversion program. Cliff Grammich is the key contact. He has okayed my giving out his email and you may want to contact him for a follow-up article.

c.grammich@comcast.net

He now has a google group to keep everyone updated, and a Facebook page. Several municipalities have expressed an interest in continuing with the diversion program.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor



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On Sep 6, 2017, at 9:38 AM, Lorraine Grimsby <lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com> wrote:

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<unknown.png>

Lorraine Grimsby - Clerk
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lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com • www.dgtownship.com

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Lorraine Grimsby <lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Re: FOI Request
Date: September 1, 2017 at 10:08:24 AM CDT
To: Sidney Lee <slee0466@csd99.org>

Mr. Lee:

On Monday, August 28, 2017, I received your FOIA request. After researching, Supervisor Thoman has provided the following information.

1) Budget for the Peer Jury program for the 2015-2017 and 2016-2017 school years.

The Peer Jury Program is a function of Human Services. Four distinct programs are intertwined in the Human Services Department budget process: Life Skills, Peer Jury, Senior Services, and Youth Education. The Human Services Budgets are in the Annual Budget, and the results are in the annual independent audit.

Our fiscal year runs March 1 to Feb 28. None of our budgeting is tied to a school year. Human Services and DHS are the two Youth Services Budgets. Peer Jury is under 1.4 Human Services.

The Illinois Freedom of Information Act allows that instead of sending, in this case, dozens of documents that are already on-line, that I can send the links from our transparency page.

(5 ILCS 140/8.5)

Sec. 8.5. Records maintained online.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this Act to the contrary, a public body is not required to copy a public record that is published on the public body's website. The public body shall notify the requester that the public record is available online and direct the requester to the website where the record can be reasonably accessed.

(b) If the person requesting the public record is unable to reasonably access the record online after being directed to the website pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section, the requester may re-submit his or her request for the record stating his or her inability to reasonably access the record online, and the public body shall make the requested record available for inspection or copying as provided in Section 3 of this Act.

(Source: P.A. 98-1129, eff. 12-3-14.)

The Transparency page is here:

http://www.dgtownship.com/?page_id=7130

Since taking on the job of Township Supervisor I've put everything I can think of in here.

Budgets:

http://www.dgtownship.com/docs/so/tpw/Township_Budget_Ordinance_16-17.pdf

See page 5 for the Human Services budgets for 2016-2017

http://www.dgtownship.com/docs/so/tpw/Township_Budget_Ordinance_15-16.pdf

See page 6 for the Human Services Budget for 2015-2016

The Annual Financial Report for the year ended February 28, 2017 are on-line here:

<http://www.dgtownship.com/docs/so/twp/DGTAuditReport2017.pdf>

See page 38 and 39 for the Human Services. This document includes both the 2016-2017, and 2015-2016 fiscal year data.

Employee Compensation:

<http://www.dgtownship.com/docs/so/twp/DGTWageDisclosure2016.pdf>

See page 2. These are the employee costs less employer FICA contribution for 2016-2017. Peer Jury was the full-time job of the position listed as Public Relations, and roughly ¼ of the job listed as the lower paid of the two Prevention Specialist DHS.

<http://www.dgtownship.com/docs/so/twp/DGTWageDisclosure2015.pdf>

Again, see the same positions on page 2.

2) Any documents relating to or regarding the decision to suspend the Peer Jury program.

The decision involved researching the various Human Services offered, and finding how to continue to best serve, and gain the widest benefit to, the Township. Here there's no document I can provide other than background I researched. All four elements of Human Services provided, at the time, benefits to participants.

On the Transparency page http://www.dgtownship.com/?page_id=7130

if you roll down to **Township**, the first category of public documents is **Monthly Expenditures**. I went through all 22 of these to get an idea of what the associated costs for programs were.

The monthly audit reports contain expense detail related to Human Services programs. Some costs are specific to a program and are listed, and some are general and are split among the different programs.

The on-line reports do not go back to the beginning of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, so I am including three summary reports I ran off on August 30. These were not the reports I researched, but contain the information just for Human Services for the last two Fiscal Years.

All of the above information all fed into my decision.

Making personnel and program changes while continuing Life Skills, Senior Services, and Youth Education programming has been a challenge the employees are responding to with excellence and professionalism.

<SSO-Konica-17083013110.pdf>

<SSO-Konica-17083013130.pdf>

<SSO-Konica-17083013140.pdf>

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you
Lorraine Grimsby, Clerk

<unknown.png>

Lorraine Grimsby - Clerk
Downers Grove Township
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On Aug 27, 2017, at 6:37 PM, Sidney Lee <slee0466@csd99.org> wrote:

Dear Lorraine Grimsby,

Pursuant to the state open records law 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. 140/1 to 140/11.5, I write to request access to and a copy of the budget for the Peer Jury program from the 2015-2016 school year and the 2016-2017 school year. I also request access to any documents regarding or relating to the decision to suspend the Peer Jury program. If your agency does not maintain these public records, please let me know who does and include the proper custodian's name and address.

As provided by the open records law, I will expect your response within five (5) working days. See 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. 140/3(c).

If you choose to deny this request, please provide a written explanation for the denial including a reference to the specific statutory exemption(s) upon which you rely. Also, please provide all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Sidney Lee

Editor in Chief of The Omega, Downers Grove North student newspaper
slee0466@csd99.org

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<FOI.pdf>

From: **Mark Thoman** mark.thoman@dgtownship.com
Subject: Fwd: Article about Peer Jury Program
Date: September 5, 2017 at 12:42 PM
To: Lorraine Grimsby lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com

MT

We sent the FOIA response, yes? He says he never got it.



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Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Sidney Lee <slee0466@csd99.org>
Date: September 5, 2017 at 12:19:45 PM CDT
To: Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>
Subject: Re: Article about Peer Jury Program

I am stilling waiting for the FOIA, but if it is easier, the crucial information I need is how much the Peer Jury program costed the township to run last year. Thank you for your help.
-Sidney

On Sep 5, 2017, at 11:21 AM, Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com> wrote:

I'm driving back today. If you can send any questions I'll try and get to them.



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On Sep 5, 2017, at 6:16 AM, Sidney Lee <slee0466@csd99.org> wrote:

Hi Mr. Thoman,

I wanted to quickly follow up my FOIA request. The Omega goes to print on Thursday the 7th and I believe the information in the FOIA would be very beneficial to the article. Thank you for understanding my time constraints.


Sidney Lee

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From: Mark Thoman mark.thoman@dgtownship.com 
Subject: Letter sent to all participants
Date: August 28, 2017 at 9:36 AM
To: Lorraine Grimsby lorraine.grimsby@dgtownship.com

MT

Letter sent to all participants. I guess this could be considered a document relating to Peer Jury.

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



Peer jury revised.docx

Minutes of 8/3 meeting and video of the meeting — all five parts — are on-line.

Appropriation is on-line 15/16 here:

http://www.dgtownship.com/docs/so/twp/Township_Budget_Ordinance_15-16.pdf

16/17 here:

http://www.dgtownship.com/docs/so/twp/Township_Budget_Ordinance_16-17.pdf

The front page shows Human Services and that also includes Senior Services.

Peer Jury was one of four areas addressed by Human Services, and one of three that addressed Youth Services. Descriptions of the two continuing youth programs

Life Skills are here:

http://www.dgtownship.com/?page_id=203

Educational programs are here:

http://www.dgtownship.com/?page_id=3297

Specific authorization for what entities can do youth court:

(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.)

So we support residents who are currently creating a community based organization for teen court programs, and have forwarded them as much information as we have. We can have Amanda pull all my emails to Cliff to include emails sent to resident organizers if you wish.



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Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor
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From: **Mark Thoman** mark.thoman@dgtownship.com 
Subject: Re: Text
Date: August 28, 2017 at 11:19 AM
To: Elena Baroni 

MT

Township participation in the Peer Jury Peer Jury was suspended.

I'm not sure who would have sent out a text — we normally do emails so it leaves a record in our system. Cathy Rager has been winding up cases on an individual basis, but I'm unaware of any jury schedules being texted out to anyone.

The possibility exists the community based organization that is forming may have moved into implementing a schedule?

Very odd. Sorry I can't be of more help.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor



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On Aug 28, 2017, at 11:09 AM, Elena Baroni <elena@landb.us> wrote:

Hi,
I am a peer jury parent and just receive md a text about peer jury schedules. I thought peer jury had been terminated? Not sure what is going on?
Thanks,
Elena Baroni

Sent from my iPhone

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

From: Mark Thoman mark.thoman@dgtownship.com
Subject: Fwd: Greetings and welcome!
Date: August 15, 2017 at 2:25 PM
To: DGT Trustee trustee@dgtownship.com

MT

FYI - They are moving forward!



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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>

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

which has served our community for the past 17 years.

Cliff Grammich (Peer Jury parent)

Tel 1-800-833-8333

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>.

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

From: Mark Thoman mark.thoman@dgtownship.com 
Subject: Peer jury front page article
Date: August 9, 2017 at 9:28 AM
To: DGT Trustee trustee@dgtownship.com
Cc: Allan Alongi ~~allan.alongi@downersgrovetownship.com~~

MT

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: Re: Peer Jury update
Date: August 8, 2017 at 8:47 AM
To: Bill White ~~bill.white@grain.org~~

MT

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



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On Aug 8, 2017, at 7:41 AM, Bill White <~~bill.white@grain.org~~> 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

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

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

MT

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
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
Date: August 7, 2017 at 8:51 AM
To: DGT Trustee trustee@dgtownship.com

MT

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



Downers Grove Township | *my township!*

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Downers Grove Township

Human Services

Mark S. Thoman - Supervisor

August 4, 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

We wanted to take the time to send you a formal letter regarding the end of the Township Peer Jury program. The email notification was an immediate measure due to the time crunch, but in no way summarizes your contributions and service to the community.

We are extremely proud of the long tenure of this 17-year program. More than 1,100 cases have been heard during that period of time, allowing for young people to come before their peers, in a comfortable manner, and be heard. Hearings were held judiciously, fairly, and with considerable empathy on the part of jurors for all involved. The program was and is a guiding light for others seeking to model what Lori, community participants, volunteer staff, and youth like yourself created together!

Peer Jury evolved from one site and 50 students to three sites and over 200 students! The program has positively impacted the lives of jurors, offenders and their families due to the services, support, educational opportunities, training, discussion and community service that have been an integral part of this program.

Without the "peers" there would be no peer jury. Lori and Cathy were always amazed by jurors' ability to ask profound questions with firm yet gentle understanding. Jurors have also shared helpful advice during return hearings with offenders and their parents, offering options for change that families may not have considered. The wisdom of our youth!

Thanks again for your valuable service and worthy contributions. Hopefully, this program will continue in some way in the near future.

Mark Thoman
Township Supervisor

Cathy Rager
Peer Jury Coordinator

Email: humanservices@dgtownship.com

Mark Thoman <mark.thoman@dgtownship.com>

Jul 20

to sao

Good morning Bob,

This is a follow up to a discussion I had a couple weeks go with your office. At that time there was no funding to be had to offset costs of the Peer Jury program run by Downer grove Township.

I'm writing today to ask if you have any type of possible position to move the Peer Jury program to the DuPage County State's Attorney office, in order to better serve to entire county. This has been a popular program with law enforcement. It saves the court system time and money.

I have experienced fully capable personnel able to hit the ground running if you have the staffing space to move this effective crime diversion program to under your direct supervision.

I would appreciate consideration on this matter, and look forward to your response. Thank you.

Mark Thoman, Supervisor



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From: **Mark Thoman** mark.thoman@dgtownship.com 
Subject: Peer Jury
Date: June 19, 2017 at 9:59 AM
To: sao@dupageco.org



Downers Grove Township currently runs a Peer Jury program. As a matter of review, I seek feedback from the DuPage County SAO:

- 1) Is the DG Township program meeting the goals and/or expectations of your office?
- 2) Are there any state or county funds that could be budgeted in support of the DG Township Peer Jury program?
- 3) Are there any potential grants that you are aware of, relating to mitigating costs to us at the Township for the program?

Any and all feedback appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mark Thoman, Supervisor



Downers Grove Township *my township!*

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