



Office of the Town Manager

7900 Williston Road
Williston VT 05495
802-876-1168

October 30, 2023

Josh Arneson, Town Manager
Town of Richmond VT
203 Bridge Street
Richmond, VT 05477

Dear Josh,

The Williston Community Justice Center (WCJC) has provided services for the Town of Richmond and community members for many years and has engaged several community members to be a part of the WCJC work by serving on volunteer panels. Appended to this memo is a summary of the services the WCJC offers.

The funding for WCJC comes from a Vermont Department of Corrections (DOC) grant, and funding from the Town of Williston. The Town funding supports a 10% match requirement, and far exceeds that requirement. The level of funding for the WCJC supports two full-time positions with full benefits, and a primary driver behind increased operational costs has been wages and benefits for staff driven by inflation in recent years. Overall, in fiscal year 2024 the WCJC budget is \$196,000. The DOC grant encompasses \$144,000 with the remaining \$52,000 being contributed by the Town of Williston from its general fund. In addition, the Town calculates an added \$28,000 worth of in-kind support for use of the Police Station space and Town staff administrative support and oversight to manage the grant funding.

The cost to provide these services continues to increase with inflation, and an anticipated decrease in DOC grant funding in fiscal year 2025. Beyond that, there are conversations about the future of the grant structure in DOC that will be occurring in calendar year 2024.

Richmond has received WCJC services for several years without providing a contribution for these services. Moving forward, the Town of Williston will be reassessing the long-term funding model. As a starting point, and as discussed on our recent phone conversation, I am reaching out to see if the Richmond Selectboard would be interested in making a fiscal year 2025 allocation to the WCJC to support the services it provides to Richmond and the area.

Should the Selectboard be interested in considering an allocation I can provide any additional information sought to assist in arriving at an amount.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik Wells". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Erik Wells
Town Manager, Williston VT



What does the Williston Community Justice Center Offer?

The Restorative Justice Panel Process:

- Having the Responsible Party take ownership of the infraction
- The Responsible Party, victim(s) and community volunteers work together to make a legal contract that addresses how repair will be made to the victim, community, and to self
- Allowing the victim, responsible party, and the community to have a voice
- Our Executive Board is comprised of 9 community volunteers that oversee the long-range strategic plan to be shared with the Select Board and oversee the progress towards its goals and objectives
- Community volunteers, some of which are youth
- Collecting restitution for victim(s)
- Community Connections and Engagement

Education, Trainings, and Classes on the Following:

- Elder Bullying
- Sexting
- Social Justice Dialogue
- Racial injustice and dialogue
- Racism
- Revenge Porn
- Bullying
- Safe Driving
- Internet Safety and Cyber Civility
- Restorative Dialogue and Practices
- Restorative Circles
- Life Skill Classes
 - Living on \$2 A Day
 - Budgeting
 - Resource Networking
- Resume Building
- Employment/Housing Assistance
- Educational forums on:
 - Substance abuse and addiction
 - Restorative Parenting
 - Poverty Circles

Working in the Community:

- State and local government
- Schools
- Collaboration with Law Enforcement to address community need and injustice
- Community Organizations
- Places of Business
- Senior Housing
- Low-income Housing

Youth Leadership:

- Youth Panel
- Mentorships
- Internships
- Grad Challenge

Other:

- Mediation/ Conflict Resolution
 - Peer-to-Peer
 - Business-to-Business
 - Difficult Dialogues
- Family/ Group Conferencing
- Reparative & Restorative Panels
- Restorative Conferences
- Restorative Circles
- Peace Circles
- Volunteer Committee Work i.e. Social Justice/Community Need
 - Racial Equity Partnership
 - Housing
 - Anti-Racism work
- Book groups on Social Justice, Mental Health and Racial Justice