

From: [Jandl, Lauren](#)
To: [Liam Connors](#)
Subject: Public Records Request
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 3:32:36 PM
Attachments: [20220504102533 \(1\) Redacted.pdf](#)
[ACRJS Farrell communication May June 2021 \(1\) Redacted.pdf](#)
[ACRJS letter Redacted.pdf](#)
[Declination Letter Redacted.pdf](#)
[FW 7026247 Redacted.pdf](#)
[Incident Report Redacted.pdf](#)
[Law Enforcement Officer Misconduct List 2017-December 2021.pdf](#)
[tic15303920210430082416 Redacted \(1\).pdf](#)
[2022-07-29 PRA Response Connors.pdf](#)

Dear Liam,

Please find attached correspondence related to your public records request.

Thank you.

Lauren

Lauren Jandl
Chief of Staff

Vermont Attorney General's Office
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
Cell: 802-595-8679
Email: lauren.jandl@vermont.gov
Pronouns: she/her/hers

SUSANNE R. YOUNG
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOSHUA R. DIAMOND
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

SARAH E.B. LONDON
CHIEF ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL



TEL: (802) 828-3171

<http://www.ago.vermont.gov>

STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001

July 29, 2022

Liam Elder-Connors, Vermont Public, via email to: lconnors@vermontpublic.org

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Liam Elder-Connors:

I write to further respond to your Public Records Act request dated July 7, 2022, in which you requested: *any complaints and/or investigations regarding the Addison County Sheriff's Department received since 01/01/2018.*

Attached is the second and final portion of the rolling production. Records have been redacted or withheld on the following grounds:

- Personal information has been redacted pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(7)
- Portions of three records have been redacted pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(5)(A)(iii) because disclosure “could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” These records contain information that could lead to the identification of victims and witnesses, including where they work and live, and their personal and medical information. Further, these records indicate that a prosecution review was conducted regarding police officers where no criminal charges were filed. Therefore, under this exemption, their privacy interests must be considered as well.
- Other documents such as e-mails and memoranda have been withheld because they are exempt from disclosure pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(3) & (4) as attorney work product and/or attorney client communications.
- To the extent records of any complaint or investigation concerning any law enforcement officer of the Addison County Sheriff's Department for the period of 01/01/2018 to the date of your request were produced or acquired by the AGO in the course of providing legal services to the Vermont Criminal Justice Council's Professional Regulation Subcommittee and have not been posted to the Council public register, such records would be exempt from public inspection and copying pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2409(d) (“information regarding unprofessional conduct complaints, investigations, proceedings, and related records” are deemed strictly confidential “except [for] the information required or permitted to be released under this section”), 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(1) (exempts records deemed confidential by law) and 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(2) (exempts from disclosure

“[r]ecords that by law may only be disclosed to specifically designated persons”). Further, to the extent any records were produced or acquired by the AGO in which Council staff sought legal advice, and/or the AGO provided legal advice, in the context of unprofessional conduct complaints or investigations, or in the context of any other matter, concerning any law enforcement officer of the Addison County Sheriff’s Department for the period of 01/01/2018 to the date of your request, such records would also be exempt from public inspection or copying as attorney-client privileged communications and as attorney work product pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(3)-(4) (exempts “[r]ecords that, if made public pursuant to this subchapter, would cause the custodian to violate duly adopted standards of ethics or conduct for any profession regulated by the State” and “[r]ecords that, if made public pursuant to this subchapter, would cause the custodian to violate any statutory or common law privilege other than the common law deliberative process privilege as it applies to the General Assembly and the Executive Branch agencies of the State of Vermont”).

To the extent you feel information has been withheld in error, you may appeal to the Deputy Attorney General, Joshua Diamond. Such appeal should be in writing:

Joshua Diamond
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001

Sincerely,

/s/ Lauren Jandl

Lauren Jandl
Chief of Staff

WHITE RIVER

CC MAY



FOREVER / USA



FOREVER / USA



FOREVER / USA

RECEIVED

MAY 04 2022

STATE OF VERMONT
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

VT ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05609

05609



MAY 04 2022

STATE OF VERMONT
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

SHERIFF PETER NEWTON

1. Newton/Wygman's non-profit.

- January 2021 - I received a card in the mail asking for \$110.00 to support a non-profit program with a goal of raising \$1.5 million. Promise of 2 officers 24/7 and a whole bunch of other promises. See also 1/14/2021 Addison Independent article.
- 1/20/2021 – post on Addison County Community Support facebook and ACSD facebook says make checks payable to Addison County Sheriffs Dept for Addison County Community Support and send to 35 Court Street – where were these checks deposited if the non-profit didn't yet legally exist – no bank would open an account for a non-existent non-profit ?
- 2/1/2021 – post with paypal account to contribute and saying how the phones have been ringing off the wall – paypal posting says "Pay Addison County Sheriff's Department"
- 2/3/2021 – Newton and Campbell on 92.1 WVTM talking about the non-profit and how they have collected money and all their promises of services to Addison County (non of which we seem to see happening yet a whole year later)
- 3/8/2021 Non-Profit set up with VT Secretary of State shows Dennis Wygmans as part of this non-profit – he is our state's attorney. Also Wygmans is on a facebook post saying he supports and is proud to serve on this board. Shouldn't he have accountability to taxpayers? Wygmans especially should know better to collect funds before the non-profit is set up – this feels like the public was misled and fleeced. How did this slip through the cracks ?
- 3/11/2021 Newton and Campbell on 92.1 WVTM – talking about the program and money collected – again something we taxpayers/people who donated have not yet seen.

For the time between when he started collecting money to the time the non-profit was set up (1-2 month) – where did the money go ? How much was collected ? I heard Newton was bragging that the number was somewhere around \$100,000. Was it co-mingled with Sheriff Dept. funds ? What was the money collected from residents used for ? Does he have an accounting or some sort of reporting system ? Shouldn't residents be allowed to see how their donations were used ? Since the program appears to not have done anything will money be returned to those who donated ?

2. Personal attacks using his position/department funds/taxpayer dollars.

Attack on a local Vergennes officer – were taxpayer \$ used for a personal attack ?

- \$ spent on a local attorney to make the FOIA requests
- \$ spent on copies. (see facebook post showing ACSD paid \$848.57 for public records request)
- 5/1/2022 youtube video posted by the Sheriff seems to show he attacked this officer because he supported Newton's opponent. What has happened to our freedom to vote/support another candidate?

He has made facebook posts and attacks against town and state cops, the AG and news outlets insinuating they are all corrupt. This one bad cop is harming the perception for all good officers in already trying times.

May 2021 - Attack on a woman on facebook who reported him because Newton disclosed her juvenile son's speeding ticket on facebook. Instead of learning from it, he again discloses the

juvenile and attacks the mother with a facebook post. I would think not disclosing a juvenile is police 101. Where was Wygmans on this one ? Shouldn't he have stepped in – the poor kid and poor mother who were humiliated on facebook because she simply asked to talk to the Sheriff about her son's ticket, which sounds like he never even returned her call or ever spoke to her – instead just attacked her on facebook.

Facebook posts about his divorce with his second ex-wife. Unprofessional and inappropriate.

Attack Brandon Town Manager for simply asking to see the video or recording of [REDACTED] traffic stop. A right we all have but Newton instead starts an attack with facebook posts and then Newton and Campbell even hosted a press conference at their office - completely inappropriate. I heard the town manager was not looking for a favor but simply wanted to see the video to be sure what [REDACTED] was telling him was accurate.

5/1/2022 – Youtube video attacking several people and blaming all his actions on anyone but himself. Sounds like he's trying to set up a PTSD defense.

3. When will this stop ?

- As an Addison County resident I am embarrassed of the Sheriff we have and I have heard numerous other say the same.
- Since this Sheriff was elected (Thanks to Don Keeler & Dennis Wygmans) – nothing good has happened other than constant drama, personal attacks and lots of inappropriate behavior and postings and some very shady if not criminal activity.
- Why are sheriffs not held to the same rules and standards as town and state cops ?
- How can someone who appears from his own postings and behaviors to be very unstable be allowed to continue in this very powerful position and carry a gun ?

4. Chatter around Addison County.

- Newton cut a woman off in traffic and gave her the finger and then when he realized who she was he started messaging her and telling her he was sorry and he loved her and got very creepy toward her. She wanted to report it but said she was afraid of him and how he threatens people saying nothing can be done to him because he is an elected person.
- When [REDACTED] worked for Sheriff Newton rumor from a sheriff department employee was that [REDACTED] told all the employees not to stop or ticket any of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] trucks for overweight because that was cutting into [REDACTED]. I heard [REDACTED] made significant campaign contributions to Pete Newton's run for Sheriff.
- I heard a girl who worked for the local probation department was thinking of working for Newton and rode with him on duty and they had sexual relations. The girls boyfriend who was on probation for something he had done reported it to probation and it was swept under the carpet – probably by Wygmans.
- I heard of 2 women who worked for Pete Newton quickly left because he tried to have relations with them (while he was married and on duty).

- I heard some of these people have made complaints to some committee at the state's academy but nothing has been done.
- I heard there are several women that he has had relations with while on duty and they are afraid of him and want to report things but are scared because he told them nothing can be done to him because he is an elected person.
- I heard that some of Newton's employees have not been paid because there is no money. Where is our taxpayer money going ?
- I heard Newton is hardly ever in the office or working.
- I heard Newton has run the department financially into the ground and has had to sell department assets to make payroll. I heard when he was at Middlebury ambulance he did same thing there.
- I heard former employees ([REDACTED]) all may have lawsuits against Newton.
- I heard one of his current employees was a former [REDACTED] cop and has lawsuits against him for excessive force.
- I heard at least 2 of his current employees have been charged with domestic assault. One made the newspaper from when he worked for Hinesburg– Robert Barrows.
- I saw on sheriff's facebook page that [REDACTED] who used to be with [REDACTED] police was doing a push up challenge and that he is collecting disability from the state for a shoulder injury – how do you compete in a push up challenge if you are disabled with shoulder injury to the point of collecting disability.
- I heard [REDACTED] cheated on his wife while on duty as [REDACTED] police with the married mother of a victim of a case he was working on. The ex-husband has been talking about it but nothing was done. And [REDACTED] of the oversight board for the sheriff's department ????
- Then of course the latest report by VT Digger and Addison Independent – people around the county are saying this girl went to the Sheriff for help thinking he had a non-profit community support facility to help her and instead he hits on her and gets into a sexual relationship with her and then lives with her and causes her the same harm he has caused to numerous other women. This seems criminal – he sets up a non-profit to help people who have problems, someone comes to him for help and he uses his authority position to hit on a vulnerable person, not to mention whatever actually took place the night this girl called 911 for help. She's probably feeling the same fear and threats everyone else is talking about.

My question and also many people in Addison County ask – how long is this going to be allowed to continue ? Does it take a complete mental breakdown of the Sheriff and him physically injuring someone ? He has already emotionally and mentally harmed many people while on duty in his authority position. He has used his position to attack people. He is unprofessional and an embarrassment to this county. This has been years of craziness for our County – someone with authority needs to do something and frankly Addison County residents are very tired of hearing – Sheriffs are elected officials and are not held to the same rules as town and state cops. If this was a

town or state cop they would have been dealt with long ago and no longer a police officer. Does the Governor have any authority to do something ?

I apologize for not identifying myself – believe me I would like to, but the fear of retaliation and facebook or youtube rants, attacks and accusations toward anyone who speaks up is what holds so many people back from saying anything and we have to live in this county with that fear. When anyone calls other police departments to ask for help we are told there is nothing that can be done because he is an elected official.



Addison County Sheriff's Department

July 28 at 11:04 PM · 100

I have been working closely with my management team Sergeant Mike Elmore, Detective Alexander Newton (no relation), and Business Manager Jeanette Doane Willey about the direction we need to take the Sheriff's Department in the future.

Within the next 2-4 months we plan to have a civilian Law Enforcement review board. In 8-12 months a team of counselors and case managers. Within the year a minimum of two deputies on the road 24/7 365 all over the county without having to rely on town contracts to pay for it.

Standby for more updates as we make progress but I think the public will be pleased in the direction we are moving to be able to offer law enforcement services that are more



Addison County Sheriff's Department
Safe Roads Safe Communities

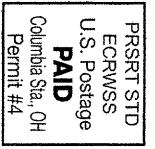
Addison County Community Support

Some of our top goals:

- Two deputies on duty 24 hours a day 7 days a week can be called upon by anyone.
 - In house social services team, we have a social worker and case worker already.
 - Assistance in accessing mental health and addiction counseling at the time of crisis.
 - Alternative justice programs for pre court diversion.
 - Safe driving classes offered instead of traffic tickets in certain cases, assistance with getting licenses reinstated.
 - Alarm response program with home and business checks.
 - Mediation services aimed at preventing conflict from reaching criminal behavior if left to continue without intervention.
 - Every deputy will be equipped with an AED (automated external defibrillator) lockout equipment, and a vehicle booster pack for dead batteries, and animal control equipment.
 - Creation of a Sheriff's Department Advisory Board consisting of the State's Attorney, Public Defender, Juvenile Public Defender, and community members.
- Emergency dial 911. To reach the on duty deputies call 398-7140.

*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****

Postal Customer



Addison County Sheriff's Department *Safe Roads Safe Communities*
Addison County Community Support

Please take a moment to read this message from the Addison County Sheriff's Department:

Traditionally towns have contracted with us for law enforcement services focusing on Traffic Enforcement on an hourly basis limiting us to certain hours and days.

As events have shown us in the past year, a **new approach to Law Enforcement is needed**. We take pride in our relationship with the community we serve and are striving to find ways to better serve the people of Addison County.

After much thought, research, and important conversations we **created Addison County Community Support**. We are forging a series of partnerships that will allow us to offer both traditional and non-traditional law enforcement services.

We are **taking the best parts of programs we have seen from around the country and shaping them to fit the needs of our citizens** and address the quality-of-life issues that impact so many of us daily.

The Sheriff's Department is currently funded primarily through the various contracts with towns and other agencies. This has been one of the limiting factors in the services we are able to provide. The new path we are on comes with a budget of about \$1.5 million annually.

This sounds like a daunting figure, but the reality is that it is very much in line with the budgets of small municipal departments, but we cover the whole county.

We are NOT asking for an increase in taxes to support our budget. Instead, we are looking to community.

If every household in the county contributed \$110, the budget would be met.

We understand not every home can afford an investment of that amount and we are actively seeking other community support, but every contribution helps us reach the goal of offering these services to the residents of this unique county we all call home. Please consider a contribution.

***Make checks payable to: ACSD
For Addison County Community Support
35 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753***

If you want to use Venmo or PayPal please give us a call at 388-2981

100% of these funds go directly to the Addison County Community Supports programs

 Follow us on our Facebook for more details.
[@AddisonCountyCommunitySupport](https://www.facebook.com/AddisonCountyCommunitySupport)

Emergency dial 911. To reach the on duty deputies call 398-7140.

6:50



 Peter Dorey Newton

Kudos to the City of Vergennes. Social services has got to be a big part of Law Enforcement moving forward. It is great to see police small departments like Vergennes follow our lead in seeing that Law Enforcement needs to change. And them joining an already established program like Project Vision will help them get this program going. Even though a lot of what they are going to try and do Mimics the programs we are offering for the same northern part of the county and all of Addison County, you can never have enough of these services. The residents of the city of Vergennes will have multiple options when calling for help. Our program is Called Addison County Community Support.

Here is a few quotes from some of our advisors:

This project represents an ongoing conversation Sheriff Newton and I have had since he worked with me as an investigator at the State's Attorney's Office years ago. We were seeing so many cases where an earlier intervention could have helped to resolve an issue before it became criminal, saving the parties from unnecessary harm and involvement in the court system. He has gathered support from other community members working in the criminal justice system, as well as social services, to explore how best to serve the needs of our community in hopes of preventing crime before it occurs. I support these efforts and am proud to serve on his advisory board.

Dennis Wygmans
State's Attorney Addison County



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

The Office of Secretary of State hereby grants a

Certificate of Incorporation

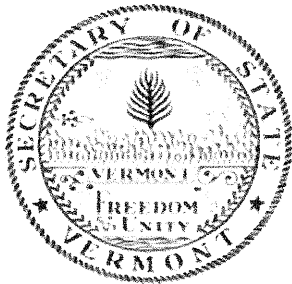
to

ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY SUPPORT, INC.

A Vermont Domestic Non-profit Corporation, effective March 08, 2021

March 09, 2021

Given under my hand and the seal
of the State of Vermont, at
Montpelier, the State Capital



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James C. Condos".

James C. Condos
Secretary of State

Business ID: 0385477
Filing Number: 0002767185

**VERMONT SECRETARY OF STATE****Corporations Division**

MAILING ADDRESS: Vermont Secretary of State, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1104
 DELIVERY ADDRESS: Vermont Secretary of State, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1104
 PHONE: 802-828-2386 WEBSITE: sos.vermont.gov

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION****ELECTRONICALLY FILED****

FILING NUMBER: 0002767185

FILING DATE: 3/8/2021

EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/8/2021

BUSINESS INFORMATION	
BUSINESS ID	0385477
BUSINESS NAME	ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY SUPPORT, INC.
BUSINESS TYPE	Domestic Non-profit Corporation
BUSINESS DESCRIPTION	This a Charitable Organization, Church or Religious Organization, or Private Foundation (as defined by IRS Code 501(c)(3) for federal tax exemption) formed for the purpose of charitable, religious, educational, scientific, literary, testing for public safety, fostering national or international amateur sports competition, or preventing cruelty to children or animals and will not be participating in political activity as defined in sections 501(c)(4) (for Action Organizations) or 527 (for Political Organizations) of the IRS Code.
BUSINESS EMAIL	Peter.Newton@vermont.gov

STATUS AS A MEMBER ORGANIZATION
This corporation is not a member organization

BENEFIT TYPE
This is a mutual benefit non-profit corporation

PRINCIPAL OFFICE PHYSICAL ADDRESS			
STREET ADDRESS	35 Court Street ,	CITY	Middlebury
STATE	Vermont	ZIP CODE	05753
COUNTRY	United States		

PRINCIPAL OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS			
ADDRESS	35 Court Street ,	CITY	Middlebury
STATE	Vermont	ZIP CODE	05753
COUNTRY	United States		

Incorporator Information		
NAME	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
William B Miller Jr.	111 SOUTH PLEASANT ST., MIDDLEBURY, VT, 05753, USA	PO Drawer 351, Middlebury, VT, 05753 - 0351, USA

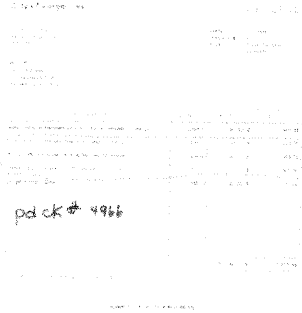
AGENT INFORMATION		
NAME	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
Peter D. Newton	35 Court Street, Midlebury, VT, 05753, USA	35 Court Street, Midlebury, VT, 05753, USA

OFFICER/DIRECTOR INFORMATION			
NAME	TITLE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
Peter D. Newton	President	Addison County Sheriff, 35 Court Street, Middlebury, VT, 05753, USA	Addison County Sheriff, 35 Court Street, Middlebury, VT, 05753, USA
James Gratton	Vice President	Addison Cty Public Defender, 102 Court ST C, Middlebury, VT, 05753, USA	Addison Cty Public Defender, 102 Court ST C, Middlebury, VT, 05753, USA
Dennis Wygmans	Vice President	Addison County State's Attorney, 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT, 05753, USA	Addison County State's Attorney, 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT, 05753, USA
Pamela Marsh	Secretary	Addison Cty Juvenile Public Defender, 62 Court Street, Middlebury, VT, 05753, USA	Addison Cty Juvenile Public Defender, 62 Court Street, Middlebury, VT, 05753, USA



Peter Dorey Newton

its also important to note 2 police officers and an investigator for the city worked on our public records request and never mentioned anything about clerical mistake in the time sheets. We paid the city of Vergennes \$848.57 for that assurance. Check out the invoice below.



1d Like



From: [Farrell Willa](#)
To: [Jean Stone](#)
Subject: RE: Concerns
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 2:55:00 PM

Hi Jean,

I'll call you tomorrow at 1 at [REDACTED]

Thanks,
Willa

Willa Farrell | Court Diversion & Pretrial Services Director | Attorney General's Office
109 State Street | Montpelier | Vermont 05609 | 802-371-8375
www.vtcourtdiversion.org

From: Jean Stone [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Farrell, Willa <willa.farrell@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Concerns

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Willa,
I have time tomorrow from 1-3, will that work?
Jean

Jean A. Stone
Executive Director
Addison County Restorative Justice Services
282 Boardman Street, Box 4
Middlebury VT 05753
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Farrell, Willa <willa.farrell@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8:39 AM
To: Jean Stone [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Concerns

Jean,

Do you want to call me? I am available today before 11 and after 3, as well as most of tomorrow afternoon.

Willa

Willa Farrell | Court Diversion & Pretrial Services Director | Attorney General's Office
109 State Street | Montpelier | Vermont 05609 | 802-371-8375
www.vtcourtdiversion.org

From: Jean Stone [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 9:08 AM
To: Farrell, Willa <willa.farrell@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Concerns

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Willa,
My Board of Directors sent a letter of concern to TJ Donovan and John Campbell regarding concerns with project the Sheriff's Department is implementing. I will attach that letter here. On May 3 the Sherriff post what some consider to be confidential information, see the screen shot below.
Can we have a conversation?
Jean

Jean A. Stone
Executive Director
Addison County Restorative Justice Services
282 Boardman Street, Box 4
Middlebury VT 05753

From: Jean Stone [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 8:53 AM
To: Jean Stone [REDACTED]
Subject: Concerns

Hi

10:30 ↗



Like



Comment



Share



Peter Dorey Newton



May 3 · 🌐

I have to apologize to everyone on face book, I made a mistake. A month or so ago, someone was commenting on a bunch of our posts about how she never got a call back from us, that should would have donated to our program if she just got a call back. She never called me directly, so I never got a chance to call her back.

However in one of her comments on our post I reminded her the deputy would have talked to them about it at court, and that her son was close to excessive speed. I was unaware how old her son was but apparently he is a minor. I apologize for potentially identifying a minor involved in a serious crime.

I don't usually entertain that type of nonsense on my

I don't usually entertain that type of nonsense on my page, but I feel if you are going to complain and be negative you should really give the whole story so people can comment on the whole truth not just one version.

This is a stressful, thankless, depressing job, and we may save a life by interfering. We have a tough job to do and we will keep doing it no matter who complains about it.

 168

31 Comments 4 Shares

 Like

 Comment

 Share



Peter Dorey Newton



May 1 · 🌐

We got our maple ice cream fix at Burnhams. So



6.2.21 call w/ Jean

Didn't want me to be hit out of the blue

Board very concerned about the fee \$500 and lack of support for Sheriff's staff person, sent letter to TJ and John Campbell,

Public stuff on Facebook

Comments on FB and Front Porch Forum – lively debate about confidentiality, cost of the programming
Knows of about 10 people referred, some referred to PTS and to the sheriff for a different charge.

One person working w Jenny through reparative board

Haven't talked with Dennis since the letter was sent. He knows about it.

Doesn't expect me to do anything, just want me to be informed,

Person is an intern, she doesn't have a degree

Addison County Restorative Justice Services
282 Boardman Street
Middlebury, VT. 05753
[REDACTED]

April 28, 2021

Dear Attorney General Donovan,

We are writing with concerns regarding the Addison County Sheriff's recent announcement that it has launched Addison County Community Support, Inc. (ACCS) without regard to the services already provided by our State-sanctioned operations at Addison County Restorative Justice Services (ACRJS).

Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton reached out to us last fall and invited our Executive Director (E.D.) Jean Stone and Board President Jonathan Heppell to participate in a meeting that would help define the unmet needs in our catchment area. This meeting did not take place. However, the State's Attorney Dennis Wygmans, presented at our October board meeting, an overview of additional services to be provided by the Addison County Sheriff's Office. We questioned the need for these services and outlined and discussed the services of our agency and the conflicts that would arise when the two agencies are offering the same services. Our interest is to best serve our clients and assist them without further confusion or conflicts.

We advised the State's Attorney we had reached out to the Sheriff but he would not return any calls and unprofessionally stated to one of our case workers that he would not partner with our board because of the presence of a one of our board member with whom he has had conflicts in the past.

Four weeks ago, we were notified that pre-trial cases were being funneled to the Sheriff's office rather than to our agency by Mr. Wygmans. This comes at a time when our own referrals are low and we are expanding our options to the greater community to meet its needs and expand our income. Our Board Chair spoke with Mr. Wygmans and was told that the cases sent to the Sheriff's office did not meet the criteria for Court Diversion. We have no delineation of the of what criteria was used to make those or future referrals.

The development of another "alternative justice program that will hold offenders accountable without overloading the courts" as noted on the ACCS social media page, has already created great confusion and has the tremendous potential to:

- create further confusion within the extended community surrounding the differences between our office and what the Sheriff's office is promoting. (Our office is already receiving calls from confused clients)
- negatively impact the fiscal well-being of clients who are unable to meet our meagre fees and for whom we lobbied legislature for free service provision- it is our understanding that clients have been charged \$500 for pretrial service by the Sheriff's office.
- significantly impact our own income through loss of referrals.
- decrease our fiscal support from local towns when there are two competing agencies requesting funds for the same service during the Town Meeting appeal: Mr. Newton has already requested \$110.00 from each Addison County resident to support his programs.

[Type here]

[Type here]

- decrease accountability to clients for services not supervised by any State entity: we are closely monitored for service provision and fee collection at multiple points throughout the year by multiple State agencies and a private auditor while ACCS has no oversight.
- confuse collaborators with whom our extensively-trained staff have worked diligently to establish MOU's for swift service – will they feel compelled to provide such services to a non-supervised entity claiming to offer the same services ACRJS provides.

The unwillingness of the Sheriff to directly communicate with us to gain a critical comprehension of the breadth of our services has demonstrated a complete lack of respect for the clients we strive to serve successfully and for the professionalism of our office.

We respectfully request an investigation of the establishment and oversight of the alternative services to ensure the ACCS and ACRJS are not working against each other and therefore not able to best service the interest of our clients and eliminate confusion in the community.

Our state and certainly our county has tremendously limited resources to provide redundant and potentially conflicting services to a vulnerable public which has trusted our program for over three decades.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Heppell, President
Kathi J. Apgar, Vice President
Risa Rae, Treasurer
Charlotte Chase, Secretary
Dottie Neuberger, Member
Macky Gaines, Member
Gary Baker, Member
Cindy Wemette, Member
George Merkel, Member

Cc: John Campbell, Esq. E.D. Vermont Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs

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STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001

September 14, 2020

Detective [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Vermont State Police
Troop A – Darby Barracks
35 Crawford Road
Derby, VT
05829

Re: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

The Office of the Attorney General of Vermont has concluded its review of the materials provided by the Vermont State Police in their investigation of [REDACTED]. Based on that review, the acts alleged do not establish that [REDACTED] engaged in the offense of Obstruction of Justice, 13 V.S.A. § 3015. Those acts, when considered with all of the evidence developed during the investigation, did not confirm that any witness was obstructed or impeded from testifying or offering evidence in a pending and contested case. Therefore, this matter will be closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/s [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General of Vermont
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

From: [Curtis, Christopher](#)
To: [Renner, Jamie](#)
Subject: FW: 7026247
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:42:33 AM
Attachments: [tic15303920210430082416.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

From: Campbell, John <John.Campbell@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Curtis, Christopher <Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: 7026247

CONFIDENTIAL

Chris, fyi. Annie is having a conversation with the guy tomorrow. This is out of control. I can't imagine what he is thinking. John

From: Grearson, Brian <Brian.Grearson@vermont.gov>
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 1:23 PM
To: Noonan, Annie <Annie.Noonan@vermont.gov>, Campbell, John <John.Campbell@vermont.gov>
Cc: Grearson, Brian <Brian.Grearson@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: 7026247

Good afternoon Annie/John – not sure if you were aware of this program as it only came to our attention this week. See attached brochure that speaks to a program sponsored by the Addison sheriff. The notes on the brochure were apparently entered by the defendant (or at least not by court staff) and the email below is from court staff that indicates the defendant was told not to respond to the ticket and participate in the program instead –not sure if he did participate but he was defaulted for a failure to appear.

I think you would agree this is problematic on many fronts, including instructing someone not to respond to the ticket (assuming the information we received is accurate); generating a fee which raises other issues including equal access to justice if those that can pay the fee do not get a ticket but those who lack the resources have a record; and who receives the money?

Glad to discuss if we need to but wanted to make sure you were aware.

Brian



Brian J. Grearson
Chief Superior Judge

From: Morse, Jennifer <Jennifer.Morse@vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Charbonneau, Joanne; Kalfus, Howard
Subject: 7026247

Good Afternoon,

████████ brought this letter to my attention. **The mother states that the defendant was told no to answer the ticket and do this program.** I didn't know if either one of you were aware of this program

that is going on?

Thank you,

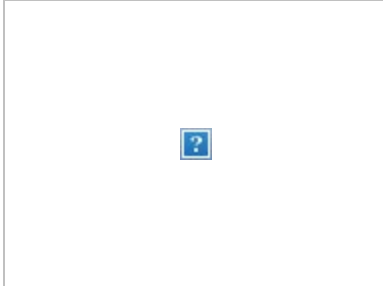
Jenn

Jennifer Morse

Court Operations Manager | Judicial Bureau

Jennifer.Morse@vermont.gov

802.296.5531



01/07/20

Vermont State Police, A Troop-Middlesex
LAW Incident Table:

Page: 1

Incident
Incident Number [REDACTED] Nature Suspicious
Case Number [REDACTED] Image
Address [REDACTED] RD
City Derby State VT ZIP 05829
Area 1007 DERBY Contact 390 - Det [REDACTED]

Complainant
Numbr
Last Fst Mid
DOB SSN Adr
Race Sx Tel Cty ST ZIP

Details
Offense/Statute ASST Reported [REDACTED]
Circumstances [REDACTED]
Rspndg Officers [REDACTED]
Rspnsbl Officer [REDACTED] Agency [REDACTED] CAD Call ID [REDACTED]
Received By [REDACTED] Last RadLoc [REDACTED] 06/21/19 CMPLT
How Received T Telephone Clearance RBL Reviewed by Lt/Capt/C
When Reported 10:24:14 06/21/19 Disposition COM Disp Date 06/21/19
Occurrd between 10:24:02 06/21/19 Judicial Sts
and 10:24:02 06/21/19 Supervisor kcooper
MO

Narrative
Narrative See supplemental field.
Supplement (See below)

INVOLVEMENTS:

Type	Record #	Date	Description	Relationship
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] g Call

LAW Incident Offenses Detail:

Seq Code	Offense and Statute Codes	Amount
	Statute Code	
[REDACTED] S [REDACTED]		0.00

AGO LEO Misconduct (January 1, 2017 - December 1, 2021)

Date Received	LE Agency	Location	Misconduct	Outcome
2/28/2017	Lopez, Christopher (Burlington Police Department)	Burlington	Misconduct	Charged False Swearing and/or False Information to a police officer
4/21/2017	Franklin County Sheriff's Office	Richford	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Declined to Charge
5/24/2017	St. Albans Police Department	St. Albans	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Declined to Charge
6/16/2017	Woodstock Police Department	Woodstock	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Declined to Charge
11/24/2017	Randolph Police Department	Barre	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Declined to Charge
12/7/2017	Vermont State Police	Stannard	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Declined to Charge
1/26/2018	Hartford Police Department	Quechee	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Declined to Charge
2/2/2018	Vermont State Police	Rutland	Misconduct	Declined to Charge
2/15/2018	Rutland City Police Department	Rutland	Misconduct	Declined to Charge
6/22/2018	Vermont Liquor Control	Castleton	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Declined to Charge
7/3/2018	Montpelier Police Department	Brattleboro	Misconduct	Declined to Charge
10/1/2018	Orleans County Sheriff's Department	Irasburg	Misconduct	Declined to Charge
11/9/2018	Vermont State Police	Bennington	Misconduct	Declined to Charge
12/14/2018	Newport Police Department	Troy	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Referred back to Game Wardens for charging
1/2/2019	LeBlanc, Sgt. Raymond (Vermont State Police)	Berlin	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Charged misdemeanor stalking dismissed without prejudice upon motion of VT-AGO and granted by Washington County Court
1/18/2019	Berlin Police Department	Northfield	Misconduct	Declined to Charge
5/24/2019	Addison County Sheriff's Department	Middlebury	Misconduct	Declined to Charge
10/9/2019	Pine, William (Orange County Sheriff's Department)	Williamstown	Misconduct OFF DUTY	Charged with Agg. Assault and False Information
12/18/2019	Vermont State Police	WRJ	Misconduct	Declined to Charge
6/12/2020	Vergennes Police Department	Vergennes	Misconduct	Declined to Charge

ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

CREATING SAFE DRIVERS

You have been identified as potentially being eligible for the Addison County Community Support **Creating Safe Drivers** program sponsored by the Addison County Sheriff's Department.

This program is designed to help youthful, first time or at-risk drivers take responsibility for risky driving behavior and learn the importance of safe and responsible driving. Upon successful completion of this class your ticket will be dismissed by the issuing officer.

The program has a cost of \$75.00 which will support Addison County Community Support's ability to fund this and other programs.

If you are interested, please email ACCS Program Director at Christopher.Campbell@vermont.gov with-in 5 days. You will be screened and if you meet the program criteria scheduled for the next available class.



Hold ^{on} ticket
Don't send in
bring it to class
End of next week

Mid May class

75.00 for class

Saturday 5 hrs ⁺ participate
DO NOT PAY the 125-

Defaulted
on his record
on ticket
Motion & Issuing
officer
5/27 rule 60 motion

Didn't enter a
Plea