

**Staff Responses to Council Questions
July 17, 2018**

10. Manager's Report – Committee Room

INF 2018-7801: A. Information: Potential Peer Jury Program

Offender Eligibility

How committed are staff to the parameter that “Offenders must be a high school student at a high school located within a participating municipality.”? Can consideration be given to allowing participating Police Departments flexibility in ascertaining offender eligibility? Is there a financial detriment to allowing each municipality this discretion?

staff recommends that the proposed offender eligibility parameter “Be a Student at a High School Located within a Participating Municipality” be removed. This proposed offender eligibility requirement originated with a “customer approach” to the regional peer jury program. This option was not included in the staff report.

Peer Jury Eligibility

When do jurors cease being eligible? Will it be at graduation, or a later date?

This decision of when students will no longer be eligible to participate as jurors will be determined later in the planning process when more information is available. The decision will likely be based on whether hearings will take place in the summer months and the number of jurors available for these hearings.

How will juror eligibility be distinguished if a resident of a non-participating municipality attends school in a participating municipality?

The table below outlines the criteria to become eligible as a juror in the potential regional Village of Downers Grove Peer Jury Program as presented in the staff report.

Potential Peer Jury Program: Juror Eligibility		
Resident of participating municipality?	Attends a school in a participating municipality?	Jury Eligibility?
Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	Yes
No	Yes	Yes
No	No	No

Volunteers

The Peer Jury report references that volunteers could be used to perform “administrative tasks” at a future date. Could staff expand on that?

The administrative tasks include duties such as compiling and distributing case summaries, coordinating with community service organizations, attending and administering hearings and performing follow up activities on cases. The potential program calls for Village staff to perform these duties during the recommended 6-month performance review period. Use of volunteers to perform some or all of these duties could be considered at the completion of the review period.

Previously Trained Peer Jurors

Would jurors previously trained by the township, but otherwise still eligible for the program, have to undergo jury training again, or would the training for the township program be sufficient?

Staff recommends that all jurors participate in a Village training program. This would ensure that all jurors receive the same training information and are aware of the expectations set by the Village. The township has not held a training session in over a year, and previously trained jurors will need to understand the processes of the new system.

Regional Program

As part of Tuesday’s presentation, please include a discussion of the next steps to establish the regional program in the event council so directs.

The next steps would include:

- Meet with area municipalities to determine which municipalities will likely be participating
- Further develop the operating program and implementation schedule
- Meet with area high schools to develop the juror recruiting process
- Draft an Inter-governmental agreement or memorandum of understanding to be executed by participating municipalities

Attachments

There are no rEmarks this week