

May 1, 2020

Derek Miodownik
Community & Restorative Justice Executive
Vermont Department of Corrections
280 State Dr., NOB 2 South
Waterbury, VT 05671-2000

Sent via email to: Derek.Miodownik@vermont.gov

Dear Derek,

I write concerning our shared Grant Agreement #03520-1467 set to expire on June 30, 2020.

On April 7, 2020 I wrote to request that the Department of Corrections (DOC) support the City in entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with another Community Justice Center to provide services in Winooski. You responded that DOC did not have the ability in the grant to do this.

On April 21, 2020 I wrote to request that DOC renew this grant of \$130,000 to the City of Winooski for another two year period to continue to provide restorative justice services to our residents. At that point, our community was prepared to continue the required 10% local match in the amount of \$13,000. During a phone call on Monday, April 27, 2020 you shared with us that DOC would only commit to a one year grant of \$60,000 (a 54% reduction) to support Circles of Support and Accountability and Restorative Panels in Winooski.

Chief Hebert and I have reviewed our options and, at this point, do not believe we can responsibly staff and ensure the excellent service delivery our community deserves at that funding level. We are extremely disappointed and regret that the State does not support continuing these services in Winooski – the most densely populated and diverse City in the State – through local service provision. At this point, I will be recommending to our City Council at their meeting on May 18, 2020, that we not move forward with a local grant to provide restorative services in Winooski.

If the State decides to fund another Center to provide services in Winooski, we will explore partnering at that point. But, as you have reminded us, the State has the unilateral ability to provide services without formal local support.

Chief Hebert and I are incredibly sad our prior years of work to provide local services as well as creatively think about regional options have not come to a better outcome. If invited, and with certainty that the conversations will be more fruitful in the future, we will continue to participate.

Finally, as you know, Winooski has supported restorative practices at multiple levels of our organization for many years. We are very sad to lose the State support to continue this critical service delivery in Winooski.



City of Winooski
Vermont's Opportunity City

27 West Allen Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404
802 655 6410
winooski.vt.gov

Sincerely,



Jessie Baker
City Manager

CC: Winooski Mayor and City Council

Attachments:

- Current Grant Agreement
- April 21, 2020 Letter to DOC
- April 7, 2020 Letter to DOC

