



BURLINGTON VICINAGE PRESS RELEASE

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Burlington Vicinage Drug Court to Hold 14th Graduation Ceremony

Burlington Vicinage will hold its 14th drug court commencement and graduation ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 2:30 p.m. in the ceremonial courtroom of the Historic Olde Courthouse Ceremonial Courtroom, 120 High St., Mount Holly. Superior Court Judge James W. Palmer Jr. will preside over the event. Seven candidates will graduate and two will commence to the final phase of the program.

The graduates have met all the requirements of the program and have successfully completed their terms of probation supervision.

Each drug court graduate will be asked to speak during the ceremony. A recovering addict with several years of sobriety also will speak.

Drug court is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that addresses nonviolent, drug-related cases. Drug courts are unique in the criminal justice environment because they build a close collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals.

Drug court targets offenders who, were it not for their substance abuse, might never have been involved with the court system. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing, and a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery services. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process, but also allows supervisors to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply with the program.

For more information, contact Michele Consuegra, drug court coordinator, at 609-518-2659.

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