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For Immediate Release:
July 14, 2015

Passaic Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation

The Passaic Vicinage will honor 20 graduates from the adult drug court program on Wednesday, July 15, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium at John F. Kennedy High School, 61 Preakness Ave., Paterson.

The master of ceremonies will be Judge Donna Gallucio, who oversees drug court. Superior Court Judge Miguel de la Carrera will give welcoming remarks. The keynote speaker will be former New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevy.

The drug court program 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 programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. Participants follow a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery. 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.

Passaic Vicinage Drug Court began in 1997. The program has been successful in breaking the cycle of addiction, improving the lives of individuals and their families and benefiting the community. Passaic's drug court program has 523 participants

For more information about the Passaic Vicinage Drug Court program, contact program coordinator Adrien Byrd at 973-247-8343.

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