

TO: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager  
FROM: Stephen Monticelli, Chief of Police  
DATE: September 21, 2016  
RE: Restorative Justice Report

**Summary:** The Harrisonburg Police Department has provided an updated report to the Restorative Justice Initiative announced in 2015.

**Background:** Restorative Justice is an alternative approach to dealing with crime and wrongdoing that focuses on the often-ignored needs of victims, offenders and the community as a whole. The Restorative Justice process approaches wrongdoings as offenses against individuals, the community and society, and through a variety of techniques seeks outcomes that include victims being involved and satisfied, offenders understanding how their behaviors have affected others and taking responsibility for their actions, root causes of the harmful behavior being addressed, reparation for harm done, and both offenders and victims are satisfied with the process. Successful outcomes in these areas tend to reduce the likelihood of future offenses. At this point, most all of the costs are handled through the use of volunteers and the Universities such as training materials and instructors. As the case loads increase, there will be a need for added costs in case management and logistical needs.

**Key Issues:**

After being part of a few initial cases, the HRJC soon discovered the need to begin officially tracking all of the cases that involved restorative justice. But because several other organizations who are part of the coalition also hear cases that use restorative justice, but aren't necessarily reported to the police, this tasked proved to be difficult. At this time, the coalition is gathering information to document all cases of restorative justice that involve partner organizations, including EMU, the Fairfield Center, and JMU.

A priority is to increase the referrals for restorative cases, and answer questions that are related to the referrals. These include: who decides what cases can be referred? What types of cases? Do implicit biases have an impact in the referrals? How can there be more cases brought forward? It is the goal of this coalition to address these questions and many others.



# City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

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Kurt D. Hodgen  
City Manager

RE:

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**Environmental Impact:** None

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Prior Actions:** See report

**Alternatives:** (a) N/A  
(b); or  
(c)

**Community Engagement:** There have been many opportunities for members of HRJC to reach out into the community for informational speaking engagements. This is being done on several levels either formally or informally. Some of these engagements have been to local Rotary clubs, churches, faith based organizations, citizens' police academy, community groups and a series of public meetings was set up through the Fairfield Center. Additionally, the Community Outreach subcommittee of the HRJC is working on connecting with other groups in Harrisonburg to encourage cross-group connections, an appreciation and acceptance of diversity, and the representation of a myriad of perspectives.

**Recommendation:** Continue training, referrals and community engagement.

**Attachments:** Restorative Justice 2016 Status Report

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*

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