

## Superior Court of Vermont

Hon. Thomas A. Zonay  
Chief Superior Court Judge



Vermont Supreme Court  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05601  
(802) 828-3278

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SUPERIOR JUDGE

September 1, 2023

Commissioner Nicholas Deml  
Vermont Department of Corrections  
NOB 2 South  
280 State Drive  
Waterbury, VT 05671

Re: Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council Recommendations

Commissioner Deml:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council established pursuant to S.14 (Act 40), *An act relating to a report on criminal justice-related investments and trends*.

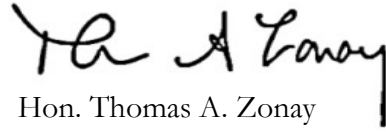
On or before September 1, 2023, the Council is required to recommend to you the appropriate allocation of not more than \$900,000.00 from the Justice Reinvestment II line item of the Department of Corrections' budget for the upcoming fiscal year to support community-based programs and services, related data collection and analysis capacity, and other initiatives. See 28 V.S.A. § 126(c)(5). The Council's current recommendations are focused on the FY 24 budget of which there are unallocated funds in the amount of \$240,952, and the amount of \$250,000 which the Council understands the Legislature had intended to be used to fund CJs.

At this time, the Council makes the following recommendations:

- Unallocated funds (\$240,952) – The Council recommends that these funds be allocated to re-entry services provided by community organizations following a procurement process, consistent with DOC and State practice. This is consistent with the Memorandum dated August 21, 2023, which the Vermont Network provided to the Council in support of its request for this allocation.
- CJC Funds (\$250,000) – The Council recommends that these funds be allocated to CJs to address a number of different initiatives, including but not limited to:
  - community-wide education to enhance Vermonters' understanding of the need for, and benefits of, restorative justice initiatives and programs in Vermont; and
  - establishment of programs designed to address impediments to success for individuals involved in the criminal justice system (Examples would include, but not be limited to, assistance with reinstatement of driving privileges, as well as assistance in securing housing and employment)

Thank you and please let me know any questions which you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Zonay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Zonay" clearly legible.

Hon. Thomas A. Zonay  
Chief Superior Court Judge  
Chair, Coordinated Justice Reform Adv. Council