



TOWN OF COLONIE

Justice Court
Public Safety Center
312 Wolf Rd.
Latham, New York 12110
—◆—
Phone (518) 783-2738

Town Justice:
Peter G. Crummey
Senior Town Justice

Paula A. Mahan, Supervisor
Town of Colonie
Memorial Town Hall
Newtonville, NY 12128

February 28, 2011

RE: The State of the Colonie Town Court- 2010 update

Dear Supervisor Mahan;

It is a pleasure to submit electronically the 2010 update to our inaugural Report entitled, The State of the Colonie Town Justice Court. We continue to commend your attention this Report so that the Town's Legislative Body can best understand the Colonie Justice Court and join us in our effort to maintain and enhance our Town's Court system.

During 2010, we have taken a variety of steps, within our power, to continue in our effort to maintain and enhance our Court system.

According to the New York State Office of Court Administration, the Colonie Justice Court, in 2010, has now moved to the 22nd busiest criminal court calendar regarding finger printable offenses in the entire State Court System. As you can imagine, our criminal case load places us as the second busiest court in Albany County- (see addendum 1 attached). Overall, our Court handles approximately 25,000 criminal and civil cases per year.

As to revenue, our Court collected \$2,844,934.70 in revenue up 17% from 2009. Of that amount, the Town of Colonie retained \$1,166,365.94, the State received \$1,487,365.53, and Albany County received \$191,204.23-(see addendum 2 attached).

As you know, our Justice Department budget for 2010 was \$ 706,476. As one could readily see, the Court system more than pays for itself and in fact, the revenue should be reinvested into the Court system as outlined in last year's report to you.

It is interesting to note, as has been noted by Thomas P. DiNapoli, State Comptroller in his August 2010, Report on the Justice Court Fund, that in 2009, Colonie Court, the third highest revenue generating Justice Court in the State of New York; retained only 44% of its revenue with the balance retained by the County and the State. In contrast, the Towns of Southampton and Amherst, the number one and number two revenue generating Justice Courts in the State respectively, retained more than 60% of their revenue. This may be due, in large part, to local parking enforcement and revenues generated by such which are typically entirely retained by the municipality.

Many of the recommendations made to the Town Board in our inaugural report require Town Board action and we wholeheartedly urge the Town Legislative Body to take the action as requested. We are certainly pleased to have had Town Board members Daniel Hornick and Linda Murphy observe our Court in action, and I am sure they are analyzing the information they have gathered in connection with our recommendations.

In the meantime, during 2010, the Court took the action it could to better facilitate Court functions.

As to our proposals for reform found in the inaugural Court report and specifically as to II (A) ,“Creating a Greener Court”, we respectfully requested a digital sender in our 2011 department budget request, which was not granted by the Town Legislative Body. We subsequently made application to the Third Judicial District to obtain such necessary equipment from them and we have just received said equipment. As you know from the inaugural report, digital sending is imperative considering the document forwarding requirements imposed on the Court system and considering our extraordinary case volume.

Further, based on our efforts, we have already taken delivery of a variety of audio visual equipment. As part of the Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) grant from New York State, we have received five additional desktop and flat

panel monitors, three personal printers, a computer data/video projection unit, a portable pull up freestanding screen as well as a flat panel television with built in DVD player. In addition, through JCAP grant funding we sought, we obtained a variety of items including five bar code scanners and a label writer to facilitate the processing of more than 18,000 traffic tickets that enter our Court system each year. We have also obtained a Court seal, shredder, USB drives, a digital answering system, and two telephones and sound station conference speakerphones and extension microphones. As to the upgraded telephone equipment which we have received, the equipment remains inoperable pending the Town's promised upgrade to our telephone service system. We urge the Town's prompt action in upgrading said service. Also, through JCAP, we were able to further enhance security through wireless emergency duress alarms which have been installed in both courtrooms as well as our Court office.

The Colonie Justice Court continues to be considered a test court for electronic initiatives of the State Court System. Once again, we have been a pilot court for a project which is being implemented by the Division of Criminal Justice Services as part of the e-Justice system. In addition we were also one of the first Courts to pilot a new program involving online scofflaw clearance with New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Further, as to our staff, the New York State Office of Court Administration continues to ask Judges Crummey and Sommers to teach and facilitate other Judges in their continuing legal education requirements. Judge Crummey also serves as an officer of the Albany County Bar Association and serves on the New York State Bar Association Special Committee on Youth Courts whose effort is to promote the creation of more youth Courts throughout the State of New York. Further, Clerk of the Court Julie Gansle also continues to teach Court Clerks throughout the State and currently serves as Third Vice President to the New York State Association of Magistrates Court Clerks, Inc.

Last year's call to the Town Legislative Body to take the action necessary to establish the Albany County Correctional facility as the Town's overnight holding facility, to permit video arraignments, to reclassify Court staff and add a law clerk remains of paramount importance and should be addressed. We renew our plea to the Town's Legislative Body to take the action necessary to implement these cost saving and long overdue upgrades to our Court system which also enhance the public safety of the citizens of the Town of Colonie.

As always, thank you for your consideration and support. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments. We would be pleased to provide a compact disc or paper copy of this report upon request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter G. Crummey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon. Peter G. Crummey
Senior Colonie Town Justice

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julie L. Gansle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Julie L. Gansle
Clerk of the Court

Cc: Honorable Andrew C. Sommers
Honorable Norman C. Massry
Hon. Nancy R. Hernandez, Deputy Supervisor
Hon. Robert D. Becker, Town Board
Hon. William E. Carl, Town Board
Hon. Daniel J. Dustin, Town Board, Town Board
Hon. Daniel A. Hornick, Town Board
Hon. Linda J. Murphy, Town Board

ADDENDUM # 1

| 2010 | | Albany | | County | 2/15/2011 | Page 1 of 63 | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------|--|
| Court ID | Activity Placement | | Court | Estimated Court Events | Not Reported | Percent Reported | |
| | County | State | | | | | |
| NY001011J | 1 | 12 | Albany City Court | 3,738 | 52 | 98.61% | |
| NY001291J | 19 | 357 | Albany City Traffic Court | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | |
| NY001013J | 3 | 38 | Albany County Court | 1,250 | 6 | 99.52% | |
| NY001121J | 18 | 355 | Altamont Village Court | 2 | 2 | 0.00% | |
| NY001271J | 16 | 347 | Berne Town Court | 10 | 4 | 60.00% | |
| NY001061J | 6 | 96 | Bethlehem Town Court | 450 | 3 | 99.33% | |
| NY001101J | 9 | 270 | Coeymans Town Court | 88 | 11 | 87.50% | |
| NY001041J | 5 | 76 | Cohoes City Police Court | 588 | 7 | 98.81% | |
| NY001131J | 2 | 22 | Colonie Town Court | 2,140 | 58 | 97.29% | |
| NY001241J | 11 | 292 | Green Island Town Court | 66 | 5 | 92.42% | |
| NY001211J | 4 | 44 | Guilderland Town Court | 1,002 | 32 | 96.81% | |
| NY001181J | 13 | 329 | Knox Town Court | 28 | 0 | 100.00% | |
| NY001081J | 8 | 207 | Menands Village Court | 160 | 14 | 91.25% | |
| NY001071J | 10 | 290 | New Scotland Town Court | 68 | 1 | 98.53% | |
| NY001091J | 12 | 301 | Ravena Village Court | 56 | 16 | 71.43% | |
| NY001111J | 17 | 349 | Rensselaerville Town Court | 8 | 4 | 50.00% | |
| NY001251J | 15 | 341 | Voorheesville Village Court | 16 | 1 | 93.75% | |
| NY001051J | 7 | 107 | Watervliet City Court | 407 | 3 | 99.26% | |
| NY001141J | 14 | 330 | Westerlo Town Court | 27 | 12 | 55.56% | |
| Totals for | Albany | | County are: | 10,104 | 231 | 97.71 % | |

ADDENDUM #2

| 2010 | Total | State | County | Town | Other | Hand Park |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| January | \$206,775.20 | \$105,165.55 | \$13,338.47 | \$88,272.18 | \$0.00 | \$75.00 |
| February | \$260,285.70 | \$142,235.60 | \$14,257.70 | \$103,792.40 | \$0.00 | \$30.00 |
| March | \$311,260.07 | \$172,390.65 | \$22,292.20 | \$116,577.22 | \$0.00 | \$135.00 |
| April | \$232,474.25 | \$122,163.18 | \$16,311.34 | \$93,999.73 | \$0.00 | \$105.00 |
| May | \$248,901.75 | \$123,160.70 | \$24,472.68 | \$101,268.37 | \$0.00 | \$90.00 |
| June | \$256,780.50 | \$129,853.20 | \$18,072.00 | \$108,855.30 | \$0.00 | \$60.00 |
| July | \$186,717.46 | \$98,716.01 | \$7,371.71 | \$80,629.74 | \$0.00 | \$30.00 |
| August | \$246,639.20 | \$130,867.80 | \$16,343.00 | \$99,428.40 | \$0.00 | \$15.00 |
| September | \$246,045.28 | \$124,983.20 | \$16,387.66 | \$104,674.42 | \$0.00 | \$30.00 |
| October | \$224,436.95 | \$118,811.70 | \$14,189.65 | \$91,435.60 | \$0.00 | \$15.00 |
| November | \$222,552.29 | \$114,911.49 | \$15,186.52 | \$92,454.28 | \$0.00 | \$15.00 |
| December | \$202,066.05 | \$104,106.45 | \$12,981.30 | \$84,978.30 | \$0.00 | \$150.00 |
| TOTALS | \$2,844,934.70 | \$1,487,365.53 | \$191,204.23 | \$1,166,365.94 | \$0.00 | \$750.00 |

