

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
Essex Vicinage

Sallyanne Floria
Assignment Judge

Amy K. DePaul
Trial Court Administrator

Sarah C. Hatcher
Ombudsman



Office of the Ombudsman
Information & Community Relations Center
Veterans Courthouse
50 West Market Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(973) 776-9300 ext. 56886
(973) 693-5726 Fax

October 26, 2016

Borough Administrator/Clerk Michael J. Rohal
825 Bloomfield Ave, PO Box 66, Glen Ridge
NJ, 07028

RE: Criminal Justice Reform

Dear Borough Administrator/Clerk Michael J. Rohal,

On Jan. 1, 2017, a change in law known as Criminal Justice Reform will take effect and impact all citizens of New Jersey. Criminal Justice Reform represents a shift from a system that relies principally on setting monetary bail as a condition of release to a risk-based system. Defendants will no longer be held in jail due to an inability to pay a monetary bail. Instead, a risk assessment will assist judges in determining whether the defendant poses a danger if released. The new system is more objective, and thus fairer to defendants because it is unrelated to their ability to pay monetary bail. The law sets deadlines for the timely filing of an indictment and the disposition of criminal charges for incarcerated defendants. Effective Jan. 1, 2017, individuals arrested on complaint warrants will be held for processing at the Essex County Correctional Facility located at 354 Doremus Ave., Newark, for 24-48 hours until the court can run a risk assessment to determine whether or not the arrestee should be released or held pending trial.

To prepare the citizens of Essex County for the change in law, the Superior Court of New Jersey is doing our part to implement Criminal Justice Reform and work with various stakeholders to ensure information about the pending changes is disseminated timely and accurately throughout the county. We would welcome the opportunity to have a court representative provide a brief presentation to you and your constituents at an upcoming council meeting or any other public meeting you deem appropriate. To schedule a brief presentation, please contact the Essex Vicinage Ombudsman Office at 973.776.9300 ext. 56886.

Thank you in advance for allowing us the opportunity to provide information to the citizens of your township on this important constitutional change.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah C. Hatcher".

Sarah C. Hatcher
Essex Vicinage, Ombudsman

Cc: Sallyanne Floria, Assignment Judge
Amy K. DePaul, Trial Court Administrator

JUDICIARY TIMES

A Publication of the  New Jersey Courts

Winter 2015-2016

Why Criminal Justice Reform Is Important for New Jersey



Judge Glenn A. Grant

By Judge Glenn A. Grant
Acting Administrative Director

We are now less than a year away from implementing one of the most historic and comprehensive changes to how the New Jersey Judiciary administers justice.

As the Jan. 1, 2017 deadline to effectuate criminal justice reform nears, we are preparing to launch pilot programs during the first quarter of this year in the Camden, Morris/Sussex and Passaic vicinages.

Criminal justice reform is the result of a committee Chief Justice Stuart Rabner formed and chaired, a constitutional amendment, and the enactment of the bail/speedy trial reform law. The state will shift from a system that relies principally on setting monetary bail as a condition of release to a risk-based system that considers objective factors unrelated to a defendant's ability to pay monetary bail.

Criminal justice reform will change the procedure judges use to set conditions of release and how quickly a criminal defendant is tried. It will have a positive impact on thousands of people who would otherwise be detained until trial because they cannot afford even a modest bail amount.

A risk-based system promotes community safety and also considers whether the

defendant will appear for future court appearances and whether the defendant is likely to obstruct the criminal justice process.

In my column in the fall edition of the *Judiciary Times*, I answered several questions about this initiative. Additional questions and answers can be found below, and others will appear in future columns.

Why are we doing this?

The criminal justice system is rooted in two principles: That those accused of a crime are innocent until proven guilty and that they have a constitutional right to a speedy trial.

Under the current system in which judges set a dollar amount of bail, poor defendants who pose little risk of danger or flight are sometimes held in county jail because they can't make even modest amounts of bail.

One study revealed that about 12 percent of New Jersey's county jail population remained in custody because they couldn't post bail of \$2,500 or less. More than two-thirds of these indigent defendants were members of racial and cultural minority groups.

Meanwhile, under current law, defendants with assets can post bail and be released even if they pose a serious risk of flight or danger to the public.

How will the bail system change under criminal justice reform?

Under criminal justice reform, judges will assess the level of risk each defendant presents and impose conditions of release. Judges will use an objective risk-assessment tool that has been tested and validated with data from thousands of actual cases in New Jersey.

Judges will consider factors such as the defendant's age at the time of arrest, pending charges, prior convictions and whether any of those involved violence,

prior failures to appear, and prior jail sentences.

With that information, each defendant will be classified as low, moderate, or high risk and may be released on conditions without having to post monetary bail. Defendants who are released pretrial will be monitored by pretrial services staff, similar to those in the federal system and a number of states.

The staff, who will be employed in a pretrial services unit that will be part of the Judiciary, will complete risk assessments so that a judge can set conditions of release within 48 hours of each arrest. The staff will monitor defendants on release based on the level of supervision that each defendant requires. For low-risk defendants, that could amount to just a phone call or text to remind them to show up in court. As the risk level increases, the nature of the monitoring will be enhanced.

Judges also will be able to order those defendants who pose a serious risk of flight, or a serious risk of danger to the community or to witnesses, to be held without bail.

How will the speedy trial component work?

The speedy trial component will set limits on the amount of time a defendant can remain detained before trial. There are three distinct speedy trial limits: 1) from arrest to indictment, 2) from indictment to trial, and 3) an overall limit from detention to trial. The law contains appropriate extensions of time for pretrial motions, competency hearings, plea negotiations, the consent of the parties, and other excludable time.

While these reforms represent a dramatic transformation in how our criminal justice system will operate, I am confident that our dedicated judges and staff, working together as they do on so many other initiatives, will make criminal justice reform a reality.



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

c/o The Sustainability Institute at TCNJ
PO Box 7718, Forcina Hall, 3rd Floor, Ewing, NJ 08628-0718

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October 20, 2016

The Honorable Peter A Hughes
Mayor of Glen Ridge Borough
825 Bloomfield Avenue
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

Dear Mayor Hughes,

We are pleased to inform you that Glen Ridge Borough has achieved Sustainable Jersey Silver recertification! Municipalities that earn this certification are considered by their peers, state government, experts, and civic organizations in New Jersey to be among the leading communities in the state.

Glen Ridge Borough will be honored at the eighth annual Sustainable Jersey Luncheon at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference on November 15. At the luncheon you will have the opportunity to have your delegation's photograph taken with Sustainable Jersey leadership. A complimentary luncheon ticket is enclosed. I encourage you, as well as other members of your staff and municipal green team, to join us. Please note that you **do not** have to be registered for the conference to attend the luncheon. Additional luncheon tickets may be purchased online at www.sustainablejersey.com under Events & Trainings on the Annual Luncheon page. Please purchase all additional tickets by November 7. Tickets will not be available for purchase on-site the day of the event.

Please note that your certification will expire December 31, 2019. We encourage you to continue to gain recognition for your sustainability efforts by resubmitting prior to this date. Many communities apply for recertification annually in order to track their progress and maintain silver level certification. If you have any questions please contact Samantha McGraw at 609-771-2938 or info@sustainablejersey.com.

Congratulations again on your outstanding achievement!

Sincerely,

Donna Drewes, Co-Director
Sustainable Jersey

Randy Solomon, Co-Director
Sustainable Jersey

Cc: Michael Rohal



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Township of Montclair 205 Claremont Avenue Montclair, New Jersey 07042 tel: 973.509.4954 fax: 973.509.4943 www.montclairnjusa.org

Janice E. Talley PP/AICP
Director
jtalley@montclairnjusa.org

Via Certified Mail

November 4, 2016

RE: Draft Historic Preservation Plan Element

Dear Municipal Clerk:

Enclosed is a notice of a public hearing to adopt a new Historic Preservation Plan Element of the Montclair Township Master Plan on November 21, 2016. A copy of the plan is available on the Township website.

Very truly yours,

Janice E. Talley, P.P., AICP
Director of Planning and Community Development

MONTCLAIR PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN ELEMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN AND THE MASTER PLAN REEXAMINATION REPORT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Montclair Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the **Historic Preservation Plan Element** of the Master Plan and the **Master Plan Reexamination Report** on Monday, November 21, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Montclair Municipal Building, 205 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey, at which time opportunity will be given to all those with an interest to be heard and at which time the Board may take action.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Historic Preservation Plan and the Master Plan Reexamination Report are available for inspection on weekdays at the Township Clerk's Office and the Department of Planning & Community Development, 205 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in the Public Libraries and on the Township's Website.

John Wynn
Chair