



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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**Hon. Kathie E. Davidson
Administrative Judge
Ninth Judicial District**

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Peekskill City Court Launches Specialized Drug Part

PEEKSKILL, NEW YORK—Following a significant increase in drug-related misdemeanor cases, Peekskill City Court is launching a specialized drug part that will offer a treatment-based approach to eligible participants, with their charges reduced or dismissed upon successful completion of the program.

The City of Peekskill Drug Court (CPDC) will target individuals charged with a nonviolent drug or drug-driven misdemeanor, or with a violation stemming from such an offense. The CPDC is a post-adjudication program—meaning drug court participants will enter a guilty plea upon entry into the program and be sentenced upon successful completion of the program. Those who consistently fail to comply with CPDC requirements may be removed from the program, and the case prosecuted via the traditional court process.

The CPDC is being implemented with \$479,840 in federal grant money from the U.S. Department of Justice. The funds will be used to identify eligible drug court cases in Peekskill City Court and the local town and village courts; provide timely screening to determine program eligibility; provide timely assessment and monitor the high-risk/high-need population; and offer recovery support services. The specialized part will officially begin assessing cases for acceptance into the program on March 15, 2019.

“Traditionally, misdemeanor drug offenders frequently end up dropping out of treatment, continuing their drug dependency and re-offending. This has affected the quality of life in the City of Peekskill as reflected by the rise in the misdemeanor arrest rate over the past three years. The CPDC will offer drug and alcohol-addicted defendants a treatment-based alternative tailored to their level of addiction. I look forward to working with the district attorney, defense counsel, the CPDC staff and our local providers to help participants choose healthy lifestyles and become productive members of the community,” said Peekskill City Court Judge Reginald J. Johnson, who will preside over the new part.

“This is the first of many steps we plan to take in the Ninth Judicial District to meet the needs and concerns of our community in addressing the addiction epidemic,” said Ninth Judicial District Administrative Judge Kathie E. Davidson.

For further information regarding program eligibility and the application process, a CPDC Participant Handbook is available to the public at the Peekskill City Court.

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