



BURLINGTON VICINAGE PRESS RELEASE

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BURLINGTON VICINAGE TO HOLD DRUG COURT GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MOUNT HOLLY – The Burlington Vicinage Drug Court will hold its ninth graduation on Thursday, June 10 at 1 p.m. in the Human Services Building, 795 Woodlane Rd., Lecture Hall B, Westampton.

Superior Court Judge James W. Palmer Jr., who serves as the Drug Court judge, will preside over the ceremony and offer welcoming remarks. Nine participants will be graduating from the program and three participants will commence to the final phase of the program. This year's graduates have prepared comments on their achievements and will highlight their experiences with the program.

The ceremony celebrates completion by the graduates of a rigorous program of comprehensive treatment, intensive supervision and strict accountability. The three participants who have reached commencement have been in the program a minimum of 18 months and made significant progress in meeting the goals of Drug Court.

Drug Courts began in New Jersey in the late 1990s and are now in every county in the state. Burlington County currently has 108 participants. The program helps to restore lives, reunite families, and make communities safer. Since Drug Court's inception in Burlington in September 2004, 23 individuals have graduated through the program.

Drug Courts are a highly specialized team process with a judge, prosecutor, defense attorneys, probation staff and treatment providers working together. Participants appear regularly before a Superior Court judge and are required to meet the goals of Drug Court by undergoing frequent drug testing, obtaining jobs, paying their fines and supporting their families. Drug Court targets non-violent offenders with substance abuse issues. The clients are closely supervised by specially trained probation officers.

Reporters and photographers are invited to attend.

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