

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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Community Accountability Board of Newburgh Seeks New Members

The City of Newburgh, in partnership with the New York State Community Justice Forum, is expanding its Community Accountability Board (CAB) in an effort to better meet the needs of young offenders, their victims and the community.

Initiated in the City of Newburgh in the summer of 2006, the CAB is an integral part of Newburgh's efforts to improve the overall quality of life of its residents. A community-based, decision-making process, the CAB focuses on repairing the harm committed against victims and neighborhoods by young offenders.

The CAB takes a balanced and restorative approach to justice, viewing crime as harm and focusing the attention on what harm was done, what needs to be done to repair the harm, and who is responsible for the repair. This approach includes all of the stakeholders in the justice process: victims, community and offenders, with support from the juvenile justice system.

A core group of 24 volunteers interested in working with youth to devise effective probation sanctions will be organized and trained.

Potential CAB members must:

- Reside in and/or work in the City
- Care deeply about young people in their neighborhoods and the community
- Have the skills to effectively communicate with youth
- Be able to make a minimum commitment of 12 months; with 8-12 hours of initial training and 6-10 hours a month for CAB sessions and in-service training

Interested persons are invited to attend an informational meeting on **Thursday, March 29 from 6-8pm** in the 3rd floor Community Classroom of the Newburgh Resource Center located at 280 Broadway (the old Bank of New York Building).

“Individuals 18-21 years of age who have or have not been involved in the juvenile justice system are strongly encouraged to apply, as they would serve as powerful

examples of young people caring about and investing in the success of others. Also, in order to help ensure inclusion of the entire community in this process, we welcome applicants who are bilingual,” said Sara Espinosa, Director of the City of Newburgh Department of Children, Youth, and Family Services, a partner in the CAB.

She continued, “The response to youth crime should meet the needs of the victim, offender and community, involving each in the justice process to the greatest extent possible.”

For more information about the CAB of Newburgh or to request an application packet, please contact Sara Espinosa, c/o City of Newburgh at 845-565-1213 ext. 5 or via email at [sespinosa@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov](mailto:sespinoso@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov). You may also visit the City of Newburgh’s website at www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov for more information.