



State of Connecticut
Judicial Branch
Community Court
Session
At
Hartford

80 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106

June 2004 News & Updates

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JUDGE SIMÓN DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS

FOR THE CT PUERTO RICAN FORUM'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Honorable Jorge A. Simón delivered the keynote address for the 25th anniversary of the Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum on June 17, 2004, during ceremonies that honored several leaders within the local Puerto Rican community for their outstanding achievements.

"I was pleased to be asked to give the keynote address on such an important occasion," Judge Simón said. "To share in the celebration honoring the good works of those who have given so much to the Latino community was a great honor."

The Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum offers literacy, computer and job training programs that help adults learn skills, find jobs and achieve a better quality of life. Proceeds from the 25th Anniversary event are slated to benefit the FOX 61 Family Fund, which supports programs that will have a long-term positive impact on youth and strengthen Connecticut families.

In his speech, Judge Simón touched upon the high rate of incarceration among Latinos in Connecticut and what can be done to reduce these rates and improve the quality of life within the Latino community.

"Issues of poverty, education, and the breakdown of the family structure all contribute to the problem," Judge Simón said. "That is why collaborations between the community and the courts must be at the forefront of any movement to bring about change"

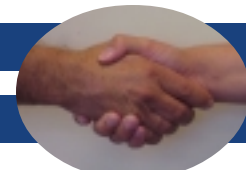


Hon. Jorge A. Simón



MONTHLY COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS MAY 2004

Hours of Community Service	2940
Total Number of Cases Processed	673
Number of Human Services Referrals	103
Referrals to HAMP (Hartford Area Mediation)	20



NOISE LAWS IN HARTFORD

When Community Court representatives attend community meetings, excessive noise is the number one concern expressed by residents. Noise is a problem so pervasive that other cities including New York are reexamining their ordinances to find effective responses for their communities. While the actual enforcement of noise laws on the street rests with the police, who make every effort to respond to citizen complaints, the Community Court gives as much consideration to noise cases as it does with any other case that comes before the Court. In an effort to answer some of your questions, we thought we would take some time to briefly explain the laws currently in effect to prosecute noise violations in Hartford.

There are two laws an individual can violate to be prosecuted for excessive noise and sent to Community Court in Hartford. The first is an ordinance contained within the Municipal Code of Hartford. Chapter 23 of the Municipal Code outlines the allowable standards for noise within Hartford, and requires trained personnel utilize sound-measuring instrumentation to determine if a violation has been committed. These standards and requirements are in compliance with the State Department of Environmental Protection's regulations. Every municipal noise ordinance must meet DEP standards according to state statute.

Under Sec. 23-5 of this ordinance, it is stated that "no motor or recreational vehicle shall emit noise from a loud amplification device or similar equipment plainly audible at a distance of 100 feet from such vehicles by a person of normal hearing". In other words, enforcement personnel do not need to utilize a sound-measuring device other than their ears in these situations.

Another area of interest to many readers is Sec. 23-4, which outlines prohibited noise activities. Under this section of the Municipal Code, the following activities are prohibited: (1) Vehicle horns: No person shall at anytime sound any horn or other audible signal device of a motor vehicle, unless it is necessary as a warning to prevent or avoid a traffic accident; and (2) Advertising: No person shall at anytime use any drum, bell or other instrument or device for the purpose of attracting attention to any performance, show or sale, or to the display or advertisement of merchandise.

The other law that may be used to prosecute an individual for excessive noise is disorderly conduct. Under Sec. 53a-182 of the Connecticut General Statutes, "A person is guilty of disorderly conduct when with intent to cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof, such person(3) makes unreasonable noise...".

It is also important to note that there are often many contributing factors that determine how a noise violation may or may not be enforced by the police and prosecuted by the Court. As a judicial institution, the Community Court does not advocate for or against the enforcement of any crime allegedly committed by an individual and must remain neutral to ensure justice for both the complainants and defendants alike and act at all times under the guidelines of the law.

It is our hope that in sharing this information with our readers, however briefly, some of your questions were answered. For a copy of the state statute and city ordinance covering noise, please contact the court at Hartford.Comcourt@jud.state.ct.us.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT HOTLINE 756-7000

CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION VISITS HARTFORD

The Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host a recent visit by Center for Court Innovation program developers Aubrey Fox and Michael Freedman-Schnapp. The Center is responsible for much of the creation and ongoing success of judicial institutions such as the Midtown Community Court in Manhattan and the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn, New York. Currently, the Center is working with the district attorney and other partners to explore the creation of a borough-wide community court in the Bronx.

With over 48,000 misdemeanor and ordinance cases in the Bronx annually, this will project be no small undertaking. The Center is exploring the option of going to scale and handling approximately 7,000 to 8,000 of those cases to start with. Anticipating similar challenges in the Bronx, Mr. Fox and Mr. Freedman-Schnapp were interested in how the Community Court in Hartford, which covers an entire urban city, and five suburban towns, meets the challenges of serving such diverse communities over a widespread geographic area.

“I am impressed with the Center for Court Innovation’s plans to create a community court in the Bronx”, Judge Jorge A. Simón stated. “Their drive and ambition has served as an inspiration to all of us in the community court movement and we are very honored they have looked back at us for some ideas.”

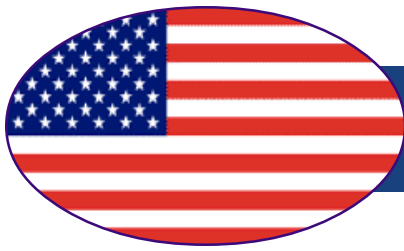
(Pictured below left to right)
Aubrey Fox, Judge Simón, and
Michael Freedman-Schnapp



A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!

Hartford has a new rising star! The Community Court would like to congratulate Angela Diaz., for recently being named Student of The Month at Hartford's Fox Middle School. Angela is the daughter of Community Service Field Supervisor Carmen Diaz, and a frequent visitor to the Court during the summer months. Congratulations, Angela, we're all proud of you!!

Keep up the good work at home and school!



Community Service



Community Pride



COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK SITES MAY 2004

May 3	Dutch Point, Seymour Street, Stonington Street	May 18	Ward Street, Brookfield Street
May 4	Wyllis Street, Collins Street, Townley Street	May 19	Brookfield Street
May 5	Broad Street, Capitol Avenue	May 20	Bonner Street, Ledger Street, Westbrook Street, Ellington Street, Bannister Street, Saybrooke Street
May 6	Russ Street	May 21	FOODSHARE - Mahoney Village, Smith Towers, Golden Age Senior Center, Dutch Point
May 7	FOODSHARE - Mahoney Village, Golden Age Senior Center	May 24	Stonington Street, Dutch Point
May 10	Colt Park	May 25	Westbourne Parkway, Granby Street
May 11	Martin Street, Center Street	May 26	Newington Avenue
May 12	Shultas Place, Anawan Street, Benton Street, Grafton Street	May 27	Woodland Street, Homestead Avenue, Irving Street, Magnolia Street, Burton Street
May 13	Wethersfield Avenue, Franklin Avenue, Redding Street	May 28	FOODSHARE - Faith Manor, La Casa de Puerto Rico
May 14	Hendrickson Avenue, Curcombe Street, Dutch Point, FOODSHARE - Grace Episcopal		

COMMUNITY SERVICE PERFORMED AT EBONY HORSE WOMEN RANCH THROUGHOUT THE MONTH
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CHRIS MENA, CPA, COMMUNITY COURT COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM

A FOND FAREWELL

MARSHALS JOHN MALONEY AND RAY SULLIVAN

The Community Court in Hartford would like to wish a fond farewell to Supervising Judicial Marshal John Maloney and Judicial Marshal Ray Sullivan. Tom and Ray both transferred to GA 13 in Enfield effective June 14, 2004.

"John and Ray have done an excellent job during their tenures at the Community Court," Judge Simón stated. "They both acted with a great deal of professionalism and caring, which fostered a safe environment at the Community Court."

Returning to the Community Court is Tom Grodecki, who takes over as Supervising Marshal. Marshal James Quigley also comes across the street from the GA14 Superior Court at 101 Lafayette Street to join the Community Court team.

(Pictured at right) Supervising Judicial Marshal John Maloney and Judicial Marshal Ray Sullivan



Please feel free to email the court with questions or comments at:
Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us

and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:

www.jud.state.ct.us