



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff

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John J. Choi
Ramsey County Attorney
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October 14, 2021

County Attorney Choi:

Thank you for meeting with me and three other members of the Sheriff's Office on September 29, 2021 to explain your "Collaborative Review Team" (CRT) Program. As we expressed during that Zoom meeting, we are very concerned about several aspects of the program that began July 6, 2021, without notice to law enforcement. As I mentioned to you in our subsequent phone conversation, I believe you should suspend the CRT Program until the issues below can be adequately addressed.

Your CRT Program results in a failure to charge and petition juveniles accused of serious crimes. By failing to petition children to the Juvenile Court process you have eliminated several tools of the juvenile court system and removed the transparency and accountability that law enforcement, the public, and victims expect, deserve, and are entitled to under law. The CRT "committee of three" does not reflect the concerns of law enforcement, the child's parents, the victims, or the community at large. If you continue the program in any form, the CRT committee must be expanded to include additional perspectives on what is in the best interest of the child, the victims, and the community.

As you know, I have a lengthy history working with youth and the juvenile justice system. I do not think your CRT program is consistent with the intent of the juvenile justice statutes. The law envisions that juvenile court dispositions be under the umbrella of a juvenile judge. To the best of my knowledge the Ramsey County Juvenile Court has not approved of your CRT program for offenders. I am also confident the law enforcement agencies in Ramsey County do not support the CRT program as it is being conducted.

Finally, since our discussion, I have gathered additional information regarding your CRT program and have concluded that the end result is that it returns dangerous juveniles to the community without significant consequences, adequate monitoring, parental input, or a recognition of the impact upon the victim.

While I don't doubt your fundamental belief in this experiment, I must urge you to abandon the concept until all voices are heard regarding what is best for our community. I can assure you the many voices that I represent are not supportive of a system that has no accountability for the offender and no transparency of the decisions being made by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

Sincerely,

Bob Fletcher
Ramsey County Sheriff

Copy: Chief Todd Axtel, Saint Paul Police Department
Assistant Chief Don Benner, Saint Paul Police Department
Ramsey County Chiefs Association c/o Chief Jon Mangseth, Saint Anthony Police Department
Maria Mitchell, Assistant Ramsey County Attorney