

Spotlight: Welcome Judge W. Edward Tomko

Mission Statement

The Agency provides education, training, and treatment designed to encourage positive changes and meet the rehabilitative needs of offenders. We are committed to enhancing public safety through the utilization of evidence-based practices to reduce the rate of recidivism while promoting efficiency and economy in the delivery of correctional services. We are dedicated to improving quality of life and public safety by being professional and non-judgmental with respect to individual needs; being proactive through accountability, empathy and encouragement to support offenders; and creating awareness to empower individuals to make positive changes resulting in an alternative lifestyle to live productively and lawfully.

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Judge W. Edward Tomko, III was sworn in as a Sixth Judicial Circuit Court Judge on June 30, 2017. Judge Tomko grew up on a fourth generation farm in the Prince George/ Sussex area. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, fishing, gardening, yardwork, and hunting birds and ducks. Judge Tomko has one sister, Jennifer, whom is a second grade teacher in Prince George and also chose to be in the human services field. Since he was a child, he knew he wanted to have a career as an attorney and ultimately aspired to be at the top of his profession and become a judge. Judge Tomko went to William and Mary for his undergraduate degree and then went on to Regent University for his law degree. For nineteen years he was a defense attorney and also had his own practice of Novey and Tomko. When asked why he wanted to become a judge, he stated, “ it gives me a

chance to serve the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia in a different way and to hopefully make a difference in the lives of others”. Judge Tomko is now the presiding judge of the Hopewell, Prince George and Surry Drug Court. In doing this, he said “it gives me the opportunity to help those that have reached a point where they are seeking sobriety and would otherwise not be a part of the criminal justice system but for their addictions.” At his swearing in there was an overwhelming amount of support there from the 6th Judicial district including defense attorneys, Commonwealth’s Attorneys, Sheriffs, police chiefs, clerks, directors of juvenile and adult probation, judges, and retired judges. It is an honor to begin working with Judge Tomko as he begins his career as a judge! Welcome aboard Judge Tomko!

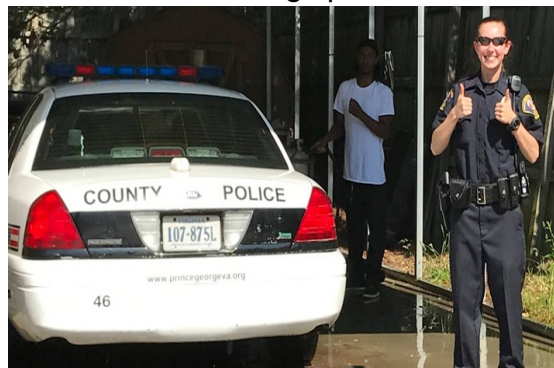




Prince George Police Department Appreciation Breakfast and Car Wash



Community service is an essential way for our clients to explore their interests, show colleges what they believe in, and define a possible career path. By engaging in community service work, clients and staff have an opportunity to learn and mature within many aspects of the community. They are able to discover where their passions may lie while completing good work projects that truly make a difference. These experiences allow clients and staff to make more informed choices about community involvement and career options as well as instilling a lifelong interest in giving back. To show appreciation for those who serve and protect the community, Riverside Criminal Justice Agency (RCJA) hosted the Prince George County Police Appreciation Breakfast and Car Wash on May 19, 2017. While clients and staff washed police cars, officers were able to enjoy breakfast sandwiches, fruit juice, and water. As an agency, we wanted to serve those who serve us. Police officers and their work are usually taken for granted, and we wanted our officers to know that we are a team and that they are thought of often. Many people do not bother to acknowledge police officers until they are in need of their assistance.



We thought it would be great to recognize them for their efforts and for putting their lives on the line to help the community in which we all serve. At RCJA, we truly recognize the importance of the police officers who serve Prince George County and we wanted to take this opportunity to show their department our appreciation and gratitude for the support and diligence shown to our office.

pretrial, probation, and
parole supervision week
JULY 16-22, 2017
American Probation and Parole Association



empowerment
THROUGH
partnerships

During the week of July 16th through the 22nd of 2017, people across the United States and Canada joined together to recognize the work that probation, parole, and community supervision professionals do for our public safety. This year, the theme is “Clients, Employees, and Communities – Power through Partnerships”. Working together makes for stronger bonds between colleagues, community partners, and with those under supervision. Today in America, there are over 5 million adults on community supervision and most of these individuals are monitored by pretrial, probation, and parole officers. Monitoring may take the form of home contacts, drug testing, making sure the offender attends counseling sessions and helping offenders to find suitable housing and employment. Many officers also supervise offenders using electronic monitoring equipment which requires expert knowledge of newer technologies. Budget shortfalls mean that community corrections professionals must be creative in finding solutions to make sure those they supervise have the support needed to find jobs, housing, and treatment. By collaborating with community leaders and volunteering their time, many officers are making a difference while faced with expanding caseloads and additional responsibilities. Members of our community were encouraged to join together during Pretrial, Probation, Parole Supervision Week to honor those who work to make our communities a safer place to live.

New Code Changes Effective July 1, 2017

- Driving on suspended or revoked license period of suspension; provides that any driver's license suspension imposed upon a person for the failure to pay court-ordered fines and costs shall run concurrently with any other period of license suspension, revocation, or forfeiture imposed upon such person. The bill also provides that in the event that a person whose license has been suspended for the failure to pay court-ordered fines and costs is convicted of driving on a suspended or revoked license, the additional period of license suspension imposed as a result of that conviction runs concurrently with the underlying suspension for the failure to pay court-ordered fines and costs. Under current law, such additional suspension period does not commence until the expiration of the previous suspension or revocation. Amends, relating to driving on a suspended or revoked license; period of suspension.
- Possession of Marijuana and loss of license has now changed; previously a person lost their driver's license for six months when convicted of possession of marijuana.
- Assault and battery against a family or household member; ineligibility for first offender status. A person who has been convicted of any felony defined as an act of violence is ineligible for first offender status for assault and battery against a family or household member unless the attorney for the Commonwealth does not object to the person being placed on first offender status. Under current law, only prior convictions for assault and battery against a family or household member serve as a disqualifier.
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CORRECTION CONNECTION

Ways to Prioritize Work When Everything Is #1

All projects—especially large, complex projects—need clear priorities. You can count on technical projects, no matter how well-planned, to involve change orders, re-prioritization and the regular appearance of surprises. It's just the natural order of things. But still. Knowing how to prioritize work affects the success of your project, the engagement of your team, and your role as a leader. To help you manage your team's workload and hit deadlines, here are six steps to prioritizing projects that have a lot of moving parts.

1. Collect a list of all your tasks. Pull together everything you could possibly consider getting done in a day. Don't worry about the order, or the number of items up front.
2. Identify urgent vs. important. The next step is to see if you have any tasks that need immediate attention. We're talking about work that, if not completed by the end of the day or in the next several hours, will have serious negative consequences (missed client deadline; missed publication or release deadlines, etc.). Check to see if there are any high-price dependencies that rely on you finishing up a piece of work now.
3. Assess value. Next, look at your important work and identify what carries the highest value to your business and organization. As a general practice, you want to recognize exactly which types of tasks have top priority over the others. For example, focus on: client projects before internal work. Another way to assess value is to look at how many people are impacted by your work. In general, the more people involved or impacted, the higher the stakes.
4. Order tasks by estimated effort. If you have tasks that seem to tie for priority standing, check their estimates, and start on whichever one you think will take the most effort to complete. Productivity experts suggest the tactic of starting the lengthier task first. But, if you feel like you can't focus on your meatier projects before you finish up the shorter task, then go with your gut and do that. It can be motivating to check a small task off the list before diving into deeper waters.
5. Be flexible and adaptable. Uncertainty and change is a given. Know that your priorities will change, and often when you least expect them to. But—and here's the trick—you also want to stay focused on the tasks you're committed to completing.
6. Know when to cut. You probably can't get to everything on your list. After you prioritize your tasks and look at your estimates, cut the remaining tasks from your list, and focus on the priorities that you know you must and can complete for the day. Then take a deep breathe, dive in and be ready for anything.

