

Global Youth Justice, Inc.
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Attorney General William P. Barr
United States Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

First Lady Melania Trump
The White House
c/o BE BEST Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: In Accordance with The White House Coronavirus Guidelines for America, Global Youth Justice, Inc. has Released a "Take Action and Policy Alert" to Suspended ALL "Human-to-Human" Interaction of Youthful Offenders, Youth Volunteers, and Adults Volunteers, in our **1800+ Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court Diversion Programs in Communities, Tribes, and Schools, in 48 USA States and District of Columbia.** The implications of this, are significant, and we need support to handle this, especially given these are essential public services, and unlike any other juvenile justice program, so widely replicated across America, and in all types of settings. Emergency Assistance is critical and necessary.

Cc: President Donald J. Trump, United States of America
PDAAG Katharine Sullivan, OJP, United States Department of Justice
CEO Barbara Steward, Corporation for National and Community Service
Dr. James A. Murphy, Director, Division of Violence Prevention, CDC
U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, Chair, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senator Mary Gay Scanlon, Vice-Chair, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senator Charles Ernest Grassley, U.S. Senate, Juvenile Justice Leader
U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, U.S. Senate, Juvenile Justice Leader
U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, Chair, Judiciary Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee, House of Representatives
U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts (Global Youth Justice, Inc. Headquarters)
U.S. Senator Ed Markey, Massachusetts (Global Youth Justice, Inc. Headquarters)
U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley, 7th MA District (Global Youth Justice, Inc. Headquarters)
Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., Board Vice President, Global Youth Justice, Inc.

Dear Attorney General William P. Barr and First Lady Melania Trump:

The purpose of this letter, is to make you aware Global Youth Justice, Inc. has released an **Emergency Policy calling for the "Immediate Suspension" of all human-to-human contact (youth and adults) in our 1800+ Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury Diversion Programs across the United States of America.** Over the past

25-years, these youth-led and volunteer-driven diversion programs have easily become the USA's most replicated juvenile justice diversion program since the establishment of the first juvenile court in America, in 1899 in Cook County, Illinois, USA.

We need some **immediate emergency help** from the United States Government to provide immediate alternative solutions such as on-line and distance learning services to these diversion programs; what to do with thousands of juvenile justice cases **currently** in progress (underage drinking, illegal possession of marijuana, bullying, theft, truancy, vandalism, etc.), and many other critical areas.

As you will see below, this situation is precarious, and there is no other juvenile justice program in America, so widely implemented on a local level, and with so many different agencies, organizations, and institutions operating these diversion programs, in part, because they are 100% domain, inexpensive, scalable, and sustainable – and we do not want to lose these critical diversion programs giving youthful offenders, a first or second chance, to avoid formal juvenile justice, and criminal justice involvement. Global Youth Justice, Inc. is the only public or private national organization supporting these diversion programs, and the only organization capable, and prepared, to immediately assist these 1800+ diversion programs to transition away from human-to-human contact, and utilize temporary services and solutions. Connecticut and Rhode Island, are the only USA States without these Diversion Programs.

George Washington University (with funding from the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice) released the only USA Data Collection Project on Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury Diversion Programs. In only a one year period, 129,540 Juvenile Referrals Annually to Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court Diversion Programs; 117,310 Youth Volunteers Annually Serve as Jurors, Attorneys, Judges, Clerks, and Bailiffs; and 16,522 Adults Volunteers serve as Mentors, Trainers, and in a Wide Range of Other Roles. The numbers are staggering, and Global Youth Justice, Inc., since releasing the immediate need to suspend all Human-to-Human contact in these programs four days ago, has easily received 150+ phone calls, emails, and communications through our Global Youth Justice Social Media Network of 20+ Social Media and Information Dissemination Mechanism.

On any given day in America, thousands of juvenile offenders are involved in these Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury Diversion Programs, in addition to thousands of additional youth volunteers, and adult volunteers. Global Youth Justice, Inc. has formed a USA Task Force of fifty (50) local and state leaders involved with these diversion programs. We need to immediately implement, and make available on-line platforms, and even group conference calling approaches for juvenile hearings to take place. We need to make available on-line, and other distance learning opportunities, for thousands of juvenile offenders to complete their peer imposed mandated community service obligations, and training platforms for both youth volunteers, adult volunteers involved with these diversion programs, and for former juvenile offenders, who now volunteer in these Peer Justice Diversion Programs.

These juvenile justice diversion programs called Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury are volunteer-driven, youth-led, sustainable, scalable, local, adaptable, and uniquely public domain. These factors have contributed significantly to the rapid implementation and expansion of these juvenile justice diversion programs over the past twenty-five (25) years. Across America, these diversion programs are administered locally by Delinquency Courts, Nonprofits, Police, Schools, District Attorney Offices, Bar Association, Probation Departments, Youth Bureaus, Social Justice Organizations, Sheriff's Offices, and Social and Volunteer Organizations. In almost all of these 1800+ local diversion programs, they are a joint effort by multiple public and private agencies, with the local elected and public officials making the final determination on the administering agency, and how these diversion programs will operate. Adults from the legal, law enforcement, education, and volunteer sectors, continue to be the driving force behind the unprecedented growth of these diversion programs.

Over the past twelve (12) years (since 2009), Global Youth Justice, Inc. has been the only USA National Non-Profit Organization conducting training and technical assistance to these local communities – more than 3,000+ adults have attend 25 Global Youth Justice National Trainings in the USA. Our Global Youth Justice social media network comprises 20+ platforms, and the wide proliferation of these diversion programs in America is also indicated by 80,000+ subscribers to our Newsletter, 73k followers of our @JuvenileCrime Twitter, 12,000+ RSS Blog Subscribers, 29K LinkedIn Connections, and purposely – everything on our recently launched new website GlobalYouthJustice.org is Public Domain. In the past four (4) months, organizations such as the National District Attorney’s Association and the American Bar Association have purposely involved Global Youth Justice, Inc. in activities such as closing out their National Criminal Justice Conference and Launching Blog and Podcasts on these diversion programs. In short, we are not an advocacy organization, and we do not get involved in politics – as we purposely only work directly with local communities, tribes, and schools, on establishing, enhancing, and expanding these diversion programs.

We are requesting some immediate assistance to take a local and state approach across the United States of America, as it relates to new policies, strategies, distance learning, utilizing on-line secure platforms (such as Zoom), webinars, telephone technical assistance, and perhaps most needed – is the information sharing among the local program coordinators, directors, and adult staff and volunteers in these 1800+ diversion programs – to also include involvement and input from youth volunteers. Just last night in Pima County, Arizona, in the Pima County Teen Court, the youth volunteers were instrumental in coming up with a strategy to utilize Zoom for sentencing hearings of juvenile offenders referred. Pima County Teen Court in Arizona, just became the first USA Local Community to have juvenile hearings before their volunteer peers, utilizing Zoom. While the volunteer youth were very instrumental, it is the adult community leaders and officials, who approved this to happen – and of course with the parent(s) or legal guardians of the youthful offender referred to the Pima County Teen Court Diversion Program – with the youthful offender agreeing to do this.

We have attached a short-handout, which may give you a quick visual on the large scale utilization of these unique youth-led and volunteer-driven diversion programs, which are widely supported across America, but – like Juvenile Justice in America – it is Local, and that is why we propose the United States of America helping Global Youth Justice, Inc. and our networks to assist during these “uncertain times”. Our plan as of now, is to plan for these diversion programs (as many as possible) to not engage in human-to-human contact through the end of 2020, pending information from The White House Task Force on the Coronavirus and the Centers for Disease Control, among others. Because it is the USA, and many of the leadership at Global Youth Justice, Inc. are former federal staff, we utilize guidelines thus far, released by the U.S. Federal Government.

We have included numerous individuals cc’d on this letter. These include U.S. Senate and House Majority and Minority Leaders, to also include other Senators and House of Representatives involved with the authorization of the JJDP Act. Global Youth Justice, Inc. has the national headquarters in Massachusetts, so we include our two (2) U.S. Senators, and our Congresswoman in the 7th District, where we are located. The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs has been the federal agency most involved with these diversion programs (especially from 1997-2008), and since these diversion programs are also one of the top 10 youth service opportunities in the USA, and CNCS for many years, send funding to USDOD/OJP to support these diversion programs, we included the CEO of the CNCS. The need to transition to “On-Line” for many operational areas of these diversion programs across the USA, and given Bullying is among the Top 10 referrals to these diversion programs, we obviously thought of the First Lady’s BE BEST Platform, and we included CDC, as we have been following their lead, given they specialize in several human interaction areas of these diversion programs, and given the safety of all of the youth involved, is paramount, and, in any given week, up until now, there are 25-50 youth offenders and youth volunteers gathered together in almost all of these 1800+ diversion programs, using

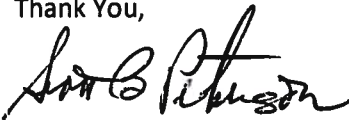
courtrooms, when not in use across America, for purposes of having peer-to-peer sentencing hearings, for juvenile offenders.

Both myself, and our founding Vice-President of the Board of Directors at Global Youth Justice, Inc., will be working on this critical juvenile justice emergency in America. Our board Vice-President is the Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr. Some of you may know him, as he served as the USA's 1st African American Federal Magistrate Justice in 1969, followed by twice serving as Lead Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Special U.S. Prosecutor, and most recently, Executive Director of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition, in addition to many other roles and appointments, to include a founding Board Member of Global Youth Justice, Inc. I (Scott Peterson) has been the lead individual in the USA and around the globe championing the expansion of these diversion programs, after establishing one of the earliest programs in the early 1990's, and then for Governor Pataki on a state-level in New York, and then I launched the 1st Federal Youth Court Diversion Program Project at the Office of Justice Programs in 1997, until 2008, before launching Global Youth Justice in 2009, in addition to numerous appointments, and other high profile roles with the FBI, UNICEF, U.S. Department of State, Corporation for National and Community Service, etc.

Thank You everyone, and we understand these are pressing times, and we are doing our part to help, and we did not hesitate to take a position of NO human-to-human interaction, and we need to still do more to strongly "encourage" this not to take place, until it is safe for all the youth and adults involved. We are well aware, first hand (as of today) – that communities in certain states, still have not cancelled sentencing hearings in these diversion programs.

Judge Burnett and I, can be reached directly at Global Youth Justice, Inc. at 202-468-3790.

Thank You,



Scott B. Peterson

Mr. Scott Bernard Peterson

Chief Executive Officer

Global Youth Justice, Inc.

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Arthur L. Burnett, Sr.

Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr.

Board Vice-President

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Global Youth Justice, Inc.

TAKE ACTION ALERT on MARCH 30, 2020

**Suspend ALL Human-to-Human Contact
in
1800+ Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court Diversion Programs
in
48 USA States and District of Columbia**

NO HUMAN FACE-to-FACE CONTACT

Suspend ALL Sentencing Hears of Juvenile Offenders

Suspend ALL Mandated Peer Imposed Community Service

Suspend ALL Adult Human Contact w/Youth Volunteer and Youth Offenders

Suspend ALL Youth-to-Youth Contact

Suspend ALL Training of Adult Volunteers and Youth Volunteers

Suspend ALL Justice Related Educational Classes for Youthful Offenders

USA Social Distancing Guidelines

Follow CoronaVirus Guidelines for America Released by The White House

Follow Local, State, and Tribal Guidelines on the CoronaVirus

Please Note

An Estimated 90% of the 1800+ Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury Diversion Programs in Communities, Schools, and Tribes in 48 USA States involve Youth arrested or charged with minor Crimes, Offenses, and Violations – so we understand these Diversion Programs are an essential public service, and thousands of youthful offenders on any given day in America, are in the process of Completing their Peer Imposed Community Service; are in the process of preparing for their Sentencing Hearing; and/or they have been referred to these Diversion Programs. We especially encourage the estimated 25% of these Diversion Programs

operated by Non-Profits to have a formal written policy with Referral Sources such as Police, Courts, and Probation as it relates to the CoronaVirus, for such things as State Statues for Adjudication and Operational Procedures. The other estimated 75% of these Diversion Programs are operated by District Attorney Offices, Courts, Police, Sheriff's Offices, Bar Associations, Youth Bureaus, Social Service Agencies, and other Government Related Agencies and Organizations – and they too should develop Administrative, Programmatic, and Operational Procedures.

USA Plan for Shifting to On-Line and Remote Operation through 12/31/2020.

Global Youth Justice, Inc. and 50 Adults Directors and Coordinators involved w/Different Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury Diversion Programs in 40+ States are working together, as our team to represent USA's most replicated Juvenile Justice Diversion Program, and to come up with Administrative, Operational, Fiscal, and Programmatic Guidelines so Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury Diversion Programs. We are reaching out to Elected, Appointed, and Public Officials in the United States Government, to assist in this capacity. We will also be reaching out to USA Foundations and Philanthropists, to support this nationwide effort, to respond to this unprecedented global pandemic, which is critically impacting these much needed Diversion Programs for Local Juvenile Justice Systems across America.

**USA's Youth Justice Network of Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court Diversion Programs
(Data Provided Below is by George Washington University)**

Annual USA Statistics

129,540 Juvenile Referrals Annually to Youth/Teen/Student/Peer Court Diversion Programs
117,310 Youth Volunteers Annually Serve as Jurors, Attorneys, Judges, Clerks, and Bailiffs
16,522 Adults Volunteers serve as Mentors, Trainers, and in a Wide Range of Other Roles.



“Global Youth Justice, Inc.”

“Volunteering the Time for Juvenile Crime”