

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES

**GUIDE TO THE RECORDS OF
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE
(FORMERLY JUVENILE COURT COMMITTEE)**

1978-2004

Record Group 15: Boards, Committees and Commissions

**April 16, 2015
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Montgomery County Archives
Montgomery County Records Center
8540 Anniversary Circle, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877
(301) 926-5002
archive@montgomeryhistory.org
www.montgomeryhistory.org

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Originally formed by the state in 1931, the Juvenile Court Committee (JCC) was charged with three duties: provide recommendations to the governor for qualified juvenile court judges, meet with the judge four times annually to, among other business, recommend probation officers, and render services to the judge as required. Though the JCC persisted in advocacy for a treatment-centered approach to dealing with juvenile offenders throughout the 1970s, progress was slow.

In 1996, the director of Health and Human Services and the judge of the District Court established a Juvenile Justice Task Force. Their report, along with Comprehensive Strategy conferences convened by the County, results in a final report called “The Montgomery County Comprehensive Strategy—A Juvenile Justice Plan.” Recommendations included converting the JCC to the Commission on Juvenile Justice, enlarging its membership (to 23 members) and expanding its functions. These changes were enacted by the County Council in early 2000.

In 2002, the juvenile court was transferred to the Circuit Court.

EXTENT

1 cubic foot: 3 letter-size Hollinger boxes.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains records documenting the activity of the Commission on Juvenile Justice, formerly the Juvenile Court Committee, and its sub committees the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission, and its predecessors, the Juvenile Justice Action Committee and the Youthful Offender Study Committee. Documentation includes meeting minutes, meeting agendas, summaries of meetings, appointments to committee(s), annual reports, commissioned reports, and various publications. Series IV contains a compilation of records, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other writings collected by donor Richard Pelz, documenting the activity of the Commission and the state of juvenile justice in Montgomery County in the late 20th century.

Records are divided into four series:

Series I: Meeting Minutes, 1985-2000; 2003-2004

Series II: Annual Reports, 1979-2001

Series III: Reports and Publications, 1978; 1981; 1989-2000

Series IV: Papers of Richard K. Pelz, 1980-2002

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: Meeting Minutes, 1985-2000; 2003-2004

(0.33 cubic feet)

This series contains the records of Juvenile Court Committee meetings (later Commission on Juvenile Justice), including agendas, minutes, appointments, announcements, reports, and summaries.

Also included are minutes and correspondence related to subcommittees within the juvenile criminal justice system, including the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission, and its predecessors, the Juvenile Justice Action Committee and the Youthful Offender Study Committee. These records of subgroups were compiled by longtime commission member Richard Pelz, who also provided a history of the formation and activities of the groups.

**Series II: Annual Reports, 1979-2001
(0.15 cubic feet)**

This series contains published annual reports of the Juvenile Court Committee from 1979-200, and the annual report on the newly renamed Commission on Juvenile Justice in 2001. The series is complete except for the omission of the 1984 and 1998 reports.

Also included is a set of annual reports for the 6th District Court of Maryland, Montgomery County, Juvenile Division, for the years 1984-1994 inclusive.

**Series III: Reports and Publications, 1978; 1981; 1989-2000
(0.15 cubic feet)**

This series contains various reports and publications produced or commissioned by the Juvenile Court Committee throughout its existence. Topics include analyses of habitual offenders, county response to juvenile crime, and plans/proposals for the future of juvenile justice.

**Series IV: Papers of Richard K. Pelz, 1980-2002
(0.33 cubic feet)**

This series, compiled by longtime juvenile justice committee member and activist Richard Pelz, contains clippings, notes, correspondence, reports, flyers, newsletters and other types of collected information regarding juvenile justice in Montgomery County from the 1980s through the early 2000s. Also included are several publications by Mr. Pelz based on his experience in administering juvenile justice and coordinating the various county entities that deal with juvenile offenders throughout the system. Going beyond the annual reports and meeting minutes, this series documents the ongoing activism and advocacy of Mr. Pelz and his colleagues in pursuit of fair and meaningful rehabilitation of youth engaged in criminal activity.

The series is arranged in reverse chronological order within each folder, as compiled by Mr. Pelz.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open for research.

LANGUAGE

English.

PROVENANCE

A portion of these records (mostly meeting minutes and annual reports) originally belonged to the Montgomery County Council until they were transferred to the Department of Public

Libraries in 1996 and then to the Montgomery County Archives in 1999. Several reports were found in the Department of Family Resources printed material and transferred to this collection. The largest portion of the collection (accession 2003-01) was donated by Richard K. Pelz, longtime member of the committee and lifetime activist on behalf of juvenile justice in Montgomery County, in 2003.

USING THESE RECORDS

To request records listed in this finding aid, the following information should be given to the archivist:

Record Group 15, **Records of the Commission on Juvenile Justice**, Series Number and Name, Box Number and Folder Title(s).

The preferred citation for materials from these records is:

Montgomery County Archives; Gaithersburg, Maryland. Record Group 15: Boards and Commissions. Records Title: The Records of the Commission on Juvenile Justice. Series number and series name. Box number and folder title, if appropriate.

PROCESSING PROCEDURES

Preservation photocopies of newspaper clippings were made when feasible, and the originals discarded. Routine meeting minutes and published annual reports from the Pelz files were integrated into Series I and Series II and unmarked duplicates were discarded.

PROCESSING STAFF/FINDING AID AUTHOR(S)

Sarah Hedlund

BOX INVENTORY

Series I: Meeting Minutes, 1985-2000; 2003-2004

Box 1

Juvenile Court Committee, Minutes, July 1985-December 1986
Juvenile Court Committee, Minutes, 1987
Juvenile Court Committee, Minutes, 1988-1989
Youthful Offender Study Committee, 1989-1994
Juvenile Court Committee, Minutes, 1990-1991
Juvenile Court Committee, Minutes, 1988-1989
Juvenile Court Committee, Minutes, 1992-1993
Juvenile Court Committee, Minutes, 1994-1995
Juvenile Justice Action Committee, Minutes, 1994-1999
Juvenile Court Committee, Minutes, 1996-1997
Juvenile Justice Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission, March 1997-
November 2000
Juvenile Court Committee, Minutes, January-May 1998; January 1999-June 2000
Commission on Juvenile Justice, Minutes, July-November 2000
Commission on Juvenile Justice, Minutes, 2003-2004

Series II: Annual Reports, 1979-2001

Box 2

Juvenile Court Committee 1978-1979 Annual Report, 1979
Juvenile Court Committee 1979-1980 Annual Report, 1980
Juvenile Court Committee 1980-1981 Annual Report, 1981
Juvenile Court Committee 1981-1982 Annual Report, 1982
Juvenile Court Committee 1982-1983 Annual Report, 1983
Juvenile Court Committee 1985-1986 Annual Report, 1986
Juvenile Court Committee 1986-1987 Annual Report, 1988
Juvenile Court Committee 1987-1988 Annual Report, 1988
Juvenile Court Committee 1988-1989 Annual Report, 1989
Juvenile Court Committee 1989-1990 Annual Report, 1990
Juvenile Court Committee 1990-1992 Annual Reports, 1991; 1992
Juvenile Court Committee 1993-1997 Annual Reports, 1994; 1995; 1996; 1997
Juvenile Court Committee 1999-2000 Annual Report, 2000
Commission on Juvenile Justice FY01 Annual Report, 2001
District Court of Maryland: Sixth District, Montgomery County, Juvenile Division Annual
Reports, 1984-1994

Series III: Reports and Publications, 1978-2002

(Box 2, cont.)

Chronic Offenders: An Analysis of Delinquency in Montgomery County, Maryland, 1978
Highlights of the First Half Century of the Montgomery County Juvenile Court Committee, 1981
An Assessment of Montgomery County's Response to *Children in Need of Supervision* (CINS),
Interim Progress Report, 1989

(Series III: Reports and Publications, 1978-2002)

(Box 2, cont.)

An Assessment of Montgomery County's Response to "Children in Need of Supervision"
(CINS): Final Report, 1990

Habitual Juvenile Offenders in Montgomery County: Report and Recommendations, 1993

Preventing Future Violence in Montgomery County (Voices Vs. Violence), 1994

Highlights of the Montgomery County Juvenile Court Committee 1981-1996, 1996

Juvenile Court Task Force: Final Report, 1996

Rationale for the Immediate Transfer of the Juvenile Court in Montgomery County from the
District Court to the Circuit Court and for the Establishment of a Unified Family Court in
Montgomery County, 1998

The Montgomery County Comprehensive Strategy: A Juvenile Justice Plan, 1999

Report to the Montgomery County Juvenile Court Committee on the Journeys Day Program,
1999

Juvenile Justice Task Force Report, 2000

Juvenile Arrest Report Summary, 2001

Report on Minority Overrepresentation in the Juvenile Justice System, April/July 2002

Series IV: Papers of Richard K. Pelz, 1980-2000

Box 3

Publications, 1995; 1997

1980-1987

1988-1991

1992-1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000-2002