

Vermont Department of Corrections
Town Hall Meeting Responses
September 11, 2013

Responses to the questions and comments made at the September 11, 2013 Town Hall Meeting are below. We have done our best to provide a response without making it too long or complicated. We recognize that our answers may not satisfy the participant. This does not mean that the Department does not value the comment. All of the comments are given serious consideration and weighed against the current constraints of the Department. In the course of our planning, we will review public input and make changes, where appropriate, to the operations of the Department.

1. What are the standards/directions for notifying neighbors when high risk offenders are being released?
 2. Do individuals under supervision know the rules about notification?
 3. If a residence gets approved, do complaints from the community influence the approval of a residence?
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1. When high risk offenders are being released from incarceration, the Department of Corrections notifies local and/or state law enforcement agencies based on where the offender plans to reside. Further, if the Department determines there is an increased potential risk to reoffend, the Department and/or law enforcement agencies may take additional steps by notifying the community and/or neighbors. Factors considered in heightened notification are prior convictions, relationship to victim(s), non-compliance with treatment, higher scores based on risk assessment tools, and potential victim profile.
 2. As part of release planning, the inmate is informed that notification will be done prior to release.
 3. If a residence is approved by the Department, unless additional information related to risk is brought forth, the Department would not typically rescind the approval.