



Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Courthouse Closure – Santa Barbara Juvenile Court PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 68106**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 2, 2014

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#### **CHANGE OF NOTICE RE: COURTHOUSE CLOSURE**

On August 8, 2014, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, issued a public notice of intention to close the clerk's office and courtroom of the Superior Court located at 4500 Hollister Avenue, Santa Barbara, California. The Court is taking this action due to severe ongoing budget reductions.

The Court invited written comments on the planned closure. Additionally, on September 5, 2014, the Court conducted a meeting of stakeholders and solicited input on the planned closure. A number of concerns regarding the new location and impacts on the operation of the juvenile court and the confidentiality of the proceedings were identified. More time is required to address those concerns. Therefore, the Court is delaying the planned closure of the Juvenile Facility on Hollister Road pending receipt and review of proposed facility modification plans.

The Court is grateful for the dedicated professionals committed to serving the needs of the Santa Barbara Juvenile Justice Community and appreciative of the thoughtful and insightful comments regarding the relocation. Those remarks and others will aid in facilitating an appropriate accommodation for the juvenile caseload.

If you would like to submit comments, please send them to: Darrel E. Parker, Court Executive Officer, 1100 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Additionally you may submit comments via e-mail at [CtAdmin@sbcourts.org](mailto:CtAdmin@sbcourts.org)

This notice has been posted on the Court's website at [www.sbcourts.org](http://www.sbcourts.org).

**Arthur Garcia**  
Presiding Judge



**Darrel E. Parker**  
Court Executive Officer

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
1100 ANACAPA STREET, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 2, 2014**

## **SUPERIOR COURT DELAYS JUVENILE RELOCATION**

Santa Barbara, California, October 2, 2014 –

After five straight years of cuts, California courts are in crises. Throughout the state, courts have been forced to consolidate operations and close courthouses in order to do more with less.

Statewide, 53 courthouses and over 200 courtrooms have been closed. Over 30 courts have reduced service hours. Nearly 4,000 court staff have lost their jobs.

Here in Santa Barbara County, our funding has been dramatically reduced and staffing is down by 26%. While this forces us to make hard decisions, we continue to provide our court users with the highest level of services and always with deference to all constitutional mandates.

Our decision to close court facilities was not an easy one. For over a year, we have discussed this idea with the lawyers and agencies who make up the court community. The Presiding Judge conducts quarterly Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee meetings. The bar and heads of the criminal justice agencies are regular participants at these meetings. This topic was listed on the agenda in December of 2013, and again in June and August of this year.

Most recently, in full compliance with the law, we announced the move of the juvenile court from the aging trailer on Hollister Avenue to a more dignified and respectable facility on Santa Barbara Street, Dept. 14. Juvenile delinquency filings are down over 45% countywide since fiscal year 2009/2010. With a continued decline in juvenile filings, it would not be fiscally responsible to employ full-time staff at an essentially part-time assignment.

There are significant benefits to relocating the juvenile operation:

- It is more centrally located in Santa Barbara;
- It provides easier access for attorneys practicing downtown;

- Access is more efficient for Sheriff deputies who are currently compelled to drive out to the juvenile facility in the afternoons;
- It saves time for limited court resources ( i.e., interpreters, court reporters and security guards) who are also compelled to drive out to the current facility;
- Once vacated the space provides an opportunity to consolidate records storage from leased facilities.

On September 5, 2014, the Court conducted a meeting with impacted stakeholders where the Court invited participants to provide input about the planned change. Although there was no requirement to do this, the Court felt it better to provide another opportunity for parties to provide input. The Court is critically reviewing the thoughtful public comment received and determining how appropriate suggestions might be incorporated.

The Court is conferring with facilities personnel and space planners regarding those suggestions. The Court has decided to delay the current relocation date pending receipt and review of proposed facility modification plans.