



CITY OF MOORPARK

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June 23, 2023

TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

The Honorable Supervisor Janice Parvin
Ventura County Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: SUPPORT FOR EAST COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Dear Supervisor Parvin and Members of the Board:

The City of Moorpark strongly supports the establishment of a future Family Justice Center in Eastern Ventura County to serve the residents of Moorpark, Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. Such a facility would provide access to vital services in the region.

Currently, residents in need of these services must travel to West County locations to receive these services. Since the pandemic and the receipt of American Rescue Plan Act monies, the City of Moorpark has been working to enhance the availability of mental health and other preventative health services to support families. Staff from the City has engaged in numerous meetings with the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department, local services providers and law enforcement on expanding accessibility for these services. These conversations and the information transmitted between the City and various agencies has proven to be invaluable in development of a comprehensive approach to community wellness.

There is also a desire among Moorpark residents to provide these services locally. Every two years in advance of the biennial Goal Setting Process with the City Council, the City participates in the National Community Survey (NCS). This information is used to assist inform Council and staff with community priorities as identified by residents. There were two custom questions included in the 2022 survey related to mental health services. The questions were selected to garner additional input into the need for and type of service needed in the city following the pandemic. It is widely known from research and studies that the COVID-19 crisis precautions introduced, coupled with the fear of medical emergencies and continuous anxiety about the prolonged nature of the crisis, impacted the number of people suffering from mental health concerns across the US.

The survey found that 78% of Moorpark residents believed that suicide prevention is very important or essential, and 70% of Moorpark residents believed that crisis intervention is very important or essential. These figures indicate high demand for services and demonstrate the need for greater accessibility of services in Eastern Ventura County.

Therefore, the City of Moorpark urges the Board of Supervisors to site a Family Justice Center in the East County to provide greater accessibility to East County residents who are often faced with challenges and obstacles to obtaining these vital services in other parts of the County. The East County region contains nearly one third of the County's population, and having such a Center in Moorpark would not only support Moorpark residents, but all residents of the East County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris R. Enegren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris R. Enegren
Mayor

cc: City Council
City Manager