



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

August 29, 2023

Dr. Sevet Johnson
County Executive Officer
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: East County Family Justice Center Timeline

Dear Dr. Johnson:

We would like to again thank you and the Board of Supervisors for your ongoing support of victims and survivors in Ventura County. Your approval of the new Staff Services Manager II position has allowed our office to move forward with the planning and development of the East County Family Justice Center (ECFJC), which will improve access to services by removing barriers and bringing services closer to the families that need them. Based on her 18 years of experience in the District Attorney's Office, her passion for helping victims, and her strong knowledge of FJC partnerships, we have selected Christine Mitchell to fill this critical role.

In accordance with the directive from the Board of Supervisors on May 23, 2023, please see the attached initial timeline for the ECFJC. As discussed in my letter dated May 15, 2023, the development of a Family Justice Center takes an extensive amount of strategic planning, hard work, and collaboration with stakeholders in the communities we serve. For example, the Ventura FJC took almost four years from planning to opening, and Oxnard FJC is anticipated to follow a similar timeline of over three years. The timeline proposed here incorporates these same components and is grounded in a methodical, cooperative, and constructive approach developed by the internationally renowned FJC experts, Alliance for HOPE International.

Phase 1– Community Buy-In

During this initial phase, the primary goal is to network with communities, including conducting community forums and study tours with our local elected officials, law enforcement leaders, community leaders, survivors, advocates, and other policy makers. As evidenced by the number of letters submitted to you, our east county communities are very supportive of this endeavor. We look forward to working together during this critical stage to share information and lay the groundwork for a successful ECFJC.

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Phase 2 – Development

At this stage, the focus is on establishing work groups in our east county communities focusing on:

- Partnerships and Accessibility;
- Community Engagement, Outreach, Volunteers, and Education;
- Funding and Sustainability and;
- Research, Data, and Evaluation.

Once the initial information has been analyzed, the strategic planning process will take place, bringing all stakeholders together to collaborate and finalize the development process.

Phase 3 – Recommendations

Following the analysis of all the information, including partnerships and locations, the strategic plan and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Supervisors and CEO for approval.

Phase 4 – Opening

We will be in a better position to provide a target opening date once we have more information from the initial stages of the process. As stated previously, the Ventura FJC and Oxnard FJC were years in the making. While we are optimistic that we can shorten the timeline for the ECFJC's development, unforeseen obstacles, successful property acquisition, and identifying sustainable funding streams, are all variables that will determine the project's ultimate timeline. We are dedicated to remaining focused on the process, and ensuring all stakeholders work together to achieve our common goal.

Sincerely,



ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

EN:cm

cc: Board of Supervisors
Mike Pettit

Attachment

TIMELINE



East County Family Justice Center



Goal - Establish a Collaborative and Sustainable Family Justice Center that Brings Services to Victims and Survivors in Our East County Communities

