



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY OF DALY CITY

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DALY CITY, CA 94015-1895
(650) 991-8125

April 22, 2013

Honorable Raymond C. Miller
Mayor, City of Brisbane
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005

Dear Mayor Miller,

RE: Resolution Objecting to Reduced Services and Possible Closure of Northern District Courthouse in South San Francisco

Recently, the Daly City Council passed a resolution objecting to the reduced services and possible closure of the South San Francisco courthouse. Due to severe budget cuts, the Court has found it necessary to reduce court hours and move services to the Southern District Courthouse in Redwood City.

We are concerned that the South San Francisco courthouse may eventually be closed entirely. This result would have a devastating effect on our city government, services to the community, and citizen justice. We have outlined our concerns in the attached resolution. We urge your city to pass a similar resolution immediately.

Since 1997 the Courts have been funded by the State of California. In 2007, the court had 305 employees at full staff and 12 million in reserves. The court calendars were current with no significant backlogs. Today, there are 180 employees, only 1.2 million in reserves, an inadequate workforce, and a backlog of cases.

Given the budget constraints, the following actions were recently undertaken by the Court:

1. Moved the Complex Litigation cases from San Mateo Courthouse to Redwood City Courthouse
2. Moved traffic and small claims from South San Francisco Courthouse to Redwood City Courthouse
3. Moved family law and civil clerk to Redwood City Courthouse
4. Reduced Self Help Center
5. Reduced Court Reporter Services
6. Reduced Traffic Arraignment Calendars from 12 to 5 per week.

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in South San Francisco

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By July 2013, the Court will:

1. Eliminate all but 2 Commissioners
2. Close the South San Francisco Clerk's Office
3. Reduce the number of judges in South San Francisco from 4 to 2.
4. Eliminate all misdemeanor cases in SSF, thus eliminating pre-trial conferences and jury trials in the South San Francisco Courthouse
5. Eliminate all Superior Court reviews in SSF
6. Conduct only preliminary hearings in SSF.

For now, the decision was made not to close the South San Francisco courthouse. The hope is that with the reduction of employees/court hours, and the consolidation of services to Redwood City, there will be enough cuts to sustain limited operations in the SSF Courthouse.

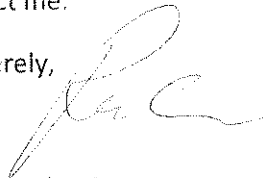
We cannot rely on a hope that things will get better and assume that the South San Francisco will remain open. We must act now and voice our objections to any possible talk of closure. We therefore ask that your City Council draft a resolution similar to ours (see attached).

We suggest you take the following positions:

1. Object to any further reduction in court services
2. Object to any scenario which could force the closure of the SSF courthouse
3. Urge our legislatures to support funding for the courts
4. Urge the Governor to support funding for courts
5. Detail the hardships and consequences our citizens face in offering limited services and consequences of closing the courthouse.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Raymond A. Buenaventura
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: Daly City Council

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALY CITY
OPPOSING THE SUSPENSION OF THE MAJORITY OF SERVICES AT THE SUPERIOR
COURT LOCATED IN SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA,
AND OPPOSING ANY FURTHER BUDGET REDUCTIONS TO THE COURTS

WHEREAS, the State of California trial courts have suffered unprecedented budget cuts of more than \$1 billion over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, to date, the San Mateo Superior Court has reduced its workforce by more than 30 percent, reduced clerk's office and phone hours, consolidated traffic and small claims clerk's offices, traffic arraignments, family law hearings and the complex litigation court to Redwood City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Daly City has been informed that the South San Francisco courthouse which presently services the greater part of northern San Mateo County may suffer a suspension of the majority of court services as early as July 2013 as part of ongoing cost reduction measures; and

WHEREAS, the proposed suspension of services at the Northern Branch courthouse in South San Francisco shall include a dramatic reduction in services with only two judges remaining to conduct preliminary hearings; and

WHEREAS, the City of Daly City is extremely concerned about the negative effects the proposed suspension of services will have on the northern county community including, but not limited to:

1. Reduced access to the judicial system for community residents.
2. Transportation hardship for the northern county community especially for the population receiving government assistance and those with no public transportation for accessing court services.
3. Increased costs for public safety personnel to include overtime cost, fuel cost, vehicle maintenance cost and loss of productivity.
4. The impact on the mutual cooperation and coordination between public safety personnel and the District Attorney's office and court judges.
5. The hardship and inconvenience for victims and/or witnesses and the impact it will have on prosecuting cases.
6. The impact on domestic violence court services, which include the ability to attend court to obtain restraining orders and inability of service organizations to provide funds for services in court that, are outside of the community.
7. The impact on local attorneys.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Daly City, that it does hereby oppose the suspension of the majority of services at the superior court located in South San Francisco and opposes any further budget reductions to the courts.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALY CITY
OPPOSING THE SUSPENSION OF THE MAJORITY OF SERVICES AT THE SUPERIOR
COURT LOCATED IN SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA,
AND OPPOSING ANY FURTHER BUDGET REDUCTIONS TO THE COURTS

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the City Council of Daly City, California, at a regular meeting hereof held on the 25th day of March, 2013, by the following vote of the members thereof:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Councilmembers: Guingona, Klatt, Torres, Buenaventura

NOES, Councilmembers: None

ABSENT: Councilmembers: Canepa

K. Annette Dipana
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF DALY CITY

APPROVED:

RAYMOND A. BUENAVENTURA
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DALY CITY