



Yavapai County

Our Mission: "Yavapai County will serve and protect its citizens through efficient management of all its resources to enhance the lives of those we serve."

For Immediate Release

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Court Rejects Request to Stop County's Justice Center Project

On September 9, 2020, the Honorable Thomas K. Kelly issued an Order denying the request for a Temporary Restraining Order on the construction of Yavapai County's Criminal Justice Center.

This action was in response to a citizen filing a complaint & emergency motion for preliminary injunction on September 3, 2020, asking the court to halt the County's construction of the Criminal Justice Center Project in Prescott claiming environmental issues were not addressed by the County.

The citizen had filed a notice of claim on August 17, 2020, offering to not file a lawsuit if the County paid the claimant \$100,000 as a settlement.

Before breaking ground, the County had an Environmental Site Assessment completed on the project site, and as recently as September 3, 2020 passed a project site inspection by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The ADEQ inspection was initiated based on a complaint to the Department submitted by the same individual that filed a lawsuit on the project.

The Environmental Site Assessment and ADEQ's project site inspection report are available on the project website at YavapaiJustice.com.

As early as 2003 the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors identified the property on Prescott Lakes Parkway as the future site for the Yavapai County Justice Center. The property was jointly owned by the City of Prescott and Yavapai County, and in 2007 the County acquired the City's interest in the property in exchange for the County's Rodeo Grounds property.

Since 2013 the jail population in the Camp Verde jail has regularly exceeded capacity of the facility. In 2016 a Jail Planning Study (the Chinn Report) was commissioned and recommended, among many things, that Yavapai County construct a Criminal Justice Center with jail and court components in Prescott. Beginning in 2019 the County began design of the project and a construction contract was approved in August of 2020.



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Yavapai County Board of Supervisors Chairman Craig Brown said, "I am proud of the work this Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff, and every department has contributed to this project. Yavapai County hired top notch professionals to assist the County with the planning, design and construction of the Justice Center Project. The County and our team of professionals have been working hard to insure this project meets the needs of our public safety partners and protects the health, safety and welfare of our County residents. I was very pleased to see the Court reject this request to stop our project. We have worked hard to comply with all regulations and requirements on our project and are proud of our project team's diligent effort."

Yavapai County Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairman Randy Garrison said, "The new Justice Center, currently under construction in Prescott, is important to the safety and wellbeing of our local law enforcement as well as every citizen in Yavapai County. Removing the holding and booking of dangerous criminals from downtown Prescott is the smart thing to do and I strongly support this project. I am glad to see we have prevailed successfully from this unwarranted attack."

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For information about Yavapai County Community Health Services or food recalls, please contact David McAtee at 928-442-5509 or email David.McAtee@yavapai.us. Or visit www.Yavapai.us



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