



COUNTY of VENTURA

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County of Ventura purchases Oxnard building for future home of the Carmen Ramirez Family Justice Center

OXNARD, Calif. – The County of Ventura has entered into an agreement to purchase a building in downtown Oxnard, which will serve as the future home of the Carmen Ramirez Family Justice Center.

The two-story, 32,000-square-foot building, located at 555/545 South A Street, is anticipated to be purchased for \$4.1 million contingent upon an environmental review, Board of Supervisors approval, and the completion of a 30-day escrow. Situated near transit and city services, this location will provide outreach and support services to victims of crime in the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

“Underserved families of the Fifth District deserve a safe and welcoming space where they can receive support services to help improve their lives,” Ventura County Supervisor Vianey Lopez said. “I want to thank District Attorney Erik Nasarenko, Chief Deputy District Attorney Mike Jump, and the entire District Attorney’s Office for their hard work in making this happen. Opening a Family Justice Center in Oxnard was the vision of my predecessor, and dear friend, Carmen Ramirez who saw the need for such services in our community and was working hard to make it a reality. As a former Councilmember in Oxnard, I supported the city’s commitment to the Family Justice Center and I am pleased to further my support now, as Supervisor.”

The new Family Justice Center will be named after the late Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, who was the consummate fighter for crime victims and marginalized Oxnard residents. During her decades of public service, Ramirez recognized that undocumented, migrant field workers, and the region’s residents of Mixtec and indigenous descent were especially susceptible to being victimized. Oftentimes, cultural and linguistic barriers prevented these residents from reporting crimes and receiving the justice and services they deserve.

“In recognition of Carmen and the communities she loved and served, I am pleased to name the Family Justice Center in her honor,” said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. “This will serve as a lasting and enduring tribute to her decades of work improving the lives of Oxnard residents, especially those who have been victimized by crime.”

The Family Justice Center, a resource administered by the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office, is a community support system that uses a holistic approach to uplift and empower victims and their families. The Ventura County Family Justice Center offers a comprehensive selection of services to Ventura County residents seeking a safe environment to recover, heal, and break the cycle of violence.



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The Carmen Ramirez Family Justice Center will be the second crime victims support services center opened in the county.

Oxnard Police Chief Jason Benites commented, "We applaud this. The future opening of a Family Justice Center in Oxnard will be of great benefit to our community. Located in central Oxnard, close to the police department headquarters, as well as public transportation services, it will provide increased accessibility of services to those in need. We are especially looking forward to the assemblage of service providers, and continued partnerships with them."

Since 2019, when the Ventura County Family Justice Center opened, 33 percent of all clients seeking services have been from Oxnard. The creation of a second Family Justice Center in Oxnard will be an important resource to improve access to justice for underserved victims with wraparound services under one roof. The project is a collaboration between the City of Oxnard, the County of Ventura, and the Ventura County District Attorney's Office.

More information about the work being done by the Ventura County Family Justice Center can be found at www.vcfjc.org.

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