

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 27, 2023

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EQUITABLE ACCESS TO JUSTICE PILOT PROJECT TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED TRANSPORTATION FOR JURORS WHO LACK ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION TO COURT

Fairfield, California – Wendy G. Getty, the Presiding Judge for the Solano County Superior Court, and Steve Young, Chair, Solano Transportation Authority (STA) Board, and Mayor of the City of Benicia, are pleased to announce the Equitable Access to Justice pilot project.

The Equitable Access to Justice pilot project is a program designed to expand access to the court by providing jurors and prospective jurors who do not have access to transportation or cannot afford transportation with fully-funded transportation subsidies within Solano County. The pilot project also provides additional funding to support participants in specialty or collaborative courts with transportation to court and treatment.

An estimated 20 percent of prospective jurors are excused from jury service based upon a lack of access to transportation or the inability to afford transportation. The Equitable Access to Justice program will issue fully-funded vouchers. The vouchers are “geo-fenced,” meaning the vouchers can be utilized solely for the purpose of transport between home and the court. For specialty court participants, vouchers can only be used between home and court or treatment.

Judge Getty commented: “The Equitable Access to Justice pilot project is the first of its kind in California. Our goal is to remove barriers for citizens in our community to participate in jury service based on lack of access to transportation. We will be successful when we have zero jurors excused because they cannot afford a car, gas or to take the bus or multiple buses to timely reach court. Our specialty court participants will have a greater opportunity at success by removing transportation barriers. I am grateful to the Solano Transportation Authority and the Solano County Board of Supervisors for their willingness to pursue an innovative transportation program to promote equity in justice. A special thanks to Metropolitan Transportation Commissioner, Jim Sperring who helped to shepherd the project.”

STA Board Chair and City of Benicia Mayor, Steve Young says, “the Solano Transportation Authority looks forward to partnering with Judge Getty and the Solano Superior Court on this innovative effort to make it easier for lower income Solano residents to meet their court obligations.”

In addition to the voucher system, the Solano Transportation Authority will be assisting the court to increase mobility to court for all users, including linking the Solano Transportation Authority’s

mobility website to the court's website and creating pamphlets which identify routing to the court's Fairfield and Vallejo sites. Court participants who are unfamiliar with accessing public transportation to attend court can request mobility assistance from the Solano Transportation Authority's Solano Mobility Call Center at 1-800-535-6883.

The Equitable Access to Justice pilot project commences July 1. Prospective and sworn jurors who believe they qualify for this resource should contact Jury Services by telephone at (707) 207-7350 or email at courtjury@solano.courts.ca.gov.