

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Dallas Opens New Community Court *West Dallas location second in city, one of a handful nationwide*

DALLAS—The City of Dallas opened its second Community Court at 2 p.m. CST today, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008, at the West Dallas Multipurpose Center (2828 Fish Trapp Road). The West Dallas community court is the second in Dallas, and one of about 30 nationwide. Daniel F. Solis has been named the court's judge.

Community courts offer lower level, Class C misdemeanor offenders the option of community service rather than fines to help restore neighborhoods victimized by crime. Examples of Class C misdemeanors include pedestrian and alcohol violations, sleeping in public, and similar "quality of life" crimes.

Dallas community courts manager Dianne Gibson says community courts offer offenders a chance to make restitution to the neighborhoods they have victimized and lowers the chances for recidivism. "Those sentenced in community courts not only have the opportunity to participate in free drug and alcohol treatment programs, and job training and placement assistance, but they can also receive food and transportation vouchers," Gibson says.

Community courts are a program of the Community Advocacy Division of the Dallas City Attorney's Office, one of the largest municipal legal departments in the nation. The City Attorney's Office is headed by City Attorney Tom Perkins and serves as general counsel for the City of Dallas, providing transactional, advisory, and litigation services. For more information on community courts in Dallas, visit www.dallascityattorney.com or call 214-671-0211.

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