NEWS
From the Office of

James Ramos

Third District Supervisor, San Bernardino County

Supervisor Ramos and Lovingood to hold meeting to discuss Big Bear/Barstow/Needles Court Closures

Within one week of taking office, Supervisor Ramos learned of the planned closures of the Big Bear, Barstow, and Needles courthouses. Due to budget cuts at the State level, these courthouses are scheduled to close in May. Although the courts are funded by the State of California, Supervisor Ramos immediately began looking into what the County can do to mitigate the impact of these closures.

Supervisor Ramos and Supervisor Lovingood have put together a meeting with local court officials and other principals of the judicial system to discuss possible solutions. Those attending this January 31st closed meeting will include **representatives from the District Attorney's office, the Public Defend**er**'s office**, the San Bernardino County Bar Association, the High Desert Bar Association, the Court Executive Officer, and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County.

Some of the proposed ideas to be discussed include transportation and technological solutions as well as working with our state legislative delegation to fix the inequitable funding of our courts at the State level.

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Closures of these courts will create additional burdens for residents who will have to travel greater distances in order to take care of court business. The Big Bear and Barstow courthouses are located in the 3rd Supervisorial District and the Needles courthouse is located in the 1st District. Supervisor Ra**mos feels "**it is imperative for all citizens to have easy accessibility to our judicial system and that is a primary responsibility **of government to provide." His** hope is to deliver some relief for the residents impacted by these closures.

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