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For Immediate Release

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Domestic Violence Victims Helped by New East County Family Justice Center

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#), San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob and San Diego County Undersheriff Bill Gore today announced the opening of an East County [Family Justice Center](#) that is the result of an 18-month planning process, led by former Special Assistant to the District Attorney Casey Gwinn. The East County Family Justice Center is the third of-its-kind in San Diego County and will offer a broad cross-section of services in one location for victims of domestic violence and their children.

“This is an important ‘one-stop shop’ for victims of domestic violence and their families,” said DA Dumanis. “This new facility will allow victims to see a doctor, get a restraining order, talk to a chaplain, develop a safety plan, get a cell phone, get help for their children, interview with a detective, meet with an advocate, or sit down with a prosecutor—all in one location.”

The East County Family Justice Center planning process included community forums; focus groups with service providers, victims, and survivors; and confidential interviews with East County victims and offenders. More than 40 agencies participated in the process.

“The first Family Justice Center started right here in San Diego and soon became a national model,” said Supervisor Jacob. “It’s important that these life-saving services are now available to residents in the East County.”

“Each year, more than 3,000 domestic violence incidents are reported in San Diego’s East County area,” said Undersheriff Gore. “National research shows that for every reported case there are two more that are not reported.”

The grand opening ceremony included the unveiling of the center’s first domestic violence poster, created by the Operation for Hope Foundation and highlighting professional skateboarder [Tony Hawk](#). Hawk is committed to calling attention to the issue of domestic violence and using his influence to make a difference in the community. Thousands of the posters will be distributed at locations that include schools, Boys and Girls Clubs and business storefronts to create awareness of resources available at the East County Family Justice Center.

East County Family Justice Center programs will be coordinated by the Center for Community Solutions. It will initially involve co-located services from nine agencies with the goal of ultimately growing to more than 20 agencies with staff onsite. The Center is located at 131 Avocado Avenue, El Cajon, CA. The phone number is (619) 456-9609. The Center for Community Solutions domestic violence hotline is 888-DV-LINKS.

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