Superior Court of Arizona

Pinal County

DATE: February 26, 2025

TO: Pinal County Board of Supervisors
Leo Lew, County Manager

FROM: Todd D. Zweig, Superior Court Administrator
Jeanne Brandner, Director, Juvenile Court Services

SUBJECT: Juvenile Court Complex

Pinal County Juvenile Court Complex, as proposed, is a new standalone facility that reimagines the approach to how a facility should be operated for youth, parents/guardians, system and stakeholders. The facility would include consistent and improved spaces (flexible and adaptive), support for future technology and growth, the use of best practices and lessons learned, and an environment that includes comfort and security.

THE WHO: Juvenile Court Services, Clerk of the Court, County Attorney, Public Defender, Court Security, Judicial Officers and Stakeholders.

THE WHY: A physically separate juvenile court complex—distinct from adult criminal courts—offers several unique benefits that contribute to a more effective and supportive system for youth and their families as they maneuver the dependency, delinquency and guardianship systems. These advantages go beyond the general principles of separate systems and focus on the specific impact of physical separation and longevity of the current superior court complex that will be predominantly used for adult matters. The creation of a Juvenile Court Complex gives opportunity to creating an age-appropriate environment to accommodate the unique needs of young people. With a physical space dedicated exclusively to juvenile cases, the court system can be more specialized and better equipped to address the developmental, psychological, and social factors that affect young people. It also ensures that staff—including judges, attorneys, and court officers—are focused entirely on juvenile issues, improving outcomes. A dedicated juvenile court complex can house a variety of support services that go beyond the courtroom, such as counseling, education programs, family mediation, or social work services. These can all be integrated into the court process and easily accessible in the same location, creating a more comprehensive approach to working with youth. The Juvenile Court Complex will also be near the Juvenile Detention Center which would allow youth to be brought to court via a secure corridor and eliminate the need for transportation.

Thank you for your consideration.

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