



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

MICHAEL G. BOWMAN
PRESIDING JUDGE
DEPARTMENT 47

June 29, 2023

720 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 874-5487

VIA E-MAIL

Mayor Darrell Steinberg
Sacramento City Hall
916 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
MDSteinberg@cityofsacramento.org

Mayor Steinberg and members of the Sacramento City Council,

I write to you today about disheartening conditions surrounding the Court's facilities here in downtown Sacramento, and the growing number of encounters between the unsheltered, members of the public who are compelled to appear in our courtrooms, and our employees.

These daily incidents include, but are not limited to, physical and verbal assault, public sex acts, open fires, nudity, urinating and defecating on walkways. Court security removes unsheltered individuals, who have no business with the court, from the Main Courthouse daily and our facilities team must regularly remove feces and other waste from our entryways and grounds.

Each week, the Court processes thousands of criminal cases and holds hundreds of civil hearings as well as Family Law and Unlawful Detainer trials. More than a thousand people also utilize the Court's self-help and other services each week.

The Court's responsibility is access to justice. And yet, each day, there is growing concern that the conditions surrounding our facilities prevent just that. When coming to court is a trial itself for victims, witnesses or even jurors – access to justice is threatened. So, too, is public service when our employees' fear for their own safety prevents them from leaving our buildings to go for a walk or supporting local businesses by having lunch with a colleague or shopping the farmers market.

On behalf of the Court, the thousands of people who use our services and our 416 downtown employees, I respectfully request the Sacramento Police Department increase its presence near our downtown court locations, jury and employee parking lots, and that code violations be enforced. More importantly, it is my hope that the burgeoning unsheltered population surrounding the Court be connected with the services and support they so desperately need.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Bowman, Presiding Judge
Sacramento Superior Court

cc:

Sacramento City Council
Sacramento City Manager Howard Chan
Sacramento Police Chief Kathy Lester