

COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695 www.YoloCounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 25, 2023 Contact: Dwight Coddington Email: <u>PIO@YoloCounty.org</u> Phone: (530) 908-0186

Snack Drive to Benefit Public Defender and Probation Clients

(Woodland, CA) - The Yolo County Public Defender's Office and Probation Department are partnering on a snack drive to build non-perishable, ready-to-eat food pantries in their offices to benefit their shared clients.

This snack drive is intended to boost the availability of accessible, shelf-stable snacks to assist both Public Defender and Probation clients who struggle with food insecurity. These clients, who are also frequently unhoused, often benefit from immediate, packable and non-perishable food items that are ready-to-eat or can be stored for longer periods of time without the need for any preparation. With the community's support, food insecurity can be one less barrier for those within the justice system.

"The Probation Department is committed to helping our clients, shared with the Public Defender's Office, to succeed," said Chief Probation Officer Dan Fruchtenicht. "As one can imagine, that's especially challenging when one is unhoused. Please help us help this unique population on their way to success."

"Many of our clients struggle with food insecurity, and when a person hasn't eaten all day, it can be difficult to have critical conversations about their case," explained Chief Mitigation Specialist Emily Kochly with the Public Defender's Office. "The aim of this food drive is to provide for people's immediate needs and help them feel more secure so they can engage with their attorney or probation officer and make steps towards resolving their case."

"Mother Teresa famously said that if you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one," reflected Chief Public Defender Tracie Olson. "If each member of our community agreed to feed just one person, what a wonderful thing it would be."

The following locations in Woodland and West Sacramento are now available to receive donations:

Public Defender's Office:

• 814 North Street in Woodland; Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.; and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Probation Offices:

• 725 Court Street in Woodland; Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

• 500 A Jefferson Blvd, Suite 100 in West Sacramento; Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

For pick-up, call: (530) 406-5334 or (530) 406-4576

Both the Yolo County Public Defender and Probation offices extend their gratitude to the Yolo County community in stepping up in times of need to support their fellow community members.

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Attachment: Snack Drive Flyer