

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: October 25, 2021

SBSC RESOLVES 165 CASES FOR VETERANS AND THE HOMELESS

SAN BERNARDINO, CA—San Bernardino Superior Court (SBSC) is proud to announce that it resolved 165 walk-in cases for veterans and the homeless at the Annual Stand Down outreach event held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at Perris Hill Park in San Bernardino.

Shelter Court Judge Ingrid A. Uhler and Collaborative Courts Commissioner Ronald J. Gilbert, along with their courtroom staff, district attorneys, public defenders, and sheriff's personnel, set up court remotely to assist veterans and the homeless with their pending cases. Over 60 walk-in veterans and homeless, totaling 165 cases involving misdemeanor and infraction offenses, were heard in court and their cases resolved.

Courts often serve as a center of social justice and see many individuals who are in crisis. Problem-solving courts, such as Shelter Court and Veteran's Court, offer alternatives to traditional plea structures and coordinate rehabilitative services to better lives. By acknowledging efforts made by individuals, problem-solving courts offer alternatives to sentencing. These include but are not limited to, taking classes on life skills, computers, literacy, career training, medical care, and attending chemical dependency classes such as AA/NA meetings and counseling services. Alternative sentencing is designed to address the underlying causes of homelessness and acknowledge efforts to make positive changes and reduce recidivism.

The Veterans Stand Down and Homeless Outreach event is hosted every year by the Reaching New Heights Foundation, a non-profit veteran organization designed to support Inland Empire veterans and provide the much-needed resources to the homeless within our community. For more information on the Stand Down event, visit <u>www.standdownvet.com</u>.

For media-related inquiries, please contact Julie Van Hook, Communications and Public Affairs Officer at <u>courts-pio@sb-court.org</u>.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO 247 West Third Street, 11th Floor San Bernardino, Ca 92415-0302 <u>www.sb-court.org</u>

909-708-8747

Michael A. Sachs Presiding Judge

Nancy CS Eberhardt Court Executive Officer