



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF SOLANO**

**BENICIA POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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Date of Release: November 9, 2017

Re: Neighborhood Court – City of Benicia

The Solano County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Benicia Police Department, is proud to announce that applications are now being accepted for Volunteer Panelists and Facilitators for the City of Benicia's Neighborhood Court Program.

The Neighborhood Court Program is a Restorative Justice Program initiated by Solano County District Attorney's Office in cooperation with Benicia Police Department and City of Benicia that is designed to address low level crimes (misdemeanors and infractions) through community based solutions to swiftly address the harm caused by the offense, while resolving the case outside of the criminal justice system. The program focuses on the harm done to not only an individual but to the community as a whole and focuses on repairing them.

We are seeking a diverse group of problem solving and fair minded people from the community to serve as Facilitators and Panelists in the Neighborhood Court program. A Facilitator serves as the leader of the conference and guides the participants through a step-by-step restorative process. A Panelist assists the Facilitator in representing the community's needs, interests, and perspectives with respect to the crime that has been committed and decides as a group, along with the other Panelists and the Offender, the steps necessary to make things right.

To qualify as a Volunteer Facilitator or Panelist, you must be at least:

- 18 years old
- Reside or work in Benicia for the past 2 years
- Have the ability to work with others to solve problems
- Commit to work in the program for at least one year
- Have no felony convictions or recent misdemeanor convictions

Neighborhood Court will meet 1-2 times per month and Facilitators and Panelists will be required to complete a 1-2 day training in Restorative Justice prior to entering the program.

Interested applicants can visit [www.ci.benicia.ca.us/police](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/police) for more information and to download a copy of the application. Completed applications can be submitted to the District Attorney's Office or Benicia Police Department and will be due **no later than December 1, 2017**. You can also fax your application to (707) 784-7986 or email it to [dacepu@solanocounty.com](mailto:dacepu@solanocounty.com).