



**Mission**: To create initiatives focused on preventative, restorative and diversionary justice centered around the concept that, "Justice does NOT stop at the courthouse steps!!"<sup>TM</sup>

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 8, 2019

**Vision**: Charged to do all it can to help break the playground to prison pipeline; to restore and rehabilitate lives by using its power and resources to move the needle for marginalized people.

## For more information please contact: Judge Rachel L. Bell, Founder & Presiding Judge Office: 615-862-8341 Email: musiccitycommunitycourt@jis.nashville.org

## The General Sessions Music City Community Court, Division VIII (8), has found a home and designated space in Zip Code 37208.

Nashville, TN, November 8, 2019- Using the Red Hook Community Justice Center and Red Hook Community Court in New York as a model, Judge Rachel L. Bell has created the Bordeaux North Community Justice Center in partnership with the C.E. McGruder Family Resource Center. Judge Bell shared, "In my research many of the Community Courts and Community Centers were created first and then had to add wrap-around services for the participants. With the Bordeaux North Community Justice Center we are inserting our Court into the C.E. McGruder Family Resource the wrap-around services are already here. This is a win-win for everyone."

The General Sessions Music City Community Court, Division VIII (8), is the First Community Court in the State of TN and since its inception in 2012 has assisted over 11,488 in gaining access on the method to get their record expunged, restoring voters rights, re-instating driver's licenses and helping individuals gain access to housing and jobs. Historically those services were rendered on Saturday Community Service Return Dockets, Saturday Expungement Clinics, Indigency Dockets & Resource Fairs in various locations in Davidson County, with the new partnership, in 2020, the Saturday Court Dockets will be housed in the same space, building consistency. In addition, various Division VIII (8), General Sessions Court Dockets and Cases will be held at the Bordeaux North Community Justice Center which will be in Room 23 of the McGruder Family Resource Center. The C.A.R.E. (Creating Avenues for Restoration & Empowerment) Diversionary Court for Ages 18-30 will also launch using this space.

"We are thrilled to have the Music City Community Court at McGruder Family Resource Center. Community members will now be able to find justice in their community. It is more to a person than their mistakes and this court will look at the whole person. The McGruder Center is skilled in meeting people where they are, providing the community with a one-stop shop for resources and services that assist individuals and families." – Alisha Haddock, Center Director.

Please join us this Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. to learn more about the General Sessions Music City Community Court and the birth of the Bordeaux North Community Justice Center which will be in Room 23 at the C.E. McGruder Family Resource Center, 2013 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37208. Also please register on Eventbrite for one (1) of the four (4) 37208 Focus Group Sessions that will be held on <u>Saturday, November 16,</u> 2019. We want to hear from the community!!

Stay connected by visiting: gscourt.nashville.gov/community-court/