



Management of Juvenile Detention Home Moves from Court to Board of County Commissioners

The Office of Juvenile Affairs and Board of County Commissioners Had Discussed Shared Lack of Confidence in Leadership of Juvenile Bureau to Address Problems That Threaten Closure of the Juvenile Detention Home

TULSA, Okla. (July 19, 2024) – The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Tulsa acted today to assume management of the Tulsa County Juvenile Justice Detention Home with the full support of the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs.

The immediate shift in responsibility comes after more than 50 years with the Juvenile Detention Home being operated and managed by the Tulsa Juvenile Bureau of the District Court, under the supervision of the Chief Judge of the Juvenile Division. Last week, OJA said it was prepared to close the Detention Home on July 31 absent significant operational improvements.

OJA representatives met with County Officials on Monday, July 15, and suggested immediate management changes. Discussion centered on the immediate takeover of management of the Detention Home by the BOCC.

Although the Juvenile Bureau has managed the Juvenile Detention Home effectively for more than five decades, it has deteriorated under the recent administration. OJA has been engaged with the Juvenile Bureau for more than two years to improve operations of the home, but the level of improvement has not been adequate. The Board of County Commissioners has accepted the challenge to take over management of the Juvenile Detention Home.

At the July 15 meeting with the OJA, several individuals were identified who could possibly assist with the day-to-day management and improvements needed at the Juvenile Detention Home. David Parker was one individual identified. Parker was previously the Jail Administrator at David L. Moss for four years and has more than 30 years' experience in the detention field. David Parker expressed an interest in assisting Tulsa County with the management of Juvenile Detention Home. The management changes will go into effect immediately following the BOCC approval.

To ensure there is no disruption to the level of care provided detainees housed at the Juvenile Detention Home, the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office is assisting by providing supplemental detention staffing as needed. A thorough review of staffing and resources is ongoing.

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