

SUPREME COURT
No. 2013-05

EXECUTIVE ORDER

In accordance with the authority granted to the Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court pursuant to G.L. 1956 §§ 8-15-2 and 8-15-4, it is hereby ordered as follows:

The cellblock of the Florence K. Murray Judicial Complex, located at 45 Washington Square in Newport shall be closed for renovations and repairs commencing on May 1, 2013 and continuing through August 31, 2013 and until further notice. The cellblock will be inoperable for the duration of this renovation period, therefore the Superior, District and Family Courts are hereby directed to relocate any and all pending criminal and juvenile matters during the renovation period and any other matters which may be deemed necessary by the respective courts.

Entered as an Executive Order of the Chief Justice of this Court this 17th day of April 2013.

BY ORDER:

/s/
Paul A. Suttell
Chief Justice

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT
CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUSTICE PAUL A. TUTTLE



MEMO

TO: Distribution List
FROM: Chief Justice Paul A. Tuttle
DATE: April 17, 2013
SUBJECT: Cellblock Restoration at Murray Judicial Complex

Please be advised the Rhode Island Judiciary is preparing to undertake a demolition and reconstruction of the cellblock at the Murray Judicial Complex in Newport. This project is set to begin on May 1, 2013 and be completed by August 31, 2013. This project is long overdue and will address longstanding cellblock deficiencies within this courthouse. The reconstructed cellblock will significantly enhance the health and safety of those who work in, visit, and attend court sessions within this facility.

There will be some calendar schedule changes required during the project in order to accommodate prisoner holding and detention requirements. With the cooperation of the Newport Police Department, we will be able to use some of their cellblock space as interim "holding cells" for prisoners and incarcerated individuals, as the need arises.

All civil matters will continue to be heard in Newport on a regularly scheduled basis. However, some criminal matters in Superior and District Court as well as Juvenile cases in Family Court will be shifted to Kent County and Washington County for hearing.

Emergency matters as well as overnight holds from police departments in Newport County will continue to be heard at the Murray Complex on a regular basis. Those individuals brought in each day by the respective police departments of Newport County, shall be dropped off to Sheriffs stationed at the Newport Police Station, whereupon they will be shuttled to and from the courthouse for their hearing by members of the Sheriffs' Department. For any individuals ordered held, the Sheriffs will transport said individuals to the ACI in Cranston.

Court calendar venues during this project will be as follows:

Superior Court-all Newport County Superior Court scheduled criminal proceedings will be heard in Washington County Superior Court and will be presided over by Justice Melanie Wilk Thunberg. Emergency matters, drop-offs, and walk-in warrants will be heard in Newport County Superior Court during this time period. However, any defendant picked up on a cost and/or a restitution warrant must be transported to Providence Superior Court and be heard before Magistrate Harwood.

Family Court-all Newport County matters scheduled for **Wednesdays** of each week, as well as emergencies brought before the Court on Wednesdays shall be heard in Washington County. On all other business days, all Newport County Family Court matters will continue to be heard in Newport County.

District Court-all Newport County District Court criminal proceedings scheduled for **Tuesdays** will be assigned to Kent County in **Courtroom 3C**. All Newport County District Court criminal emergency matters, drop-offs, and walk-in warrants will continue to be heard in Newport County throughout each day, with the exception of Tuesdays, where said matters will be heard in Newport at 2 p.m.

While we recognize this may be an inconvenience for some litigants, attorneys, and other stakeholders, we thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

cc: Presiding Justice Alice B. Gibney, Superior Court
Chief Judge Haiganush R. Bedrosian, Family Court
Chief Judge Jeanne E. LaFazia, District Court
Chief Judge George E. Healy, Jr., Workers' Compensation Court
Chief Magistrate William R. Guglietta, R.I. Traffic Tribunal
J. Joseph Baxter, Supreme Court
Joseph V. Conley, Superior Court
Ronald Pagliarini, Family Court
Kevin M. Spina, District Court
Maureen H. Aveno, Workers' Compensation Court
Thomas J. Laliberte, R.I. Traffic Tribunal
Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell, R.I. Department of Public Safety
Major Karen D. Pinch, R.I. Department of Public Safety
Lt. Timothy G. Sanzi, R.I. Department of Public Safety
Chief Joseph T. Little, Jr., Chief, R.I. Capitol Police
Chief David M. DeCesare, R.I. Division of Sheriffs
Gary T. Silva, Chief, Newport Police Department
Jeffrey R. Furtado, Acting Chief, Portsmouth Police Department
Thomas Blakey, Chief, Tiverton Police Department
Anthony Pesare, Chief, Middletown Police Department

Edward A. Mello, Chief, Jamestown Police Department

Sidney M. Wordell, Chief, Little Compton Police Department

Gerald J. Coyne, Deputy Attorney General

Mary S. McElroy, Public Defender

Ashbel T. Wall, II, Director, R.I. Department of Corrections

Chief John R. Desmarais, President, R.I. Police Chiefs Association

Janice E. DeFrances, Director, DCYF

Elizabeth V. Earls, Assistant Director, Rehabilitative Services,

Adult Probation

Michael R. McElroy, Esq., President, R.I. Bar Association

Joseph Cardin, Acting Superintendent, R.I. Training School

Members of R.I. Bar Association

Sharon Santilli, DHS, Child Support Services

Regina Costa, Child Advocate