

## COMMUNITY COURT PROGRAM

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The Community Court pilot program was enacted into law in 2013. The North Las Vegas Community Court held its first session in February 2014, starting with four participants. There are now 20 enrolled participants. Community Courts strive to stop crime before it starts, rather than merely responding to crime after it has occurred. By understanding that the community is also a victim, the court attempts to combat low-level offenses to avoid fostering an environment where serious crimes can thrive. Partners from the community first convened in March 2013 to plan for the implementation of the Community Court in Clark County. North Las Vegas was chosen based upon the community demographics, the court location, and proximity of the courthouse to surrounding resources.

“We are excited to bring the community court model to North Las Vegas”, said Judge Kalani Hoo, who presides over the program in his Department 1 courtroom. “Community courts around the country have proven effective in curbing recidivism and increasing offender accountability. By addressing the underlying issues that lead to criminal activity, offenders have an opportunity to create positive change in their lives and communities.”

Each participant has an individualized treatment plan that may include earning either a GED or high school diploma, participating in substance and mental health counseling, and seeking job training and referrals as needed. Offender accountability is increased by helping the offender see that their behaviors have an impact on the community as a whole, and are required to perform public service projects within the community that they have victimized.

North Las Vegas Community Court welcomes any assistance from members of the community. Local support and commitment will directly impact the success of this exciting endeavor.