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New Drop-in Center Off to a Good Start In Northeast D.C.

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D.C. Superior Court and District officials cut the ribbon to the new drop-in center for youth offenders in Northeast on Thurs. Oct. 13. Photo by Khalid Naji-Allah

The D.C. Superior Court Social Service Division's new Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Drop-In Center has opened for business just off of Rhode Island Avenue in the Northeast in the District.

BARJ is a multi-faceted facility, including a satellite probation supervision office, a learning lab and many other positive youth activities. The facility's targeted population includes Northeast youth, 12-18, who are either pre-trial, and would otherwise be detained, or are facing probation revocation. BARJ will expose youth to a number of activities, some of which include: tutoring, mentoring, education, peer mediation, and field trips.

"The opening of the Northeast BARJ Drop-In Center is the latest step the court has taken in addressing the needs of our city's youth," said Superior Court Chief

Judge Lee F. Satterfield during the grand opening ceremonies last month. "The Northeast BARJ will boost school attendance, help reduce recidivism and increase compliance with court-ordered conditions. It will prevent kids who aren't complying from having their probation revoked and being sent to secure detention."

Satterfield said the drop-in center offers an opportunity for good use of time from the end of the school day until the youth returns home.

"We want to help young men and women who are awaiting trial or facing probation revocation, and the services offered at the BARJ will do just that."

The Drop-In Center will be open Monday through Saturday and will serve court-supervised youth and their families.