

# SOUTHWEST DETROIT COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

## In Recent News

- Community Court receives a \$50,000 grant award!  
Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center is partnering with Michigan Legal Services to improve the quality of life in our community. This award from the City of Detroit Block Grant Program will enhance our community service projects and empower Community Court participants to continue improving the quality of life in Southwest Detroit through beautification and blight clean-ups.
- Community Court is currently accepting applications for the Community Advisory Committee. Applications will be accepted up until August 20, 2018. Applications are available in both Spanish and English. For additional information or to apply, please call our office!

Phone: (313) 879-2155  
Fax: (313) 879-6679  
E-mail: [info@swdcjc.com](mailto:info@swdcjc.com)  
Web: [www.swdcjc.com](http://www.swdcjc.com)



## Community Court on National Public Radio

On March 9, 2018, Tonya Phillips, Executive Director of Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center, and Treonna Rhodes, a Community Court graduate, were interviewed by Joey Horan on the Stateside radio broadcast, a program of National Public Radio. The interview discussed the impact Community Court has on residents and the city. To listen or read the transcript, go to: <http://michiganradio.org/term/southwest-detroit>





## Community Courts & Public Safety Conference

Our team had the opportunity to attend the Community Courts & Public Safety Conference in Birmingham, AL . May 7-9, 2018. The Center for Court Innovation hosted this gathering of community courts from around the world. Our team participated in break out groups from courts in Honolulu, Nevada, and Mexico City, to name a few. Each day we listened, learned and networked with other community leaders. We discussed what “community justice” means and looks like in our courtrooms and communities. Everyone had the opportunity to ask questions and share new ideas for alternatives to incarceration.

One of the main themes from the conference was the importance of community engagement and how to make our engagement more empowering and impactful. Action ideas shared included:

- ◆ Making the design and décor of courts more welcoming as a community space.
- ◆ Expanding creative community service opportunities.
- ◆ Conducting implicit bias trainings with law enforcement and court partners.
- ◆ Developing interventions that are educational, restorative, and age-appropriate for young offenders.
- ◆ Partnering with more gardens- we learned that there is statistical correlation with community gardens and crime reduction.
- ◆ Creating space for continuous communication and feedback with community residents including drop-boxes for questions and suggestions.
- ◆ Creating space for restorative circles where residents can receive training and support to solve community problems without an escalation to institutions.
- ◆ Increasing the use of technology as a means of communication.



## Community Court's Core Values

Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center uplifts values that moves us towards a future for our community that is safe, nurturing, and where every person has a good quality of life and is treated fairly. Accordingly, we embody the following core values:

**COMMUNITY-** Every element of our work is intentionally focused on making positive contributions to our community.

**COLLABORATIVE-** We believe in the strength of partnerships. We enjoy and seek out opportunities to create mutually beneficial goals. We enjoy working in sync with our partners.

**DIGNITY-** We believe every human has innate value. Dignity is not earned but inherent in every person's existence. We work to ensure our criminal justice and law enforcement systems treat every person with dignity.

**EMPOWERMENT-** We believe community members are essential partners. We provide tools and resources that include and value the voice of the community members in the problem-solving process.

**FAIRNESS-** We believe all people should be viewed free of bias or prejudice. We believe organizations should routinely monitor practices and policies for explicit or implicit biases.

**INNOVATIVE-** *"If the only tool you have is a hammer; you tend to see every problem as a nail."* - Abraham Maslow. We research, explore, and present solutions that help our criminal justice and law enforcement systems handle complex problems in an evidence-based manner.

**SERVICE-** We are here to serve. We mobilize resources and partnerships to advance progressive safety and justice initiatives for the benefit of our community.

## Meet The Directors

Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center has a dynamic board of leaders and change makers!



Angela Reyes, Chair  
Detroit Hispanic Development Corp.



Hon. Lynise Bryant, Vice-Chair  
36th District Court



Sofia Nelson Esq., Secretary  
State Appellate Defenders Office



Kim Sommerville, Treasurer  
Mark Twain Elementary School



Jose Oxholm, Esq.  
Meritor Inc.



Hon. Stephanie Chang  
State of Michigan House of Representatives



Osvaldo Rivera  
Osvaldo Rivera LLC



Darci McConnell  
McConnell Communication