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## **South County Traffic Court Moving to the County Justice Center**

CLEARWATER - The traffic court which for years has disposed of all criminal traffic cases originating in the southern part of Pinellas County will no longer do so in the county government complex at 1800 66th St. N. in St. Petersburg as of Dec. 21, 2018. The division is being moved to the County Justice Center at 14250 49th St. N. in Clearwater and the presiding judge will resume proceedings on Jan. 2, 2019. The Pinellas County Clerk of Court has informed all of those facing charges of the move.

Now, their cases will be heard in Courtroom 15 at the justice center, and by the same Pinellas County Judge who handled these traffic cases in the government center in St. Petersburg, Joshua Riba. The traffic court that disposes of all criminal traffic infractions issued in the northern part of the county will continue to do so at 29582 U.S. Highway 19 N. in Clearwater. Originally, both the south county traffic court and the north county traffic court were going to be moved to the county justice center in 2021 after a construction project to expand the county justice center was completed, but it was decided south county traffic court could be moved earlier so as to accommodate some plans by the clerk to consolidate that office's resources.

As he did in St. Petersburg, Judge Riba will hear criminal traffic cases filed by, among others, the police departments in St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Treasure Island, Gulfport, Kenneth City, and Indian Shores, while Pinellas County Judge Susan Bedinghaus will continue to hear cases filed by, among others, the police departments in Tarpon Springs, Clearwater, Largo and Belleair. Charges filed by the Pinellas County Sheriff or Florida Highway Patrol would be disposed of in either of the two traffic courts, depending on the location of the alleged infraction. Examples of criminal traffic cases include driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license, and leaving the scene of a crash.



South County Traffic Court in St. Petersburg