

Redlands Police Safety Hall closed; all police services relocated

The Redlands Police Department's Safety Hall, which once housed much of the Redlands Police Department's operations, has been closed due to safety concerns uncovered during preliminary work on a seismic retrofit of the building. On Wednesday, Sept. 3, the City Council authorized an engineering study to evaluate the safety of the building and relocate all personnel.

All operations have been moved out of the building at 212 Brookside Ave. and into temporary quarters in other city facilities. Members of the public will not be allowed to enter Safety Hall.

Most public operations have been relocated to the Police Department's West Substation, at 1150 Brookside Ave., Suite J-1A. Residents seeking to file a police report or obtain a vehicle release can do so at the substation during daytime business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Anyone wishing to contact a police officer can do so at the West Substation or any of the other Redlands Police facilities, including the Police Annex at 30 Cajon St. or the North Substation at 1568 N. Orange Ave., Suite A, during business hours. Police service is available at any time of day or night by calling the business line at (909) 798-7681 or, in an emergency, calling 911.

Fingerprinting services, which will also be offered at the West Substation, are temporarily unavailable. Until further notice, residents can contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office which offers fingerprinting on a walk-in basis Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., at (909) 387-3670. Fingerprinting is also available from the UPS store in the Albertson's shopping center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (909) 793-2099.

For vehicle releases call (909) 798-7614 on weekdays or (909) 798-7681 after hours and weekends. Suspect vehicles will be released only from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

For parking citations, airport gate cards, licensing and permits and registrations, call (909) 798-7614.

The Redlands Drug Court and Police and Corrections Team offices will be relocated to the North Substation.

The city's Credit Union office has been relocated to the Civic Center at 35 Cajon St.

The Police Department's jail facilities have been closed. Prisoners will be booked directly into county facilities, located in San Bernardino and Rancho Cucamonga. Booking logs will be available for public view at the Redlands Police Annex.

A map showing the alternate police facilities is available here:

<http://gis.cityofredlands.org/policerelocation>

Safety Hall, built in 1961, housed the Police Department's Patrol Division, Records Bureau and jail as well as its Dispatch Center, which in 2007 handled nearly 60,000 calls for service. The building also housed the Drug Court and Police and Corrections Team as well as the city's Credit Union.

In November 2007, the old City Council Chambers portion of Safety Hall, slated to house the Police Department's dispatch center, was closed to the public until further notice after a structural engineer discovered cracks in the building indicating structural failure.

The Police Department had planned to move its dispatch center from the current 500-square-foot room into the old Council Chambers after consultants indicated the current space is inadequate and recommended at least 2,500 square feet.

The city hired W Tan Engineering to conduct engineering studies on the building in preparation for the move.

On Oct. 29, engineer Weiquan Tan visited the site and found cracks near the top of four concrete wall panels where crossed steel beams supporting the roof are anchored.

"These cracks indicate the structural failure of the concrete panels, which could cause the collapse of the proposed dispatch room and, possibly, adjoining structures," Tan wrote in a letter to then-Deputy Police Chief Clete Hyman on Oct. 30.

Tan recommended additional work to design supports for the structure and repair or replacement of the wall panels.

"In the meantime, I suggest that the City of Redlands take measures to prevent bodily injury or death from a possible collapse of the structure," Tan wrote.

The department closed the room to the public and began preparations for the repairs. The rest of the building, which was not affected by the structural defects Tan noted, remained open for police services.

More recently, contractors working on the repair discovered further problems affecting the entire building, including other significant structural issues and asbestos in floor and ceiling tiles.

On Aug. 5, the City Council authorized \$40,000 to remediate the asbestos issue while engineers studied the other structural issues.

On Sept. 3, the council authorized additional appropriations for the possible removal and reconstruction of the building's roof and additional engineering evaluation and inspection of Safety Hall as well as funds to relocate the Police Department operations to interim locations in existing city facilities.

On Sept. 4, the RPD began relocating all personnel to the new locations.