



## For Immediate Release

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**DATE:** May 7, 2015  
**TO:** All Press Media  
**SUBJECT:** City of Berkley – District Court Consolidation

The City of Berkley is in the final stages of merging its district court operations with the Royal Oak 44<sup>th</sup> District Court. This change is a result of the implementation of senate bill 1351, signed by Gov. Snyder in 2013, aimed at reducing court costs by decreasing the number of judges statewide.

According to the legislation, the merger begins in 2015 with the physical transfer of staff from Berkley to Royal Oak occurring in 2020. This process was accelerated when Judge Terrence Brennan resigned from his position at the Royal Oak court in 2014.

According to the legislation, the Royal Oak Court will pay the City of Berkley an amount equivalent to one-third of the revenue generated from traffic and other citations issued within Berkley's city limits. Berkley is in the process of negotiating a joint operating agreement with Royal Oak to finalize the merger.

Court offices in Berkley recently announced some operational changes that are now in effect. The Berkley Court, now called the 44<sup>th</sup> District Court-Berkley Division, is closed to the public on Wednesdays. In addition, court offices are closed for lunch from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM. In the interim, individuals who wish to pay traffic and other fines at the Berkley court may do so during the transition period by:

- using the drop box located outside the Berkley court offices
- going online: [www.GovPayNow.com](http://www.GovPayNow.com)
- paying in person at the 44th District Court, 400 East 11 Mile Rd, Royal Oak MI 48067

Berkley's court will close permanently at 4:15 PM on May 15, 2015. The first day for the merged 44<sup>th</sup> District Court operation is Monday May 18.

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