

CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Kristin Graziano
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Library opening at Juvenile Detention Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Dec. 6, 2022

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – The Charleston County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce the opening of a library at the Juvenile Detention Center, in coordination with the local public library system.

Opening at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, Sheriff Kristin Graziano, members of the Charleston County Juvenile Detention Center and Charleston County Public Library officials will cut the ribbon for the space, which will have more than 400 new books available for juvenile residents held at the facility.

Members of the news media are invited to cover the event. Please arrive at 10:45 a.m. at the Juvenile Detention Center, 4450 Brickyard Creek Road, North Charleston.

"I am so proud that the Charleston County Sheriff's Office was able to partner with the Charleston County Public Library to bring a library to our new Juvenile Detention Center," Graziano said. "Education and reading open so many doors for children and young adults, and the juveniles under our supervision are no different. We want them to see that their lives can and will be different, and this community partnership helps make that happen."

The new library will have fiction and nonfiction literature and graphic novels, as well as Spanish-language books. There are also dictionaries, almanacs, biographies and GED preparation resources. The juvenile residents will have a checkout and return system. Employees of Charleston County Public Library will add more books to the collection based on the residents' interests. Studies show that access to books and educational resources help decrease the recidivism rate.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer a brand-new collection of books in this space," said Kathleen Montgomery, the library system's associate director of community engagement. "The teens

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deserve to have books that are interesting to them and relevant to their lives. We know that books have the power to inspire, educate and have a positive impact on their lives.”

A librarian will visit the library at the Juvenile Detention Center twice a month, and monthly visits by library staff will continue. In the past, the partnership between the two agencies has prompted book discussions, author talks, vision board and crafting sessions, and more with the juvenile residents. As part of the new library installation, the juvenile residents will be able to ask reference questions, which is a library user's request for information or assistance. This could include requests for new book titles, research questions and more.

Book drive under way to expand library collection

The Sheriff's Office and the Charleston County Public Library are also partnering with Unlock the Box, the Center for Children's Law and Policy, and Stop Solitary for Kids for a book drive to expand the Juvenile Detention Center's library collection. Anyone can donate to the effort by visiting Amazon.com for the wish list:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3AC1RXI11TDKC?type=wishlist>

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