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## Center Hopes to Keep Young Offenders Out of Trouble

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[Neal Augenstein](#), WTOP Radio

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WASHINGTON - D.C. leaders hope a new aggressive project will keep juvenile offenders from becoming adult criminals.

A new "drop-in center" will open Feb. 12 in Anacostia for young people who the court wants supervised before trial, and for those already on probation.



Family Court Presiding Judge Anita Josey-Herring with WTOP's Neal Augenstein.

(Photo: courtesy of Leah Gurowitz)

"This is located where a bulk of the people who are supervised by the court system live," says Family Court Presiding Judge Anita Josey-Herring.

Herring says a facility where at-risk kids can check in with probation officers and get adult supervision provides an environment many may not have at home.

"Some kids don't have a lot of supervision and structure in their lives, and so this attempts to somewhat replicate a parent."

Young people will be able to take advantage of a number of activities, including tutoring, recreation, computer use and peer mediation.

Herring says only 15 percent of juvenile offenders commit another crime - but those that do -- commit crimes time and time again.

The drop-in center will start March 1, and operate Monday through Saturday.

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