

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Chief Justice Addresses Security Incident at Arizona Supreme Court

PHOENIX – Chief Justice Ann Scott Timmer is extending her appreciation to local and federal public safety agencies, as well as court employees, for their rapid response on Monday after a suspicious package was received at the State Courts Building in downtown Phoenix. The package was later confirmed to have tested positive for homemade explosive materials.

“I am deeply grateful to the Court employees and first responders who acted quickly, calmly, and professionally in response to this incident,” Chief Justice Timmer said. “Because of their vigilance and expertise, the situation was resolved safely, and no one was harmed.”

The Arizona Department of Public Safety, Phoenix Police Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Federal Bureau of Investigations were onsite to assist with the response and investigation. Multiple buildings were evacuated on the Capitol Mall, including the State Courts Building which houses the Arizona Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, Div. One.

“This event is a sobering reminder that the security of judicial officers and court staff cannot be taken for granted. Judges and court employees come to work each day to serve the public by administering justice fairly and impartially. They should be able to do so without fear,” Chief Justice Timmer noted. “We remain committed to the safety of everyone who works in and visits our courts, and we appreciate the continued partnership of law enforcement in ensuring that commitment is met.”

The State Courts Building was cleared by responding agencies just before 4 p.m. Monday and reopened for regular business hours on Tuesday. Contact the Arizona Department of Public Safety for more on the criminal investigation stemming from this incident.

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