

Tuesday, September 2, 2008

Honorable Judge J. William McLafferty
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

**Board of Supervisors' Responses to Fiscal Year 2007-2008
Grand Jury Report on "Anti-Gang Efforts in the City of Santa Barbara".**

Dear Judge McLafferty:

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2008, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the following as the Board's response to the 2007-2008 Report on "Anti-Gang Efforts in the City of Santa Barbara".

Finding 5: The Probation Department needs mentors for probationary youth in their aftercare programs.

Response to Finding 5: The Board of Supervisors adopted the Probation Department's finding and agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 5: *The Probation Department should partner with community groups and non-profits to find mentors for youth recently released from Probation programs, including Los Prietos.*

Response to Recommendation 5: This recommendation has been partially implemented, and will be fully implemented in 120-180 days.

The Board of Supervisors and the Probation Department agree that one of the most important influences on a youth's development is having positive role models in their life. The Probation Department staff will continue to make referrals to Community Based Organizations (CBO's) for mentor and other services. Additionally, enhancements to the Probation's Department website will provide links on volunteer opportunities, such as mentoring, that will help identify mentors in the community. The Department will also outreach to local service and civic organizations

to invite their members to participate in mentoring and provide a positive influence in the lives of youthful offenders.

The Department's efforts to intervene in the anti-gang efforts in the City of Santa Barbara and elsewhere on the South Coast involve both financial and in-kind contributions. Probation Department management and supervisory staff participate and collaborate in the City of Santa Barbara Short Term Strategy Steering Committee on Youth Violence, the City of Santa Barbara Long Term Strategy Steering Committee on Youth Violence, the Santa Barbara Fighting Back Task Force, La Casa de La Raza/UCSB task force, Community Collaborative Foundation meetings/events, South Coast Restorative Justice efforts, the Meth Task Force, the United Way Power of Partnership Initiative (POPI), and regularly scheduled gang intelligence meetings with South Coast law enforcement and school officials.

Additionally, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, supported by the Probation Department, allocates funding to provide services, including mentoring for juvenile offenders and counseling with the Community Action Commission Los Compadres gang intervention program and Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funds support two School Based Probation Officers and one Early Intervention Probation Officer on the South Coast.

The new Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds provide the salaries of one Senior Deputy Probation Officer and one Community Transition Officer to engage, supervise, and intervene with the highest at risk juvenile offenders on the South Coast. A snapshot on July 15, 2008 shows that Probation Officers currently supervise 177 South Coast juvenile offenders who have gang terms and conditions with field visits, drug testing, and case assessment and management services. Probation Officers also refer gang members to programming for substance abuse, anger management, mental health, and mentoring in accordance with developed care plans.

In FY 2007-08, the Probation Department has implemented the Alternative Detention Program (ADP) at 4500 Hollister Avenue, which has expanded the interventions available to Probation Officers for holding minors accountable for their actions while simultaneously improving their education and diverting them from juvenile detention.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal
Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: Grand Jury Foreman