



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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**DONALD H. BLEVINS**  
Chief Probation Officer

April 25, 2011

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From:  Donald H. Blevins  
Chief Probation Officer

Subject: **CAMP SYSTEM RESTRUCTURING: CLOSURE OF THREE CHALLENGER  
MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER CAMPS AND REDEPLOYMENT OF STAFF TO  
MEET DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

On May 27, 2011, Probation will be closing three camps located at the Challenger Memorial Youth Center (CMYC), specifically, Camps Resnick, Scobee, and Smith which are all located on the west side of the facility. The juveniles and all existing staff at the three camps will be redeployed to other camps within the Probation system. The camp closures and staff redeployment are necessary to meet the level of programming at the camps that is outlined within the Department of Justice (DOJ) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

## **BACKGROUND**

During the past year, Probation has been moving forward with the implementation of a rehabilitative model focused on small group evidence-based programs at each camp. This model is designed to comply with the rehabilitative programming requirements of the DOJ MOA, but requires a higher level of sworn staffing than is currently allocated at each camp. Meanwhile, Probation's successful implementation of intake screening protocols has significantly reduced the juvenile hall population and, consequently, the number of juveniles being sentenced to camp. Taking these factors into consideration, Probation conducted a comprehensive system-wide assessment to identify alternative means of increasing our camps' staff-to-juvenile ratios by maximizing existing resources. The assessment also took into consideration the camp juvenile population profile, system capacity, and facility design. The practical option identified, to meet the October 31, 2011 deadline to be in DOJ compliance monitoring, is to close three CMYC camps.

**CLOSURE OF THREE CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER CAMPS**

The closure of the three CMYC camps will provide Probation the opportunity to:

- Increase the number of staff to support the small group evidence-based programming at all the remaining camps;
- Enhance supervision ratios and overall camp security; and
- Reconfigure the three CMYC dormitories into treatment and rehabilitative programming space, such as mental health counseling rooms and vocational classrooms, for the highest-risk, highest-needs juveniles who will be housed within the remaining CMYC camps.

Specific details for the closure of the camps, including a timeline, will be provided to your Board under separate cover. The Lead DOJ Monitor, Courts, California Corrections Standards Authority, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Department of Health Services, and Department of Mental Health have been apprised of the closure/reconfiguration of the three CMYC camps and redeployment of sworn staff -- no objections were raised. Probation and CEO Employee Relations have been working with the unions to facilitate the smooth redeployment of staff.

Please contact me if you have any questions or your staff my contact Calvin Remington, Chief Deputy, at (562) 940-2851.

DHB:CCR:pg

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