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April 23, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

PROGRESS REPORT – COUNTYWIDE GANG VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE

On April 6, 2010, the Board instructed the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to implement a set of recommendations to address gang violence. Specifically, the CEO was directed to develop strategies that sought to: 1) prevent individuals and families from becoming involved in gang and/or delinquent activity; 2) intervene in the lives of individuals and families who have had contact with gangs or the justice system, and provide sufficient services and resources to redirect them on a path towards self-sufficiency and mainstream integration; and 3) to more strategically collaborate with law enforcement to proactively target violence and identify individuals and families who may need and desire assistance. These overarching goals were to be implemented through interventions that would also inform both current and proposed policy development and decisions.

The Board received updates on December 15, 2010 and August 11, 2011, which noted progress made towards implementing the Gang Strategy. On June 26, 2012, the Board was provided with a final update on the activities that occurred in each demonstration site and recommendations for the continued development of gang prevention and intervention efforts. As noted in the January 31, 2013 Board Memorandum, the CEO has focused its attention on assisting the Probation Department with juvenile reentry efforts, working with community agencies to address AB109 – Prison Realignment implementation and shoring up community efforts to prevent and respond to gang violence. Our efforts remain focused there.

Juvenile Reentry Efforts

- The Los Angeles County Juvenile Reentry Council (Council), chaired by Supervising Juvenile Delinquency Judge Donna Groman, meets and works to improve the transition of incarcerated juveniles back into their respective communities. Council continued efforts have led to the following developments:

  - Implementation of the Camp Community Transition Model which calls for Probation Aftercare Deputies to visit youth while in camp to increase relationships in hopes of building stronger ties and better transition results. This model will be implemented countywide by September 1, 2013;

  - Increased marketing of Reentry Documents Project to provide certified copies of birth certificates to Probation camp youth. Signage has been created and posted, both in English and Spanish, throughout the camps to encourage youth to obtain their birth certificate; and

  - Production of a data report highlighting juvenile probation information. Data is being collected from the departments of Probation and Mental Health as well as the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The data will provide periodic demographic information, mental health assessment and treatment information, and educational progression of youth while in juvenile hall and camp.

Adult Reentry Efforts

- The Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP) continues to work with County departments and external partners to assist with the County's implementation of AB109 and adult reentry efforts in general. Over the next 60 days, LARRP has scheduled four workshops intended to assist community partners with:

  - Capacity building;
  - Technical assistance with Requests For Proposals;
  - Training related to building and sustaining partnerships and coalitions; and
  - Training related to initiating disability claims for ex-offenders.

Community Gang Violence Prevention Efforts

- The CEO continues to assist the Department of Parks and Recreation with the annual summer Parks After Dark (PAD) Program. PAD continues to receive funding through the Department of Public Health's Community Transformation Grant. Approximately $250,000 will be provided annually through 2017. PAD will occur in the following parks:

- Jesse Owens Park (South Los Angeles);
- Ted Watkins Park (Florence Firestone);
- Roosevelt Park (Florence Firestone);
- Pamela Park (Unincorporated Duarte); and
- Loma Alta (Altadena).

- The CEO was awarded two sizable grants which provided funding for projects in the demonstration sites. Both of these grants will end June 30, 2013.

  - Department of Justice Second Chance Juvenile Reentry Project ($1.25 million): funds supported contract services for Probation youth returning home from camp. Both in-home as well as clinical services were provided to youth and their families while youth were in camp. This effort has strengthened family ties, the transition from camp to home and reduced recidivism; as a result, 68 percent of youth have not received a new sustained petition. This effort also improved the relationship between camp and aftercare Probation staff, as well as Probation staff's relationship with LACOE and DMH.

  - Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) funded Projects ($2.0 million): funds supported multiple efforts in the sites aimed at providing youth with alternatives to gang involvement, as well as intervention efforts intended for youth who have had contact with the justice system. Collectively, over 3,000 youth have been served as a result of this funding in a range of programs including teen court, delinquency diversion, mentoring, health and fitness awareness, and environmental apprenticeship.

- The Los Angeles Regional Gang Violence Reduction Committee (Gang Committee), chaired by the County's Chief Executive Officer, continues to meet and provide oversight of countywide efforts that impact gangs and violence. The Gang Committee will continue to explore the development of prevention efforts to reduce gang involvement, where possible, either through formal meetings or through reentry committee efforts.

The CEO will continue to inform the Board of activities or concerns related to gangs and gang violence throughout the County. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Antonia Jiménez at (213) 974-7365 or via email at ajimenez@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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