

**MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS AND
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May 3, 2016

Ending Juvenile Solitary Confinement in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County oversees the largest juvenile justice system in the State and the United States. The County has undertaken regular measures to become a leader in California by fundamentally changing the way safety is provided and maintained in its three juvenile halls and thirteen juvenile camps, which hold approximately 1,200 youth.

As voluminous scientific studies have established, solitary confinement can be psychologically and physically harmful to young people. It runs counter to the goal of rehabilitation in the juvenile justice system.

In 2017, the County will reopen Campus Kilpatrick as a new secure residential setting utilizing the "LA Model." This model is projected to spread to all of the county juvenile detention facilities in the future and does not include solitary confinement or any Special Housing Unit (SHU).

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama took a similar step, banning restrictive housing for juveniles in the federal prison system except in very rare situations. Rather than using solitary confinement to deal with behavioral adjustments or conflict, Los Angeles County should achieve safety through relationship-building, trauma-informed care, positive youth development, small and therapeutic group settings, high-quality education, a relational approach to supervision, and an integrated group treatment model.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board:

Direct the Chief Executive Office and the Probation Department to end the practice of placing juveniles in restrictive housing. In very rare situations, a juvenile may be

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separated from others as a temporary response to behavior that poses a serious and immediate risk of physical harm to any person. Even in such cases, the placement should be brief, designed as a “cool down” period, and done only in consultation with a mental health professional.

We further instruct the CEO and Probation Department to create new policies, procedures, enforcement mechanisms, and reporting structures necessary to implement this change. This change shall be fully implemented at Central Juvenile Hall, Camp McNair, and Camp Scott by May 30, 2016 and at all remaining juvenile facilities by September 30, 2016.

We finally instruct the Probation Department and Internal Services Department to immediately begin repurposing or reconfiguring all Special Handling Units to alternative purposes, one of which could be the use of some space to create “cool down” areas, which should be rarely used only under the circumstances described above, should be developed in consultation with on-site technical assistance from the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States.

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