

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE AND  
CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS

May 3, 2016

**COMMUNITY-BASED HOLISTIC REENTRY SERVICES**

Reducing recidivism is a key goal of the County to effectively serve those youth and adults who are determined to be at high risk of re-incarceration upon release from county jail or state prison.

In the past several years, there has been a major policy shift in the public safety arena that de-emphasizes incarceration in favor of an increasing reliance on community based services to address the needs of individuals at high risk of reoffending. This would include those at high risk of ongoing involvement in violent, gang-related crime. What we have learned is that many of them have been victims of violence since childhood and have been continually exposed to violence in their communities and within their own families. Not surprisingly, they have spent time in the County's foster care system and juvenile detention facilities, and they have significant substance abuse issues and mental health disorders ranging from post-traumatic stress to depression.

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**MOTION**

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

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In order to be successful in addressing these complex root causes of violent, anti-social behavior, the Board of Supervisors has sought out innovative approaches. In looking at models such as Homeboy Industries, we learned that much of their success is based on their ability to create opportunities for motivated individuals to seek out help on their own. Unfortunately, while highly effective, this is a service template that doesn't fit neatly into the traditional, referral-based models the County is accustomed to administering.

In February 2014, on a motion from Supervisor Knabe, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Executive Officer and the Probation Department to explore a "strategic partnership" with Homeboy Industries, in order "to accelerate the County's efforts to reduce recidivism among previously incarcerated juveniles and adult offenders." An extensive report from UCLA that studied Homeboy's service model verified that they are unique in their holistic approach to reducing recidivism. The Probation Department reported in May 2015 that such a partnership could be funded via a grant utilizing SB 678 funds and possibly other funding sources.

In addition, we believe that there are other effective service approaches that do not fit neatly into the County's referral based-model but that nonetheless should be identified and supported. In November 2014, on a motion from Supervisors Knabe and Ridley-Thomas, the Board directed the Chief Executive Officer work in collaboration with the Probation Department and County Counsel "to identify an appropriate level of multi-year funding and develop a competitive bidding process that utilizes the elements of research based, best practice models to address behavior change in previously incarcerated men, women and high-risk youth seeking reentry services." The Probation Department has verified that available funding

under SB 678 could be utilized for this purpose, along with other possible funding sources.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors request that the Interim Chief Probation Officer work in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer, the Interim Director of the Office of Diversion & Reentry, and County Counsel to undertake the following initiatives, simultaneously and in parallel:

- 1 Return to the Board with a proposed contract for Homeboy Industries for up to 12 months, utilizing SB 678 Community Corrections Performance Incentive funding and any other appropriate funding streams, in support of holistic anti-recidivism programs, including corresponding outcome-based performance measures that incorporates a range of evidence-based interventions in a one-stop, easily accessible setting; and
- 2 Develop a competitive solicitation utilizing SB 678 funds and any other appropriate funding streams that is:
  - a. Open to any organization including but not limited to Homeboy; and
  - b. To be evaluated based on an organization's effectiveness in providing services that address behavior change in previously incarcerated men, women and transition-aged youth seeking reentry and employment services.

Report back in 45 days.

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