



STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING OF THE
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
WORKING GROUP
PLUMMER PARK
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90048

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

6:00 PM

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (16-5208)

Attachments: [Audio 1](#)
[Audio 2](#)

Call to order

Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Vice Chair Johnson informed Members of the Public of the various documents available and encourage the public to fill out speaker cards if anyone wished to address the Working Group.

Present: Chair Carol Chodroff, Vice Chair Alex Johnson, Gabriella Holt and Jose Osuna

Absent: Don Meredith

1. Explanation of the composition, function and responsibility of the Probation Oversight Commission Working Group. (16-4985)

Vice Chair Johnson introduced himself and asked the Working Group Members present to introduce themselves. After introductions, Vice Chair Johnson explained why the Working Group was formed and the responsibility that the Working Group is charged with as stipulated by motions brought forth by the Board of Supervisors.

Member Holt welcomed the public and reiterated the importance of the public's insight. Member Osuna extended an invitation for members of the public to submit documents into the record if they preferred not to address the Working Group directly.

By Common Consent, there being no objection and Chair Chodroff and Member Meredith being absent, the Oversight Board agreed to take the agenda out of order to allow the presentation regarding Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network to be heard.

2. Review of the Working Document Draft Recommendations:
 - Mission and Vision Statement
 - Findings
 - Recommendations:
 - Merge, Replace, Reconfigure or Expand Existing Entities
 - Identify Overlaps & Gaps; Define Coordination
 - Identify Investigative & Monitoring Needs
 - Determine Relationship of Juvenile & Adult
 - Define Commission Structure, Authority, Responsibilities
- (16-4986)

Chair Chodroff requested members of the public to introduce themselves so that the Working Group could get a sense of interested persons. In attendance were:

Alex Bazley, resident; Tory Berger, Public Safety Commissioner for West Hollywood; Kevin Burton, resident; Kristin Cook, Public Safety Director, City of West Hollywood; and Tod Hallman, Eastside Neighborhood Watch Captain; and Robert Green, Los Angeles Times.

Chair Chodroff explained the purpose of having the Town Hall meetings, and explained that they are to essentially inform the community of the process and charge of the Working Group by the Board of Supervisors, and to gather input from the community relative to their thoughts and experiences with the Probation Department. Chair Chodroff reviewed the Mission and Vision Statement; the aspects of the Working Document Recommendations including the possibility of merging, replacing, reconfiguring or expanding existing entities; the need to identify overlaps and gaps; how best to get all entities to interface with one another; the need to identify investigative and monitoring needs; determining the relationship between the juvenile and adult program systems; and defining the proposed Commission structure, authority and responsibilities.

Attachments: [9-13-16 Working Document Recommendations](#)

3. Presentation by Art for Incarcerated Youth. (16-4987)

Kalie Shilling, Executive Director, Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN), presented an overview of the program. Ms. Shilling informed that AIY is a network of ten various non-profit organizations that provide art programming to youth in detention facilities across the County of Los Angeles. The Program works in partnership with the LA County Arts Commission and the Probation Department to provide ongoing programming to the youth. The types of programs offered are creative writing, spoken word, theatre art, music and visual arts. The Program is utilized in the Probation camps as a transformational healing strategy.

Ms. Shilling stated that the programs are scheduled twice a week for 90 minutes each. Further, within the next few weeks, AIYN will be integrated into all six youth detention centers. AIYN has also been contracted to provide training to Probation staff in order to help support the cultural shift and to offer a mechanism whereby staff can interact with the youth in a different and validated way. Some of the challenges the program faces are communication between senior and line staff, multiple demands on students' time, coordination of schedules, and no long-term contract with Probation in order to ensure cohesiveness.

Member Osuna inquired as to who assists the instructors to enter the halls and camps. Ms. Shilling indicated that all volunteers go through the Visto Application process. Member Osuna inquired if there was a challenge in getting people cleared. Ms. Shilling indicated that clearance has been challenging. However, the Probation Department has been helpful in getting artist instructors cleared.

Member Osuna inquired if formerly incarcerated individuals are being used. Ms. Shilling indicated that alumni of the program are being utilized and it is a mode of standard practice.

4. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Working Group on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Working Group. (16-4988)

Kevin Burton, resident of West Hollywood, addressed the Working Group. Mr. Burton indicated that there is a large homeless population and many are crossover and LGBT populations. Mr. Burton explained the vulnerability of the population within the juvenile justice system and encouraged the Working Group to give special consideration to the LGBT and crossover youth within the recommendations presented to the

Board of Supervisors.

Vice Chair Johnson indicated that the creation of a robust commission will ensure that the specific issues of special populations will be addressed. Chair Chodroff indicated that in addition to the LGBT and crossover youth issues the Transitional Age Youth is also a population whose needs have to be identified and addressed.

Tod Hallman, Neighborhood Watch Captain, addressed the Working Group. Mr. Hallman informed the Working Group that West Hollywood was plagued with a transient and homeless problem, and if probation officers will be appropriately trained to deal with the very specific issues that the population has. Mr. Hallman inquired as to the types of supportive programs that will be available to the youth in order to have them integrate back into the community in a productive and meaningful way. Chair Chodroff indicated that the Findings relative to training can be amended to address the transgender and LGBT youth population. Mr. Hallman also encouraged that budget considerations and control be made part of the recommendations to ensure that staff and workloads are appropriate. Chair Chodroff informed that some type of budget control is being considered within the recommendations.

Alex Bazley, resident of West Hollywood, addressed the Working Group. Mr. Bazley, stressed the importance of diversity training and restoring public trust in the judicial system. Mr. Bazley also indicated that data collection is also important and once the data is collected how it will be synthesized is also an important aspect to be considered. Mr. Bazley stated that he would like to see findings relative to the arts, jobs and housing as part of the recommendations.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment. (16-4989)

Chair Chodroff thanked the members of the public for their contributing comments and encouraged them to remain in contact with the Working Group and to follow the Working Group's progress on the website.

Dardy Chen, Chief Executive Office, informed that on the website there is an area where comments can be submitted.

Chair Chodroff informed of the Working Group's schedule and the additional town hall meetings forthcoming.

Chair Chodroff adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.