

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND  
JANICE HAHN**

**December 18, 2018**

**Ensuring Safety and Humane Treatment in the County’s Juvenile Justice  
Facilities**

Los Angeles County (County) operates the nation’s largest juvenile justice system. Youth incarcerated in these facilities are considered wards of the court and under the care of the Probation Department (Department) and County. The County is responsible for the safety, health and well-being of these youth while in custody.

The Department has made strides in reducing the number of youth detained or incarcerated in the County’s juvenile halls and probation camps, as well as closing probation camps. While the population has decreased, however, safety concerns have continued to percolate, particularly in the juvenile halls. In the past several months, issues have been raised around use of force, assaults on both youth and staff, and the high use of pepper spray. These incidents underscore the need for further oversight, reform and institutional accountability. The Department is taking steps to train staff, develop policies, and create quality assurance mechanisms, but the problems seem to persist.

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**MOTION**

Solis	_____
Ridley-Thomas	_____
Kuehl	_____
Barger	_____
Hahn	_____

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In addition to data released earlier this year showing that use of pepper spray in the County's juvenile halls has more than tripled between 2015 and 2017, the Board of Supervisors (Board) has recently learned of more serious pepper spray incidents.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct the Inspector General, in coordination with County Counsel and the Chief Probation Officer, to investigate client and staff safety concerns in Los Angeles County's juvenile halls and probation camps, particularly use of force including pepper spray, and report back in writing in 45 days with any findings and recommendations for improvement.

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