



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S**  
**RESPONSE TO LOS ANGELES TIMES' ARTICLE**  
[poc.lacounty.gov](http://poc.lacounty.gov)



The Probation Oversight Commission (POC) is deeply disturbed by the contents of the [L.A. Times article](#) and accompanying video published on February 11<sup>TH</sup>, showing a disturbing use of force on a youth at Campus Kilpatrick at the hands of a Probation supervisor still working at the Department.

We emphatically oppose the infliction of additional trauma on youth inside Probation facilities by Probation staff. This incident at Campus Kilpatrick highlights the need for trauma-informed therapeutic programming performed by highly trained staff inside Probation facilities. It's imperative that all Probation staff receive training by experts in de-escalation and Restorative Justice and actually implement those strategies in the facilities and maintain their employment only if they are able to do so. The Probation Department needs a transformative culture change to one where officers believe in rehabilitative and trauma-informed practices and will intervene to stop fellow officers from escalating situations or when a fellow colleague is engaging in prohibited and/or morally reprehensible conduct.

From an oversight perspective, this incident at Campus Kilpatrick reveals a need for accountability measures that go far deeper than those currently in practice. Probation must be compelled to share critical incidents with the Board of Supervisors, the POC and Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to shed light on the problems and address them with integrity and responsibility. We need CCTV in all facilities and the oversight bodies should be able to review footage of critical incidents expeditiously. The County should consider sharing video of serious incidents with families of youth subjected to excessive use of force as additional means of oversight. This would help ensure that the treatment of youth in custody is fair and lawful.

Regarding personnel and discipline, we call for fair and consistent progressive discipline up to and including termination of employees who do not comply with the County's core values. An unbiased review of uses of force by an outside body such as OIG is instrumental in this process. As an accountability measure, we need quarterly reports regarding the results of Internal Affairs or Use of Force investigations, especially those in which a Chief declines a recommendation to terminate. Lastly, to protect youth, there needs to be an advocate, such as a member of the defense bar and/or family member, in the review process.

We reaffirm our commitment to centering the well-being and protection of youth and adults in Probation custody in all issues brought to and acted on by the POC. We are dedicated to our role in helping shape a department driven by good service and healthy outcomes for all stakeholders involved.

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