



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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L.A. County Probation Department Welcomes Terri McDonald as Chief Probation Officer

LOS ANGELES—The County Board of Supervisors has announced former Assistant Sheriff Terri McDonald as the new Chief Probation Officer of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, during its regular public meeting held on Wednesday, November 09, 2016, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Downtown Los Angeles.

“It is an extreme honor and privilege to lead the committed public servants of the Probation Department, thousands of employees who are committed to finding innovative means to improve rehabilitative services and restore lives while keeping our communities safe,” McDonald stated.

Ms. McDonald brings to the Department over 30 years of public service including 24 years with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and seven years of experience working as a mental health worker in secure mental health and drug treatment centers. She left the CDCR to serve as the Assistant Sheriff for Los Angeles County to assist the Sheriff’s Department in addressing the challenges of Assembly Bill (AB) 109 and implementing reforms with the jail system. While there, she was responsible for overseeing roughly 18,000 inmates, and 6,000 employees with a nearly \$1Million operating budget.

Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis said, “Ms. McDonald is a proven leader who will provide the seasoned command, leadership and management skills that The County needs right now. This is a time of transition within the Probation Department and we sought a candidate who could protect public safety and reduce recidivism, and had demonstrated commitment to the rehabilitation of juveniles and adults.”

The Board of Supervisors also approved the arrival of Sheila Mitchell, as Assistant Chief Probation Officer over Juvenile Services. Ms. Mitchell brings a wealth of experience serving as the Santa Clara County Probation Chief, and is recognized nationally for her reform-minded approach to juvenile justice supervision.

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“Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities”

The L.A. County Probation Department has 6,500 employees, a budget of \$820 million, and includes 24 field offices, 13 residential treatment camps and three juvenile halls. It is responsible for helping to implement many reforms mandated by the state and voters including AB109, which transferred responsibility of nonviolent felons from state prisons to County jails, and Prop. 47, the 2014 ballot initiative that reduced certain felonies to misdemeanors. The Probation Department is also responsible for bringing the County's juvenile system into compliance with recent Supreme Court decisions regarding the prosecution, detention and incarceration of juveniles.

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