

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE JJCC- COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2020 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM MEETING

RECEIVED FROM: RECEIVED FROM DANIELA HERNANDEZ FOR CAC MEETING

Dear Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC),

My name is Daniela Hernandez and I am the Youth Organizing Director with the community-based organization, InnerCity Struggle. For the past 26 years, InnerCity Struggle has worked with youth and parent leaders to advance racial justice in the Eastside of Los Angeles. I am writing today to **strongly oppose further investment in school-based probation** programs and instead support a re-investment in community-based alternatives.

In a recent survey conducted by our youth leaders with the Brothers Sons Selves Coalition (bsscoalition.org), nearly 1 out of 13 of the 3,378 LA County youth surveyed had been arrested before, with Black youth being twice as likely to have been arrested. Expanding school-based probation programs will only further expand this racial injustice by putting our young people into more contact with police. The youth surveyed made it clear where investments should instead be made: 90% of the youth surveyed want to invest county resources in youth & community centers, 92% want to invest county resources into college and career prep, and 90% of youth call for an investment in youth-based jobs and employment. This is where we must invest public funds-- not more incarceration.

Alternatives like the Ready to Rise partnership for youth development help break the school to prison pipeline which disproportionately impacts Black and Brown youth. I hope that the council can ensure that the funds are directed towards services and resources that best support LA County youth.

Sincerely,

Daniela Hernandez