

JJCC-CAC Meeting August 26, 2021 Written Public Comments Agenda Item Va

1. Ruth Tyson

I am Ruth Tyson and I represent SEIU Bargaining Unit 702. I am writing to item 5a.

Please understand as a probation officer my initial concern is the youth. I have witnessed more success cases within the probation department than unsuccessful ones. I have witnessed youth who graduated from College with their Associates degree, youth becoming productive citizens within the community, youth who have spoken to being grateful for the probation departments mentorship, learning new skills, and completing high school. Many of our youth receive mental health services needed and are able to grow and learn about their disabilities. Probation provides services to the entire family from housing, job referrals, transportation services, etc. Probation rehabilitate the youth and take on the family as a whole. Our Officers have a passion to do this job and we take our Jobs very seriously. We want the community and our Deputies be safe, and this goes without saying, we want our youth to be safe.

In order for this to occur we must understand the population we are servicing. We can not Ignore the behavior or the mental state of the youth we are working with. Yes we laugh, cry, teach, mentor and encourage our youth to move pass the trauma they have experience. However, probation staff is aware they can quickly become victims of the very youth we are servicing. Therefore, we want to maintain rehabilitating our youth but also be conscious of who we are working with. Maintain safety with a caring approach. For examples of the experience of former probation please see the video at <https://youtu.be/fbLLwGLEZmk>. This will give you insight about how far our Deputies will go to help our youth.

2. Mark Schmidt

The history of SB 823 shows how bad this law is. It does nothing to safeguard the public, or rehabilitate the criminals. It does enrich the advocates for the bill. I urge the supervisors to implement SB 823 in a manner that properly safeguards the public, especially the victims. The victims will not be comfortable having their assailants housed nearby. And member of the public in close proximity to where the criminals housed will not be safe.

I urge the supervisors to not be swayed by terms such as juvenile and offender and realize these are for the most part hardened criminals. Also the so-called "therapeutic environment" (especially with eventual removal of law enforcement) is not appropriate for the criminals and most certainly does not safeguard the public.

While SB 823 is now law, I urge the board to house these criminals in facilities where the county can safeguard the public and work with your counterparts in other counties to get this bad law repealed and the criminals sent back to state custody where they belong.