

# IN THE COMMUNITY: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY JOB & RESOURCE FAIR

## PROBATION DEPARTMENT HOSTS MAY JOB FAIR AT VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK

"Today is amazing! If people took time to get to know probation and see what they are truly trying to do, then changes can be made, and healing can begin to happen," shared Linda, Community Liaison at Mission Academy. "I say that because I know. Twenty-seven years ago, my probation officer gave me a second chance. So, when we come together and do these resource fairs, I think it's great, and people can get the help they need."

On May 19th, the Los Angeles County Probation Department hosted the Santa Monica Community Job and Resource Fair at Virginia Avenue Park. More than 45 community-based organizations engaged with community members, sharing a multitude of resources.

Some of the day's highlights were the Los Angeles Food Bank donating more than 300 boxes of food to give away and the probation department's Mental Health Housing Court Program distributing clothing to community members in need.

"Within the Mental Health Housing Court Program, we serve one of the most vulnerable populations: transient homeless individuals that suffer from mental health issues. Therefore, today's community fair is important to us, and we wanted to provide hygiene bags and clothing for our clients and the community," offered SDPO D. English.

Smooth jazz and the spirit of hope and excitement saturated the atmosphere as several attendees ran to the stage to collect raffle gifts. Motivational speakers, including former World Champ Adelaida "La Cobra" Ruiz, undefeated rising boxing prospect Agnesa "Spitfire" Kirakosian, and Probation Chief Dr. Adolfo Gonzales, inspired the crowd,



Director Estell with Motivational Speakers and Boxers Agnesa "Spitfire" Kirakosian and Adelaida "La Cobra" Ruiz



Mental Health Housing Court Program Unit



Chief Probation Officer Dr. Adolfo Gonzales addresses the crowd.



Santa Monica Area Office Community Job and Resource Fair Volunteers.



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The Mental Health Housing Court offered clothing distribution



Opportunities included free chef training



The Los Angeles Food Bank is always a popular stop



LA County Military Veteran Affairs kept busy

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- Linda, Community Liaison at Mission Academy.

"Dreams do come true when you work for them," said motivational speaker and WBCC Super Fly Weight Boxing Champion Adelaida "LaCobra" Ruiz. "I'm excited to partner with the probation department. My dream job was to become a PO, so being with you all today, and surrounded by the community, means a lot."

Several community members took advantage of the on-site Covid-19 vaccination and booster clinic. In addition, various other health screening booths, such as blood pressure checks, were also available for attendees at their request.

Director E. Estell shared, "I feel good about today and our community outreach. We've received a lot of good feedback. Community members are happy that we are here and giving them resources. This is what it's all about. Community first."

It was a fun-filled educational day in the beautiful city of Santa Monica! Thank you to everyone who made this community event a success and all those who participated.