

Weekly Update: January 30, 2026

Court Hearings

On January 30, Department of Justice Monitor Michael Dempsey testified that probation youth facilities have made significant progress over the past three to four months. He stated that the facilities appear more focused and committed, with increased resources being provided. While he acknowledged that staffing and safety concerns remain, Mr. Dempsey emphasized that improvement is a process and expressed confidence that the department is moving in the right direction.

That same day, Chief Viera-Rosa appeared in court regarding the Attorney General's petition to place the Los Angeles County Probation Department under receivership. During his testimony, the Chief described the condition of the department when he assumed leadership and outlined the steps taken to address initial staffing challenges. These efforts include the implementation of a comprehensive staffing plan, the creation of a centralized scheduling unit, and the deployment of electronic tools to monitor staffing needs, attendance, allocation, and accountability. These tools also identify staffing trends, allowing the department to proactively plan and address individual staffing issues as they arise. Chief Viera-Rosa testified that the department currently has sufficient staff to adequately staff Los Padrinos.

Chief Viera-Rosa further explained that the centralized scheduling unit staffs at 30 percent above minimum requirements to account for potential gaps. An electronic call-out system was also implemented to assist with scheduling, collect data, and assess call-out trends. Since the introduction of this system, no-call, no-show incidents have decreased.

Under Chief Viera-Rosa's leadership, the department has established an Internal Affairs unit, implemented a new management structure, and hired subject matter experts from neighboring departments. He also deployed field staff to juvenile facilities, noting that they are the only pool of officers available to supervise detained youth. His testimony included a review of field staff deployment timelines from 2022 to the present, as well as related incentives and staffing efforts.

To meet the operational needs of Juvenile Halls, field peace officers may be reassigned when necessary. All peace officers receive required training prior to working in facilities, and the TalentWorks electronic system tracks training compliance for every employee.

He also established a Safety and Security Team comprised of non-probation personnel and began utilizing Reserve Deputy Probation Officers. These efforts have helped free up sworn Probation officers to be more effectively deployed within juvenile facilities.

The department has also partnered with the Department of Human Resources to strengthen recruitment efforts, including engaging an external agency to lead recruitment initiatives. As a result, ongoing training academies have been established.

Finally, Chief Viera-Rosa addressed programming within juvenile facilities. He elevated Dr. Jesus Corral to oversee programming across multiple facilities. The Department of Youth Development contracts for programming in partnership with other county departments. Each youth follows a structured programming schedule, and every facility maintains a programming calendar and tracks participation to ensure accountability and consistency.

The receivership hearing was continued to Feb. 19, 2026.

The Department's hearing regarding the Los Padrinos Depopulation plan with Judge Espinoza's is scheduled for February 6, 2026.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn

This week, LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn visited Los Padrinos and introduced guest speaker Frank Rodriguez for an impactful conversation with the youth. An LA Metro Bus Operator and Employee of the Month, Mr. Rodriguez shared his powerful journey of overcoming a trauma-filled home, depression, gang involvement, incarceration, homelessness, and substance use. He spoke candidly about how Probation supported his reentry through access to education, housing assistance, and a monetary stipend, and how Victory Outreach Ministry and Recovery program let him to sobriety and faith. The youth were fully engaged, asked thoughtful questions, and concluded the session with a catered meal from Pandas Express.



Ongoing Communication

Parents and guardians can continue to email Los Padrinos Facility Family Liaisons at LPFamilyLiaison@probation.lacounty.gov. For general questions, you can also email LPTransition@probation.lacounty.gov. Parents can also email the Ombudsman at PROB-Ombudsman@probation.lacounty.gov. Families are also encouraged to sign up for probation updates on our website or by scanning the provided QR code.



PROBATION MOBILE RESOURCE CENTER (MRC)

Effective October 1, the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Santa Monica and Valencia Area Offices are permanently closed. Clients who previously reported to these locations will be contacted directly with updated reporting instructions. For assistance, please call (866) 931-2222.

The MRC offers information and resources for clients and Los Angeles County residents.



