



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501



JERRY E. POWERS
Chief Probation Officer

Los Angeles County Probation Partners With Local News to Catch L.A.'s Most Wanted-AB 109

Starting Thursday March 28, 2013, Los Angeles County Probation will provide several new faces on the evening news. These are literally the faces of L.A.'s Most Wanted. The nation's largest probation department is going on television **each Thursday night at 5:00 pm and 10:00pm on "KTTV-Fox11"** to seek the public's help in finding some of the most dangerous felons released from state prisons and sent to Los Angeles County to be supervised under a new law called AB 109. L.A. County Probation deems these fugitives to be a serious public safety risk.



"L.A.'s Most Wanted is important because it enables us to partner with the community to bring AB 109 offenders back under Probation's jurisdiction," says Assistant Chief Margarita Perez who will be the regular host of this weekly news segment, "Television is the avenue by which we can obtain tips from the public.

The ultimate goal is to reduce criminality in our communities." Currently, there are more than 1,500 AB 109 absconders or fugitives on the loose in Los Angeles County.

Every week, L.A. County Probation's AB 109 team will hand-select which fugitives will be featured on television based on their risk factors and criminal history. The Probation AB 109 team will then put together a customized profile of the fugitive after analyzing information from both the state prison records and the courts to provide the public vivid details. The objective is to engage the public to report fugitive sightings to Probation's dedicated phone hotline and email address. All public tips will be held confidential.

"This is about being even more pro-active when it comes to public safety," declares Chief Probation Officer Jerry Powers, "There are members of the community out there who know where these fugitive men and women are hiding. They have the power to make an immediate difference in their community by contacting us."

Assistant Chief Margarita Perez comes to L.A. County Probation after serving with the California Department of Corrections for over 24 years. While with the CDCR, she worked within three separate Divisions; first, in the adult institutions as a correctional officer and sergeant. She was also an investigator. Margarita Perez started as a case carrying parole agent and worked her way up to the acting Director of the Division. Assistant Chief Perez is the former Chair of the Board of Parole Hearings, having been appointed to this position by former Governor Schwarzenegger.

Margarita Perez is also a former military officer and the first female Commander from California to be deployed to the Middle East in support of operation Desert Shield/Storm. She is also a Bronze Star recipient as a result her meritorious service during Desert Storm.

Los Angeles County is responsible for managing more than 12,000 felons released from state prisons since October 2011. That number is expected to exceed 15,000 felons by the end of this year. The law known as AB 109 was meant to alleviate over-crowding in California's prisons.

For More Information, contact:

Carol Lin
Special Projects/Media
562-445-9297 cell
Carol.Lin@probation.LAcounty.gov