

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

June 6, 2023

Supporting Youth-Centered Programming at Secure Track Youth Facilities

Recently, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a series of motions aimed at addressing the over reliance on force and punishment in the County’s youth justice system. Through these motions, the Board has reiterated its intent to create a model of rehabilitation and development for youth who are involved in the justice system. Rehabilitation and development, in large part, are dependent on the ability of youth in locked facilities to receive timely, consistent programming that is transformative in nature and that prepares them to successfully transition back into the community.

On March 21, 2023, the Board approved a motion directing the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to play a lead role in establishing programs and services for justice system-impacted youth in halls and camps. DYD has begun its initial assessment of current programming practices. Once completed, this assessment will assist in meaningfully coordinating the delivery of services to youth in detention. In the interim, conditions in detention facilities have continued to deteriorate. Programming is urgently needed to provide youth with meaningful alternatives to television and video games.

DYD, in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) and the Probation Department, has partnered with the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA) to develop a music program to be implemented at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

- MORE -

MOTION

| | |
|----------|-------|
| SOLIS | _____ |
| MITCHELL | _____ |
| HORVATH | _____ |
| BARGER | _____ |
| HAHN | _____ |

(BJN). This program, known as the Drum Corp Program, will include an opportunity for youth to learn how to play instruments, read music, and connect with musical programming. It will also provide employment opportunities for participants once they transition back to the community. The Drum Corp Program is consistent with survey responses received from youth in detention who requested more music and arts related programming. The DAC has the existing infrastructure to support this program and the Probation Department has identified funding.

ICYOLA has a long history of providing musical programming for youth of color throughout the County. Since its founding in 2009, ICYOLA has transformed the lives and minds of young people through high quality music education. Through music, youth enhance their problem-solving, critical thinking, self-reliance, and self-confidence skills. ICYOLA's Drum Corp Program will be comprised of the following:

- Intensive training two-days per week, two hours per day for 30 weeks.
- Classroom training including music theory, ear-training, and world and cultural music history.
- Music training on drum corps instruments in the percussion family.
- Vocal and movement training.

While an expedited contracting process is needed to ensure programming is in place for youth at BJN as soon as possible, it will be temporary and will not eliminate the need for provider partners, including ICYOLA, to participate in a competitive solicitation process to continue providing programming that is so desperately needed in detention facilities. This time-limited contract will, however, help to fill a programming void at BJN and will inform DYD's assessment of future programming in detention facilities.

Given the recent decision by the Board to move pre-adjudicated youth out of BJN, the restrictive and repressive layout of BJN, the limited and compliant-based interaction between staff and youth, and the tragic death of a youth at BJN, the urgent expansion of programming cannot be overstated. The launch of the ICYOLA Drum Corp Program will continue the Board's vision of "Youth Justice Reimagined" and expand the County's "Care First" infrastructure to support our most vulnerable youth.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Authorize the Director of the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), in partnership with the Director of the Department of Youth Development (DYD) and Probation Department (Probation), to launch the Drum Corp Program at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and at other facilities where youth are housed. Probation will provide safety, staffing, and space for the programming.
2. Authorize the Director of DAC to negotiate, execute, and amend (if necessary) a sole source agreement, not to exceed two years, with the Inner City Youth Orchestra Los Angeles to implement the Drum Corp Program. The maximum contract sum for this agreement shall not exceed a grand total of \$500,000, which will be fully supported by funds provided by Probation. The agreement and any amendments shall be approved as to form by County Counsel.
3. Instruct the Director of DAC, in partnership with the Director of DYD and Probation, to provide a written progress report, within 180 days, on efforts to launch the Drum Corp Program and progress on its implementation, as well as funding and staffing needed to sustain this level of programming.

(CAS)

####