

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

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Expanding Access to the Los Angeles Training Center

To address the shortage of firefighters in the state, Los Angeles County (County) and the State worked collaboratively to stand up initiatives to provide opportunities for transition age youth (TAY), that have justice and child welfare involvement, opportunities in the fire service. The County also supported legislation, such as Assembly Bill 2147, to expunge the criminal records of firefighters with criminal records, to allow them to apply for fire service jobs.

In March 2022, the County Board of Supervisors (Board) moved forward with establishing Camp David Gonzalez as its first fire training center, LA Training Center (LATC), which was a former youth detention facility. The Board’s direction was to provide hands-on training for youth and young adults, with specific intentions for TAY and youth with justice and child welfare involvement, to have opportunities to be trained in fire service by providing them with skills, supports, resources, career counseling, job placement assistance, and housing during their six-months training period at the fire

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camp. The program also helps trainees obtain certifications and experience to prepare them for careers in fire service, forestry, hazmat, and other opportunities.¹

Two years after LATC's establishment, the Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department (JCOD) welcomed its first cohort with support from the Anti-Recidivism Coalition that provides case management, life skills training, and other vital services for the trainees.

To ensure that this opportunity is provided to all eligible TAY, JCOD needs to make a concerted effort to work with other County departments that service youth, justice and child welfare involved, and other TAY to amplify this opportunity and with additional providers to provide tailored services specific to TAY's unique needs.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department to collaborate with the Departments of Children and Family Services and Youth Development to
 - a. Outreach and engage with transition age youth (TAY) on opportunities available at the LA Training Center;
 - b. Provide tailored resources and services specifically for TAY participants; and
 - c. Ensure TAY representation in the LA Training Center cohorts.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department to provide to the Board, in its updates to the Board regarding the progress and status of LATC, demographic information about the participants, including the number of TAY participants and graduates.

¹ <https://jcod.lacounty.gov/lactc/>

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