



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
71-A.		Oppose	Ace Anaya	Supervisor Horvath, Mitchell, and Hahn: vote NO on this motion and instead order the county to come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place. This is a misguided attempt to solve this issue that has been present and hurting youth since 2021. Move forward and close the Juvenile Hall completely and free the children. The demographics of youth in the facility are stark. In February, 2024, with a total facility population of 278 young people, there 161 Latino youth, 103 Black youth, 10 white youth, and 4 "other." These extreme racial disparities are consistent year after year. A "state of emergency" is an inaccurate and damaging assessment, and could only be construed an "emergency" due to the county's own denial of the problem. This motion is attempting to make this into a public safety crisis because of the types of crimes some of these young people are accused of, but the reality is, the juvenile hall, run by a county department, is extremely dangerous and the county needs to accept responsibility for this.
			Alexandra Trantham	We strongly urge Supervisors Barger and Solis to withdraw their completely misguided motion to declare a state of emergency related to the state's order to close Los Padrinos, and we urge the rest of the Board to vote no. Probation experiencing a staffing crisis that neither they, nor the County, has figured out how to solve is not the first issue probation has had in the decades of their oversight of our youth. Probation has time and time again failed to protect our children and young adults, as evidenced by the millions of dollars the County must pay out to victims of sexual assault at the hands of the very people entrusted to protect them, the Probation Department. Understaffing leads to more fighting, mistreatment, and absolutely no time for rehabilitation in juvenile hall. In 2020, the Board committed to reimagining juvenile justice in LA County. Continuing to not take tough and decisive actions, while ignoring the harm being done to our youth, does nothing to make our County safer. Vote no, and remove our youth from the incapable hands of probation.
			Bennett Levine	Please vote NO and instead order the county to come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place.



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71-A.		Oppose	Cody Sloan	Please withdraw this motion and instead order the county to come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place. This board motion relies on damaging stereotypes reminiscent of the "superpredator" trope of the 1990s. The demographics of youth in the facility are stark. In February, 2024, with a total facility population of 278 young people, there 161 Latino youth, 103 Black youth, 10 white youth, and 4 "other." These extreme racial disparities are consistent year after year. A "state of emergency" is an inaccurate and damaging assessment, and could only be construed an "emergency" due to the county's own denial of the problem. This motion is attempting to make this into a public safety crisis because of the types of crimes some of these young people are accused of, but the reality is, the juvenile hall, run by a county department, is extremely dangerous and the county needs to accept responsibility for this. The state of emergency motion grossly mischaracterizes the situation by claiming that the state "has determined that LPJH must shut down effective December 12, 2024, because, according to the BSCC, Probation failed to appropriately staff LPJH during the month of November and early December." In fact, the shutdown was ordered because the facility has been chronically understaffed for a very long period of time, including for many months prior to the initial notice to the county, which was given back in August. And yet, even when faced with the threat of shutdown, Probation was unable to bring staffing levels up to the bare minimum needed for compliance. The motion also erroneously blames the problem on the state-level transition away from the Division of Juvenile Justice into SYTF (long term detention program), when problems at Los Padrinos long predate that change (as evidenced by the way the County had to "work for years" with the Department of Justice before being subjected to a stipulated judgement-- a judgement that occurred three years ago.)



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			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
71-A.		Oppose	Cynthia I Wong	<p>Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, My name is Cynthia Wong with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.</p> <p>I strongly oppose motion 71-A. The Los Angeles County Probation Department has repeatedly failed to address chronic understaffing and noncompliance at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, despite warnings from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) since August 2024. Youth at Los Padrinos have been left in unsafe conditions, facing violence, inadequate supervision, missed medical care, and no access to education or programs.</p> <p>Rather than taking responsibility for its mismanagement, the County is using this motion to blame the BSCC for enforcing long-overdue standards. Shifting the focus to the alleged offenses of the youth perpetuates outdated stereotypes and ignores the root problems: systemic failures in staffing, safety, and oversight. This approach doesn't have solutions that prioritize the safety and well-being of youth.</p> <p>Youth deserve safe environments and access to meaningful programming opportunities—not neglect. Los Angeles County must commit to hiring sufficient staff, reducing overcrowding, and creating a plan to meet BSCC standards. I urge you to reject this motion and demand accountability and necessary action from the Probation Department.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
			David S Pham	<p>As a resident and voter in the city of Torrance, I am asking you to oppose the emergency declaration regarding Los Pedrinos Juvenile Hall and create a plan to safely depopulate the facility and find adequate staffing for a future reopening.</p> <p>The County and agencies within have failed to properly run facilities, like Los Pedrinos. This has resulted in massive abuses and dehumanizing conditions along with a County defiance of state agency orders and threats of costly legal action in the courts. The County's failure cannot continue by passing a motion to declare an emergency that the County created for itself. The public safety issues that have been raised by the potential closing of Los Pedrinos is precisely due to mismanagement by County agencies, not by the State of California. I ask the County to take accountability for itself and work to find a real, long-term solution to the humanitarian crisis at Los Pedrinos and uphold a functional JUSTICE SYSTEM for our community.</p>
			DOMINIQUE C DAVIS	<p>To: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors From: Dominique Davis, Site Director, Los Angeles – Young Women's Freedom Center Subject: Opposition to the Proclamation of Local Emergency at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall</p>



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Dear Members of the Board,

I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed motion declaring a local emergency at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH). This motion raises significant legal, ethical, and procedural concerns that must be addressed.

1. Due Process Concerns

The motion appears to circumvent established legal procedures, potentially infringing upon the due process rights of the youth detained at LPJH. It is imperative that any actions taken comply fully with both federal and state laws to protect these rights.

2. Lack of Ombudsman Oversight

Assembly Bill 505, enacted to enhance oversight of juvenile facilities, mandates the presence of an ombudsperson to investigate complaints and ensure the rights of detained youth are upheld. The absence of such oversight at LPJH is a serious oversight that must be rectified to ensure transparency and accountability.

3. Allegations of Abuse and Misconduct

Reports from credible sources, including the Los Angeles Times, have documented instances of abuse and misconduct by probation staff at LPJH. For example, video evidence has shown probation officers standing by as a teenager was beaten by other detainees.

4. Misrepresentation of Youth

The narrative presented in the motion unfairly characterizes detained youth, many of whom are awaiting trial and have not been convicted of any crime. Such representations are defamatory and undermine the presumption of innocence that is a cornerstone of our justice system.

5. Questionable Data and Motivations

The data cited in the motion appears to be inconsistent with findings from multiple institutions and community-based organizations. This discrepancy raises concerns about the accuracy of the information being used to justify the proposed actions. Additionally, the proposed financial incentives, such as the \$24,000 bonuses for staff, suggest a misallocation of resources that could be better spent on supportive services for youth.

6. Legal Constraints

The emergency status sought does not grant the authority to contravene existing laws. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 209 sets clear standards for juvenile facilities, and any actions taken must be in full compliance with



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	<p>these legal requirements.</p> <p>7. Ineffectiveness of Proposed Measures</p> <p>Historical data indicates that a significant majority of youth admitted to juvenile halls do not require detention. From January to November 2023, only 11% of youth admitted received scores recommending detention, with the remaining 89% recommended for release or alternatives. This suggests that the current approach is not only ineffective but also misaligned with best practices for youth rehabilitation.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The proposed motion represents a regressive step that fails to address the underlying issues at LPJH. I urge the Board to consider alternative approaches that prioritize the rights and well-being of the youth, comply with legal standards, and reflect the values of ou</p>
Doreen Govari	
Eric CR Miller	<p>The Board's emergency declaration demonizes Black and Brown youth for the County's own failure to provide adequate staffing and follow the law. I am appalled that Commissioner Solis would propose this motion. It promotes a racist narrative to cover for the continued, callous failure of the County and its officers to protect at-risk Black and Brown children.</p>
Eva Grenier	<p>To Supervisor Horvath and the rest of the Board,</p> <p>My name is Eva Grenier and I am a former youth defense and dual-status attorney. I advocated for young people incarcerated in LA County's juvenile halls for almost 5 years. I am a resident of Mar Vista and I currently work with LGBTQ+ college students, as well as adults across the county suffering from mental health needs and housing instability.</p> <p>I am urging you to vote NO on this motion and instead, order the county to come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall as soon as possible. Probation's lack of compliance with the MINIMUM standards of confinement under Title 15 is a chronic problem and not a new issue. Since 2021, all of Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls—Central, Barry J. Nidorf, and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall ("LP")—have been in and out of compliance with the legally required minimum care necessary for youth confined in this county. In August 2024, the BSCC issued a notice of noncompliance indicating that LP was in violation of Section 1321 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, which requires adequate staffing to supervise, protect, and provide services for young people under the Probation Department's "care". Understaffing at LP has led to unsafe conditions, including children enduring violence, racial divisions, visible injuries (such as facial bruising and broken bones), missed school or medical appointments, reduced or non-existent recreational or outdoor time, limited programming, inadequate safety</p>



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checks, and inconsistent supervision. On October 11, 2024, the Probation Department submitted a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to the BSCC to address its noncompliance, but the plan was inadequate, and the BSCC found Los Padrinos unsuitable for the confinement of youth. The Probation Department had until December 12, 2024, to resolve the issues of noncompliance; however, the limited action that the department took still did not meet minimum standards, and on December 12, 2024, the operation of the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall became unlawful. It was entirely predictable that these long-term problems would once again result in closure of the facility.

This motion and its attempt at circumventing the responsibility and accountability of this Board in overseeing Probation's operations and compliance with the law is appalling. It is your duty to keep young people in LA County safe and it was your duty a long time ago to address inadequate and dangerous conditions in LP, particularly as tied to the chronic understaffing and lack of safety. These are conditions that our most vulnerable young people, including victims of trauma, foster youth, youth with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ youth, and BIPOC youth, are enduring every day. Your proposed state of emergency to keep LP open and prevent youth housed there from being released is a fear-mongering strategy, rooted in racist narratives, and a far cry from a solution. The county needs a holistic and comprehensive long-term analysis of youth "care" under the justice system's supervision that includes adequate funding and support for community, family, and evidence-based solutions. Keeping youth detained in an unlawful facility deeply erodes community trust, the well-being of children, and any hope in efforts at reform by this Board.

Vote No on this motion, order the County to comply with the BSCC immediately and develop/implement a plan to depopulate LP as soon as possible.

Evan Franzel

I am respectfully requesting that my Supervisor, Hilda Solis, withdraw the motion and instead order the county to come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place.

1. The Los Angeles County Probation Department has been in an acute staffing crisis and has failed multiple inspections by the Board of State and Community Corrections several times in the past year, not just recently.

2. The County has thrown itself into chaos by allowing probation officers to call out, remain on extended leave, and/or otherwise not show up for work. The staffing crisis is a county problem. As of November, 2024, there were 499 active employees assigned to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. 203 of those 499 active employees were on "continuous leave" - that is to say, unavailable to work. There were a number of staff on "approved intermittent leave." At the



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			<p>same time, the population of youth in Los Padrinos consistently hovers between 250-300 youth.</p> <p>3. This board motion relies on damaging stereotypes reminiscent of the "superpredator" trope of the 1990s. The demographics of youth in the facility are stark. In February, 2024, with a total facility population of 278 young people, there 161 Latino youth, 103 Black youth, 10 white youth, and 4 "other." These extreme racial disparities are consistent year after year. A "state of emergency" is an inaccurate and damaging assessment, and could only be construed an "emergency" due to the county's own denial of the problem. This motion is attempting to make this into a public safety crisis because of the types of crimes some of these young people are accused of, but the reality is, the juvenile hall, run by a county department, is extremely dangerous and the county needs to accept responsibility for this.</p> <p>4. This is not the first juvenile hall facility run by LA County Probation to be found in repeated, egregious violation of state laws; two previous facilities were ordered closed by the same state agency for very similar reasons. Los Padrinos was simply a new location for the same old problems, and it was entirely predictable that these problems would once again result in closure of the facility. The County should have been creating a plan for depopulation and an increase of staffing since they were first notified of noncompliance in August. To blame this problem on an "extremely tight timeline" imposed by the BSCC is to take no responsibility at all.</p> <p>5. The state of emergency motion grossly mischaracterizes the situation by claiming that the state "has determined that LPJH must shut down effective December 12, 2024, because, according to the BSCC, Probation failed to appropriately staff LPJH during the month of November and early December." In fact, the shutdown was ordered because the facility has been chronically understaffed for a very long period of time, including for many months prior to the initial notice to the county, which was given back in August. And yet, even when faced with the threat of shutdown, Probation was unable to bring staffing levels up to the bare minimum needed for compliance. The motion also erroneously blames the problem on the state-level transition away from the Division of Juvenile Justice into SYTF (long term detention program), when problems at Los Padrinos long predate that change (as evidenced by the way the County had to "work for years" with the Department of Justice before being subjected to a stipulated judgement-- a judgement that occurred three years ago.)</p>	
		helen eigenberg		<p>I am asking that all of you vote NO on this motion and instead order come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place. Where our youth are safe and have programming. Our youth deserve to come out of Los Padrinos better than when they went in, NOT WORSE.</p>



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	<p>Jessica Craven</p> <p>I oppose this for several reasons.</p> <p>First, the LACPD has been in an acute staffing crisis and has failed multiple inspections by the Board of State and Community Corrections several times in the past year, not just recently.</p> <p>Second, the County has thrown itself into chaos by allowing probation officers to call out, remain on extended leave, and/or otherwise not show up for work. The staffing crisis is a county problem. As of November, 2024, there were 499 active employees assigned to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. 203 of those 499 active employees were on "continuous leave" - that is to say, unavailable to work. There were a number of staff on "approved intermittent leave." At the same time, the population of youth in Los Padrinos consistently hovers between 250-300 youth. This is insanity!</p> <p>Third, this board motion relies on damaging stereotypes reminiscent of the "superpredator" trope of the 1990s. The demographics of youth in the facility are stark. In February, 2024, with a total facility population of 278 young people, there 161 Latino youth, 103 Black youth, 10 white youth, and 4 "other." These extreme racial disparities are consistent year after year. A "state of emergency" is an inaccurate and damaging assessment, and could only be construed an "emergency" due to the county's own denial of the problem. This motion is attempting to make this into a public safety crisis because of the types of crimes some of these young people are accused of, but the reality is, the juvenile hall, run by a county department, is extremely dangerous and the county needs to accept responsibility for this.</p> <p>Finally, this is not the first juvenile hall facility run by LA County Probation to be found in repeated, egregious violation of state laws; two previous facilities were ordered closed by the same state agency for very similar reasons. Los Padrinos was simply a new location for the same old problems, and it was entirely predictable that these problems would once again result in closure of the facility. The County should have been creating a plan for depopulation and an increase of staffing since they were first notified of noncompliance in August. To blame this problem on an "extremely tight timeline" imposed by the BSCC is to take no responsibility at all.</p> <p>5. The state of emergency motion grossly mischaracterizes the situation by claiming that the state "has determined that LPJH must shut down effective December 12, 2024, because, according to the BSCC, Probation failed to appropriately staff LPJH during the month of November and early December." In fact, the shutdown was ordered because the facility has been chronically understaffed for a very long period of time, including for many months prior to the initial notice to the county, which was given back in August. And yet, even when faced with the threat of shutdown, Probation was unable to bring staffing levels up to the bare minimum needed for compliance. The motion also erroneously blames the problem on the state-level transition away from</p>
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	<p>the Division of Juvenile Justice into SYTF (long term detention program), when problems at Los Padrinos long predate that change (as evidenced by the way the County had to "work for years" with the Department of Justice before being subjected to a stipulated judgement-- a judgement that occurred three years ago.)</p> <p>Thanks for listening! These kids deserve better!</p>
<p>Jessica A Solis</p>	<p>Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, My name is Jessica Solis with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.</p> <p>I strongly oppose motion 71-A. The Los Angeles County Probation Department has repeatedly failed to address chronic understaffing and noncompliance at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, despite warnings from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) since August 2024. Youth at Los Padrinos have been left in unsafe conditions, facing violence, inadequate supervision, missed medical care, and no access to education or programs.</p> <p>Rather than taking responsibility for its mismanagement, the County is using this motion to blame the BSCC for enforcing long-overdue standards. Shifting the focus to the alleged offenses of the youth perpetuates outdated stereotypes and ignores the root problems: systemic failures in staffing, safety, and oversight. This approach doesn't have solutions that prioritize the safety and well-being of youth.</p> <p>Youth deserve safe environments and access to meaningful programming opportunities—not neglect. Los Angeles County must commit to hiring sufficient staff, reducing overcrowding, and creating a plan to meet BSCC standards. I urge you to reject this motion and demand accountability and necessary action from the Probation Department.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p>Jose A Figueroa</p>	<p>My name is Jose Figueroa with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.</p> <p>I strongly oppose motion 71-A. The Los Angeles County Probation Department has repeatedly failed to address chronic understaffing and noncompliance at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, despite warnings from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) since August 2024. Youth at Los Padrinos have been left in unsafe conditions, facing violence, inadequate supervision, missed medical care, and no access to education or programs.</p> <p>Rather than taking responsibility for its mismanagement, the County is using</p>



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	<p>this motion to blame the BSCC for enforcing long-overdue standards. Shifting the focus to the alleged offenses of the youth perpetuates outdated stereotypes and ignores the root problems: systemic failures in staffing, safety, and oversight. This approach doesn't have solutions that prioritize the safety and well-being of youth.</p> <p>Youth deserve safe environments and access to meaningful programming opportunities—not neglect. Los Angeles County must commit to hiring sufficient staff, reducing overcrowding, and creating a plan to meet BSCC standards. I urge you to reject this motion and demand accountability and necessary action from the Probation Department.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jose Figueroa</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Martin Lijtmaer</p>	<p>I work in juvenile justice and have seen first-hand the impossibly challenging conditions at Los Padrinos and have seen years of neglect, "business-as-usual" failures, and a complete disregard of the lessons that should've been learned from the closure of other pre-detention facilities. Youth are exposed to dangerous conditions in the halls and many of my clients struggled within that environment due to understaffing, lack of programming etc. I strongly oppose anything short of a full plan to restructure LP and the other juvenile halls and depopulate LP until a viable plan is formulated and implemented.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Meredith Gallen</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">MJ King</p>	<p>I urge Supervisors Barger and Solis to withdraw this motion and instead order the county to come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place.</p> <p>This board motion relies on damaging stereotypes reminiscent of the "superpredator" trope of the 1990s. The demographics of youth in the facility are stark. In February, 2024, with a total facility population of 278 young people, there 161 Latino youth, 103 Black youth, 10 white youth, and 4 "other." These extreme racial disparities are consistent year after year. A "state of emergency" is an inaccurate and damaging assessment, and could only be construed an "emergency" due to the county's own denial of the problem. This motion is attempting to make this into a public safety crisis because of the types of crimes some of these young people are accused of, but the reality is, the juvenile hall, run by a county department, is extremely dangerous and the county needs to accept responsibility for this.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Nghe C Tang</p>	<p>Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, My name is Nghe "Nigel" Tang with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.</p> <p>I strongly oppose motion 71-A. The Los Angeles County Probation Department has repeatedly failed to address chronic understaffing and noncompliance at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, despite warnings from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) since August 2024. Youth</p>



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	<p>at Los Padrinos have been left in unsafe conditions, facing violence, inadequate supervision, missed medical care, and no access to education or programs. Rather than taking responsibility for its mismanagement, the County is using this motion to blame the BSCC for enforcing long-overdue standards. Shifting the focus to the alleged offenses of the youth perpetuates outdated stereotypes and ignores the root problems: systemic failures in staffing, safety, and oversight. This approach doesn't have solutions that prioritize the safety and well-being of youth. Youth deserve safe environments and access to meaningful programming opportunities—not neglect. Los Angeles County must commit to hiring sufficient staff, reducing overcrowding, and creating a plan to meet BSCC standards. I urge you to reject this motion and demand accountability and necessary action from the Probation Department.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Nicole Brown	<p>I urge the BOS to oppose this motion. It gives unprecedented power to the very department that has consistently failed to come into compliance with the minimum standards set forth by the BSCC. It also actively directs County counsel to keep youth locked in LP, rather than provide them the ability to be safely released into the community with re-entry support. I urge you to vote no.</p>
Raji N Shivshanker	<p>The Los Angeles County Probation Department has consistently failed to meet the correction action plan set forth since 2021 to rectify the egregious harms to youth in the juvenile halls in Los Angeles County. Amongst the many issues impacting youth detained in LA County juvenile halls, the following remain the most harmful and render Probation out of compliance with directives set forth by the state: the ongoing acute staffing crisis at the halls and the chaos resulting from staffing shortages puts all the youth at risk and harm. Youth's basic needs are unable to be met and Probation cannot meet a standard of care entrusted to them by the state. Furthermore, they have been unable to meet the deadlines for rectifying these failings.</p> <p>As a result, I ask that Supervisors Barger and Solis withdraw this motion and instead order the county to come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place. Or that Supervisor's Horvath, Mitchell, or Hahn vote NO on this motion and instead order the county to come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place.</p>
rocio ortega	<p>withdraw this motion and instead come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place.</p>
Roshell H Amezcua	
Siobhan K Fogarty	<p>The failures of the Los Angeles County Probation Department is reflected in</p>



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			<p>the daily lives of our clients incarcerated at Los Padrinos. Our local leaders echo dog whistle narratives that this is somehow an emergency far out of their control, suggesting that our local youth are the danger. Disavowing the findings BSCC is a disgrace and an insult to these children and their truth. We demand accountability for the trauma impressed on our youth in an institution that promises rehabilitation. Instead of declaring an emergency, the Board of Supervisors, Probation Department, and staff at Los Padrinos need to present a plan that includes the gradual depopulation of this notorious institution while implementing meaningful changes to regain compliance for those who remain. Our children deserve better and I hope that you will treat this with the urgency required. First, stop sending more kids to Los Padrinos. They are in over their head and understaffed. Second, Los Padrinos needs to make efforts to gain compliance. Bragging about ignoring court orders in closed door meetings is concerning. There must be accountability. And lastly, the youth incarcerated at LP face numerous traumas, including but not limited to physical violence, lack of access to medical care, lack of required programming, and racial tensions. Simply uprooting them and shifting the blame and problem elsewhere does not help. We need qualified individuals willing to address these issues head on and we need accountability.</p>
		Sol Qari	<p>Supervisor Horvath, Mitchell, and Hahn: vote NO on this motion and instead order the county to come up with a plan to safely depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, until there is a permanent plan to have consistent, adequate staffing in place. This is a misguided attempt to solve this issue that has been present and hurting youth since 2021. Move forward and close the Juvenile Hall completely and free the children. The demographics of youth in the facility are stark. In February, 2024, with a total facility population of 278 young people, there 161 Latino youth, 103 Black youth, 10 white youth, and 4 "other." These extreme racial disparities are consistent year after year. A "state of emergency" is an inaccurate and damaging assessment, and could only be construed an "emergency" due to the county's own denial of the problem. This motion is attempting to make this into a public safety crisis because of the types of crimes some of these young people are accused of, but the reality is, the juvenile hall, run by a county department, is extremely dangerous and the children, and the county needs to accept responsibility for this.</p>
		Sophia Ventura	<p>Strongly oppose this agenda item that would give unprecedented power to a Chief Probation officer, who just days ago wanted to resign from his position. The department cannot be trusted to fix the mess they made for themselves over years and decades</p>
		Tania Ibanez Virnig	<p>I am opposed to 71-A. First why did the Board add this to the Agenda so late in the game, on a Friday as a supplement to the Agenda? And what is the real purpose of this emergency ? The Probation Department has been in a pickle for over a year and has been playing wack a mole, now its considered an emergency? The Probation Department seems to have no control over its employees who fail to show up, putting the kids and the honest probation officers in jeopardy. Probation field workers were reassigned to the youth halls and they sued because it was outside the scope of their union contract and now you want to bring in peace officers from other agencies to take over?</p>

				Enough already. Release some of the less violent kids to their families. Start rewarding the good probation officers with promotions and do a better job firing the probation officers who fail to show up to do their jobs.
			Tyson T Nguyen	<p>Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, My name is Tyson Nguyen with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.</p> <p>I strongly oppose motion 71-A. The Los Angeles County Probation Department has repeatedly failed to address chronic understaffing and noncompliance at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, despite warnings from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) since August 2024. Youth at Los Padrinos have been left in unsafe conditions, facing violence, inadequate supervision, missed medical care, and no access to education or programs.</p> <p>Rather than taking responsibility for its mismanagement, the County is using this motion to blame the BSCC for enforcing long-overdue standards. Shifting the focus to the alleged offenses of the youth perpetuates outdated stereotypes and ignores the root problems: systemic failures in staffing, safety, and oversight. This approach doesn't have solutions that prioritize the safety and well-being of youth.</p> <p>Youth deserve safe environments and access to meaningful programming opportunities—not neglect. Los Angeles County must commit to hiring sufficient staff, reducing overcrowding, and creating a plan to meet BSCC standards. I urge you to reject this motion and demand accountability and necessary action from the Probation Department.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
			Item Total	28
Grand Total				28

December 16, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:
Supervisor Mitchell
Supervisor Solis
Supervisor Horvath
Supervisor Hahn
Supervisor Barger
Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Opposition of Board Agenda Item 71-A: Motion, Entitled, “Proclaiming a Local Emergency Resulting From the Suitability Issues at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall”

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Doreen Govari and I am a Senior Program Associate with Vera Institute’s Ending Girl’s Incarceration Initiative. **I am writing to oppose the board’s motion “Proclaiming a Local Emergency Resulting from the Suitability Issues at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LP).”**

In March 2023, after this board passed a motion requiring the LA County Probation Department to apply, Los Angeles County was selected as one of four sites to participate in our Ending Girls’ Incarceration in California Action Network to meaningfully reduce girls’ incarceration in the county. Over the past year and half, our team has been meeting with relevant juvenile legal system stakeholders in LA County to conduct diagnostic interviews, collect data, and identify system and programmatic gaps. The data we received, despite having significant limitations, allowed us to look at aggregate data collected on a quarterly basis from Los Angeles County probation from January 2023 – May 2024. This data shows that there are opportunities 1) to keep young people in the community without compromising public safety, and 2) to connect youth with necessary community-based resources by diverting them to the Department of Youth Development (DYD).

1) Youth can be decarcerated without compromising public safety

The motion’s assessment that the release of youth in LP creates extreme and imminent risks to the safety and security of the youth themselves, and of the community more broadly is **false**. From the data collected January 2023 – May 2024, **98% percent of the total number of girls’ admissions and 88 percent of the total number of boys’ admissions, received LADS Scores recommending release**. According to the County’s own risk assessment tool, these youth were not a public safety threat requiring detention.

The Board’s motion also mischaracterizes these youth in LP by leaning into damaging stereotypes reminiscent of outdated “superpredator” tropes by alluding to their “violent offenses” when in reality **probation violations and bench warrants made up about 26 percent of girls’ total admissions, and about 14 percent of boys’ admissions**.

Racial Disparities are also significant in admissions for probation violations. For example, Black girls accounted for **all admissions for probation violations** in girls' units and Latinx boys comprised about **88 percent** of admissions for probation violations in boys' units.

2) **Connect youth with necessary community-based resources by diverting them to the Department of Youth Development (DYD)**

Recently, DYD has reported in their Outcome Equity report that 95% of youth formally enrolled in diversion did not recidivate after a year, showcasing the program's success. Our internal reports show that **there is currently no formal system diverting youth from probation to DYD**. As the Board acknowledges in its motion, these youth need "professional support; mental health and medical care; structured programming and interaction with DYD and other County and community partners; and a structured, care focused-environment." LA County should be increasing the utilization of DYD by increasing diversion efforts for youth that can be decarcerated from LP, and future referrals to probation, so that youth can be safely supported in the community in lieu of incarceration.

For the reasons outlined above, we hope that LA County will keep its commitment to a Care First, Jails Last approach, and **urge the Board of Supervisors to vote "NO" and oppose this motion**. The youth population that are experiencing a direct threat to their safety within Los Padrinos must be safely decarcerated as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Doreen Govari

Senior Program Associate

Vera, Ending Girls' Incarceration Initiative

December 16, 2024

Re: Public Comment for Agenda Item 71-A

Dear LA County Board of Supervisors:

The Center for Juvenile Law & Policy stands with community-based organizations, community members, incarcerated youth and their loved ones in the call to shut down Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, a facility deemed unsuitable by the Board of State and Community Corrections (“BSCC”).

Every day that Los Angeles youth remain at Los Padrinos, the County moves farther away from its stated commitment to Youth Justice Reimagined and true community safety. The most recent unsuitability finding is only the latest dark mark in a long history of maltreatment of young people detained in Los Angeles County. This is the third facility found unsuitable to house youth and may be in line as the third facility to shut down. The Probation Department has failed our youth over and over again and despite having ample time to do so, have provided no plans for how to adequately address the needs of pre-adjudication incarcerated youth. The Board of Supervisors’ (“BOS”) failure to create and implement a plan that is not just focused on increasing staffing has created an unsafe environment for youth, Probation staff, LACOE educators, and community-based providers. Without an actual plan, Probation will continue to find itself in the same dangerous predicament of not being able to meet even the bare minimum of standards.

The BOS motion filed by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Hilda Solis reflects a disregard of their own communities’ safety and ignores the fact that youth detained at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall also belong to them. It reflects a disconnect of a bigger picture with workable solutions from those with lived experiences of the detained youth, their families and communities, their past and current traumas, their developmental stages, their instabilities due to ongoing issues of poverty, lack of support services, lack of focused and individualized attention on their educational, therapeutic, and disability-related needs, and so much more.

Importantly, the BOS motion serves to erase the strides made over the past years in the robust and unrelenting efforts of Youth Justice Reimagined for a restorative, health-focused, care-first system. The language used to describe pre-adjudicated youth at Los Padrinos moves us back to a time where Black and brown youth were described as dangerous and needed to be caged – when, in fact, they are our youth who deserve care. A call for a state of emergency based on the release of approximately 200 youth back into their communities serves to instill fear in the communities the Supervisors represent and aim to serve, indeed communities in which the youth detained in Los Padrinos also belong. The BOS attempts to rewrite history by attributing the cause of this emergency to the State and the community members demanding reason,



accountability, and order. The true emergency, created by the County itself, is that our youth are being detained illegally in an unsuitable facility, that those in charge of their care and a path toward rehabilitation are unwilling and unable to provide a meaningful plan to address their needs, and that Probation has proven to demonstrate that they are above the law.

The Center for Juvenile Law & Policy urges the Board of Supervisors to withdraw the motion or vote no, demand more for their youth, and to invest in their communities.



December 17, 2024

Via email

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Opposition to Board Agenda Item 71-A, "Proclaiming a Local Emergency Resulting From the Suitability Issues at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall"

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The ACLU has worked for decades to ensure the safety and well-being of all people incarcerated in Los Angeles County. We are committed to holding this Board accountable to the values and vision of its adopted Care First, Jails Last approach to incarceration for both adults and youth. Given the Board's expressed dedication to decarceral solutions, we are deeply troubled by the motion authored by Supervisors Barger and Solis (Agenda Item 71-A) which seeks to proclaim a "local emergency resulting from the suitability issues at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall." **We urge Supervisors Barger and Solis to withdraw this harmful and regressive motion and call upon all Supervisors to instead order the county to formulate a plan to safely and immediately depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall until "the conditions that rendered the facility unsuitable have been remedied" in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 209, subdivision (b)(2).**

Urgent action must undoubtedly be taken to address the crisis within Los Angeles County Probation Department and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Rather than meeting the moment by providing a strategy to bring Los Padrinos into compliance with minimum state standards, the emergency proclamation motion before the Board today willfully mischaracterizes the long history of abuses at the juvenile hall, dangerously disavows established state oversight procedures, and fails to center the rights and needs of the youth in the County's custody and care.

The issues that led to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) finding of unsuitability have been extensively documented by the youth justice community and beyond. In

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CHAIRS EMERITI Michele Goodwin Marla Stone Shari Leinwand Stephen Rohde Danny Goldberg Allan K. Jonas* Burt Lancaster* Irving Lichtenstein, MD* Jarl Mohn Laurie Ostrow* Stanley K. Sheinbaum*

*deceased

short, the BSCC determination that Los Padrinos is unsuitable to house youth was well forecasted and long overdue. For example, in February 2024, the Los Angeles Times called for an end to the “[shell-game](#)” of the juvenile halls, noting that Los Padrinos was only “pressed [] back into service” last year after the BSCC found all of the County’s other juvenile halls unsuitable. The article highlighted multiple “escapes, drug overdoses, lockdowns, attacks on staff and beatings, allegedly including a fight that was set up by members of the staff who [were] supposed to keep the teens safe,” as well as the death of one youth by overdose that occurred in the nine months since Los Padrinos re-opened. The Los Angeles Times implored the County to swiftly address the obvious crisis unfolding in Los Padrinos. In the ten months that have passed since this public call to action, conditions at Los Padrinos have seriously worsened, making it clear that the emergency proclamation motion’s attempt to blame the current state of affairs on an “extremely tight timeline” imposed by the BSCC is a serious abdication of responsibility.

Independent oversight of carceral facilities is critically important to safeguarding the human rights of all people who are incarcerated. Oversight of facilities that house youth is even more essential to the functioning of a constitutional system given the limited ability for youth to engage in self-advocacy and the legal standards require that juvenile justice systems endeavor only to rehabilitate, not to punish. The emergency motion seeks to undermine the established procedures and power vested in the BSCC in a manner that raises very serious concerns about the County’s commitment to oversight and due process for all people who are incarcerated. Youth detained at Los Padrinos Juvenile Halls should not be forced to remain in unsuitable and dangerous conditions due to the County’s failure to engage in meaningful systemic reforms and disregard for oversight procedures. Nor should they be reduced and vilified by the use of super predator-type language, instead of being seen and appreciated as children in need. These youth are some of the most vulnerable members of our community. They deserve to be protected from harm and to receive care, treatment, and guidance consistent with their best interests.

We believe that the Board is capable of a more thoughtful and care-informed approach to this crisis. We urge the Board to honor its commitment to a Care First, Jails Last vision, and to vote “no” to oppose this motion.

Sincerely,



Meredith Gallen
Senior Staff Attorney