

December 06, 2022

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN**

**Paws for Life Canine Rescue Program**

On September 30, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 823 which, among other things, announced the closure of the State’s Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the realignment of youth to the care of counties. The State Legislature passed SB 823 with a stated intention of protecting against transfer of youth to the adult system once DJJ was no longer available. The legislation results in raising the age of jurisdiction and the maximum age for local custody.

On May 14, 2021, Governor Newsom signed SB 92, creating a “Secure Youth Treatment Facilities” (SYTF) track for youth found to have committed serious offenses. SB 92 creates the framework for counties to house SYTF youth who otherwise would have been remanded to State custody.

Productive activities for youth detained in Probation Department (Probation) facilities contribute to the rehabilitative aspects and enhancement of self-worth of youth. Many of these youth could more rightfully be described as “emerging adults.” The increasing numbers of SYTF youth in Probation facilities are driving a need for adaptation of program offerings to address the needs of an older population. More of the older youth have completed their high school educational requirements and are in need of services to prepare them for personal responsibilities, employment, and independent living. Probation seeks to provide valuable

MOTION

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vocational training activities for SYTF youth to prepare them for gainful employment.

Animal training, specifically training with dogs, has been demonstrated to provide multiple benefits to detained individuals. The benefits of youth “trainers” working with dogs include looking outward of oneself to care for others, personal responsibility for the dog’s well-being, learning to follow prescribed instructions to elicit desired behavior from the dog, working in cooperative groups, and date and time driven routines that are transferable to any employment opportunity. The program creates pathways for both the trainer and the dog as each achieves stability and comfort in their respective living arrangements.

Paws for Life K9 Rescue brings together dogs from shelters with youth trainers who work with the dogs so the dogs become more adoptable. The trainers work in teams to inspire collaboration and, in turn, use their dog training skills to inspire them to find jobs in the animal services field. When trainers return to the community, they benefit from the highly reported rehabilitative nature of working with animals. Living with dogs has a transformative impact on the tone and culture of each youth living unit. The impact of unconditional love from the dog is possibly an experience some youth have never had the opportunity to enjoy.

The SYTF population continues to grow as the Superior Court orders additional commitments to Probation facilities and as State DJJ returnees are directed back to their county of residence to complete their detention time. Therefore, time is of the essence to ramp-up programmatic services for SYTF youth and emerging adults. The timeliness of implementation for vocational programs is influenced by the County’s lengthy competitive solicitation process. To

overcome the challenge of timeliness, Board delegated authority is sought specific to a dog training program for detained youth and emerging adults.

Approval of this motion initiates dog obedience training in Probation's juvenile facilities and serves as a bridging opportunity while a competitive solicitation is initiated and subsequently brought to the Board for approval.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer or his designee to prepare and execute a one-year agreement, upon approval as to form by County Counsel, with Paws for Life Dog K9 Rescue to work with detained youth to provide in-person dog training within Probation detention facilities at an estimated annual amount not to exceed \$250,000.
2. Instruct the Chief Probation Officer to initiate a competitive solicitation process for a dog obedience program within Probation's juvenile detention facilities.
3. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to extend the agreement period on a month-to-month basis for a maximum extension of twelve (12) months at an estimated annual amount not to exceed \$250,000. Probation anticipates sufficient appropriation authority to cover the maximum \$500,000 total agreement cost for two years utilizing State revenue sources.
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Probation Officer or his designee to prepare and execute amendments to the contract for any decrease or increase to the contract amount and/or contract term, not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the cost per service and/or 180-days to the period of performance pursuant to the terms of the contract.
5. Delegate authority to the Chief Probation Officer or his designee to negotiate, amend, modify, and/or extend the agreement upon approval as to form by County Counsel, and to provide for a ten-days option to terminate for convenience.

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