

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Providing Court Reminders and Transportation Services for Justice-Impacted Youth through JCOD’s Justice Connect Support Center

Los Angeles County’s (County) Justice Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) has implemented a model for court-reminders and transportation services for the justice-impacted adult population, and it has shown to be successful in its initial phase. Through JCOD’s Independent Pretrial Services Agency, including the Justice Connect Support Center¹ and Airport Pretrial Pilot² (Pilot), adults who are released from jail and have upcoming court hearings can be enrolled to receive a text message, phone call, and/or email reminders about their court dates, as well as transportation services via taxi cabs if requested, paid for by the County.³ The outcomes⁴ from the first quarter of this Pilot (July 2024 to September 2024) show that there was an average appearance rate of 94% for adults who either received a text/call/email reminder, transportation to court, or both a court reminder and transportation. Those who received both a court reminder and transportation had the best outcomes, with zero failures to appear (FTAs).

There is an opportunity for the Probation Department to duplicate portions of this

¹ <https://jcod.lacounty.gov/impact/program-dashboard/>

² <https://jcod.lacounty.gov/program/pretrial-services-pilot/>

³ Transportation services are available within LA County to court hearing, probation, parole, and home/shelter.

⁴ https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1177598_ImplementingHumphreyandReformsQuarterlyReport-01.29.25_1_.pdf

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same model for the youth population, some of whom are detained in Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall for FTAs at their court hearings, resulting in a warrant being issued. The Probation Department has taken a number of strides to decrease the number of youth detained at Los Padrinos when legally possible: Probation's Intake Detention Control Unit (IDC) has focused efforts on eliminating practices that unnecessarily detain youth. These strategies have made a notable impact: from July 24, 2024 to January 31, 2025, the population of youth incarcerated at Los Padrinos declined from 320 youth to 233 youth. However, more can be done to minimize youth detentions due to bench warrants for FTAs. Sending court reminders via text, email, and/or call and offering free transportation to and from court are practical methods to reduce FTAs that have already shown to be successful for those with adult cases. Extending these services to those with juvenile cases as well may mitigate returns to custody for FTAs. Because a system is already in place through JCOD, the Probation Department should collaborate with JCOD to establish a means for those with juvenile cases who have upcoming court hearings or other court requirements to receive similar services focused on reducing FTAs, including court reminders through the Justice Connect Support Center, and transportation services contracted through the Department of Youth Development, given Probation's current staffing limitations.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Direct the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD), in collaboration with Probation Department's Juvenile Special Services Bureau, the Department of Youth Development (DYD), the Public Defender's Office, the Alternate Public Defender's Office, and County Counsel to:

1. Explore the possibility of doing the following:

- a. Creating a means for justice-involved youth to receive court reminders via text, phone call, and/or email through JCOD's Justice Connect Support Center;
- b. Developing a process for justice-involved youth to receive transportation services contracted through DYD, as legally viable; and
- c. Using JCOD's Justice Connect Support Center as a resource for linking justice-involved youth to DYD providers.

2. Report back in writing in 45 days on the above directive.

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