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

Correspondence Received

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	**Relate To**	**Position**	**Name**	**Comments**
8.		**Favor**	Anthony Arenas	
			Elizabeth Thomas	Please "right-size" the County Probation Department's budget, to reflect the enormous decline in the youth prison population.
			Gabriela Vazquez	SD 3 must be in regular conversation with the CEO and Probation staff drafting the proposed budget pilot. As CEO and Probation explore alternative budgeting methods and build out a potential budgeting pilot, SD 3 should remain hands-on to encourage timeliness with reportbacks and fidelity to the Youth Justice Reimagined and Care First, Jails Last visioning in any proposals brought forth. This is a moment to prioritize divestment and reinvestment! The interim CEO, Joseph Nicchitta shared during Final Budget presentations that divestment and reinvestment is a priority for both the Board of Supervisors AND the CEO. We agree! The CEO should uphold this commitment to a divestment/reinvestment strategy as they develop this budget pilot proposal The CEO should acknowledge, examine, and if possible, incorporate community feedback lifted up in the Probation Oversight Commission meetings. As directed in the motion, the POC represents an ongoing opportunity for the public to track and weigh into this proposed Probation budget pilot. The CEO must be responsive to the questions and recommendations shared by system-impacted and formerly incarcerated youth and families, direct services providers, and advocates Ultimately, DYD should track and allocate JJRBG, JJCPA, and other non-NCC dollars. Probation has historically accumulated tens of millions of dollars in unused state funds, stemming from issues like ineffective allocation processes, lack of data collection, inaccurate tracking of spending, and inconsistency in meetings. For instance, the unspent balance of JJCPA dollars peaked at almost $100 million in 2024. The JJCC, JJRBG, and other County bodies responsible for apportioning these funds in public meetings are plagued with technological issues, missing agendas and materials, and unclear instructions for engagement. We need a department committed to transparency, community involvement, and efficacy to lead these spaces, namely the Department of Youth Development.

As of: 7/22/2026 9:00:14 AM

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
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Correspondence Received

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	**Relate To**	**Position**	**Name**	**Comments**
8.		**Favor**	lena mallett	Probation has a misaligned budget, and the CEO's office has noted repeatedly that Probation must "rightsize" it. The department is currently sitting on close to 1500 vacant positions. They use these "vacancy savings" to pay for things like overtime, services, and supplies, etc. This is unacceptable. Probation's budget has not mirrored the significant decreases of the incarcerated youth population. Between 2005-2025, LA County witnessed an 84% decrease in the overall population of incarcerated youth. During this same time period, Probation's budget has increased by roughly 57%. It has hovered around $1.1B, or 2.3-2.8% of the overall budget for the last 3 years. LA County Probation is still in a state of Emergency and this motion aims to do something different. The external crises we are all familiar with are matched by internal administrative and fiscal disasters, creating additional budgetary precarity for the county at large. This motion pushes the department and CEO to budget more intentionally, to re-align / rightsize the department's budget. The authors must be in regular conversation with the CEO and Probation staff drafting the proposed budget pilot. The CEO should acknowledge, examine, and if possible, incorporate community feedback lifted up in the Probation Oversight Commission meetings. Ultimately, DYD should track and allocate JJRBG, JJCPA, and other non-NCC dollars. This is a moment to prioritize divestment and reinvestment!
			Paloma Bustos	

As of: 7/22/2026 9:00:14 AM

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Correspondence Received

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	**Relate To**	**Position**	**Name**	**Comments**
8.		**Favor**	Sarah Bowers	SD 3 must be in regular conversation with the CEO and Probation staff drafting the proposed budget pilot. As CEO and Probation explore alternative budgeting methods and build out a potential budgeting pilot, SD 3 should remain hands-on to encourage timeliness with reportbacks and fidelity to the Youth Justice Reimagined and Care First, Jails Last visioning in any proposals brought forth. This is a moment to prioritize divestment and reinvestment! The interim CEO, Joseph Nicchitta shared during Final Budget presentations that divestment and reinvestment is a priority for both the Board of Supervisors AND the CEO. We agree! The CEO should uphold this commitment to a divestment/reinvestment strategy as they develop this budget pilot proposal. The CEO should acknowledge, examine, and if possible, incorporate community feedback lifted up in the Probation Oversight Commission meetings. As directed in the motion, the POC represents an ongoing opportunity for the public to track and weigh into this proposed Probation budget pilot. The CEO must be responsive to the questions and recommendations shared by system-impacted and formerly incarcerated youth and families, direct services providers, and advocates Ultimately, DYD should track and allocate JJRBG, JJCPA, and other non-NCC dollars. Probation has historically accumulated tens of millions of dollars in unused state funds, stemming from issues like ineffective allocation processes, lack of data collection, inaccurate tracking of spending, and inconsistency in meetings. For instance, the unspent balance of JJCPA dollars peaked at almost $100 million in 2024. The JJCC, JJRBG, and other County bodies responsible for apportioning these funds in public meetings are plagued with technological issues, missing agendas and materials, and unclear instructions for engagement. W e need a department committed to transparency, community involvement, and efficacy to lead these spaces, namely the Department of Youth Development.

As of: 7/22/2026 9:00:14 AM

PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Correspondence Received

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	**Relate To**	**Position**	**Name**	**Comments**
8.		**Other**	Ann Dorsey	The proposed Probation budget pilot should: Prioritize divestment from incarceration and reinvestment in communities, consistent with the County's Care First, Jails Last vision. Meaningfully incorporate feedback from impacted youth, families, advocates, and community members shared through the Probation Oversight Commission. Increase transparency and accountability in how state youth justice funds are tracked and spent. Shift responsibility for administering key youth funding streams to the Department of Youth Development, a department better positioned to ensure community involvement, transparency, and effective investments. For too long, tens of millions of dollars intended to support young people have gone unspent while communities continue to face unmet needs. We need a budgeting process that reflects the County's stated commitment to reinvestment and accountability.
			Curtis Chambers	

As of: 7/22/2026 9:00:14 AM

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	**Relate To**	**Position**	**Name**	**Comments**
8.		**Other**	Sarah K Pillsbury	Meeting Probation's Emergency with a New Approach to Budgeting I want to ensure that Supervisor Horvath and her staff will be in regular conversation with the CEO and Probation staff as they draft the proposed budget pilot. It's imperative that as the CEO and Probation explore alternative budgeting methods and build out a potential budgeting pilot, SD 3 remain hands-on to encourage timeliness with report backs and fidelity to the Youth Justice Reimagined and Care First, Jails Last visioning in any proposals brought forth. This is a moment to prioritize divestment and reinvestment! During the Final Budget presentations, Interim CEO Joseph Nicchitta stated that divestment and reinvestment are priorities for both the Board of Supervisors and the CEO. We agree and urge the CEO to honor that commitment by incorporating a divestment/reinvestment strategy into the budget pilot proposal. The CEO should acknowledge, examine, and if possible, incorporate community feedback lifted up in the Probation Oversight Commission meetings. As directed in the motion, the POC represents an ongoing opportunity for the public to track and weigh into this proposed Probation budget pilot. The CEO must be responsive to the questions and recommendations shared by system-impacted and formerly incarcerated youth and families, direct services providers, and advocates Ultimately, DYD should track and allocate JJRBG, JJCPA, and other non-NCC dollars. Probation has historically accumulated tens of millions of dollars in unused state funds, stemming from issues like ineffective allocation processes, lack of data collection, inaccurate tracking of spending, and inconsistency in meetings. In 2024 the unspent balance of JJCPA dollars peaked at almost $100 million! The JJCC, JJRBG, and other County bodies responsible for apportioning these funds in public meetings are plagued with technological issues, missing agendas and materials, and unclear instructions for engagement. We need a department committed to transparency, community involvement, and efficacy to lead these spaces, namely the Department of Youth Development.
			Violet Carne	It's time to divest from jails and invest in community!
		Item Total	**10**	
Grand Total			**10**	

As of: 7/22/2026 9:00:14 AM

Loyola Law School
Loyola Marymount University
Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative

July 20, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Redirecting Probation Resources to Youth Development

Dear Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

The Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative supports Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath's motion, "Meeting Probation's Emergency With a New Approach to Budgeting," which calls for a deeper review of the Los Angeles County Probation Department's budget.

The motion notes that Probation's adopted budget was approximately $1.11 billion for fiscal year 2025–2026 and that its proposed budget for 2026–2027 remains approximately the same. This is despite an 84% decline in the number of youth in custody since 2005 and major operational changes connected to the ongoing emergency at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. This creates an important opportunity to redirect funding toward prevention and community-based care, including greater investment in DYD and the organizations already serving youth in their communities. Doing so would help move the County away from a response centered on Probation and law enforcement and toward a public health approach focused on prevention, early identification, and support.

This issue is directly connected to our work with youth impacted by human trafficking, including young people who are forced or coerced into criminal activity. These youth are often identified through law enforcement or Probation and may be treated as offenders instead of trafficking victims. Redirecting resources toward DYD and community-based providers would support earlier identification and access to services outside the justice system.

Community-based organizations funded through DYD are better positioned to reach many of these youth before they become more deeply involved in the justice system. These organizations are located in the communities they serve and often have stronger relationships with young people who may not trust law enforcement or traditional systems.

In May 2026, we provided each Board office with a letter responding to the motion "Strengthening Services for Youth Impacted by Human trafficking," in which we explained that DYD-funded

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providers can play an important role in identifying and supporting youth impacted by both sex and labor trafficking. However, DYD cannot take on greater responsibility without adequate and sustained funding. A copy of the letter is attached for reference.

Any transfer of programs or responsibilities from Probation to DYD should include funding for:

- Trauma-informed screening for sex and labor trafficking.
- Identification of youth forced or coerced into criminal activity.
- Training and technical assistance for DYD-funded providers.
- Ongoing case management and stabilization services.
- Legal, immigration, and victim compensation assistance.
- Partnerships with specialized trafficking service providers.
- Data collection covering both sex and labor trafficking.

Our work with DYD-funded organizations has shown that current intake systems do not consistently screen for human trafficking. Standard County intake forms also do not adequately capture labor trafficking or forced criminality. Even trained providers may be unable to document what they identify because required systems do not include the necessary questions or categories.

These gaps have serious consequences. Youth forced into theft, drug sales, recruitment, or other illegal activity may be arrested and treated as offenders instead of being identified as trafficking victims. Investing in DYD would help identify these youth earlier and connect them to services outside the justice system.

The County should not move responsibilities to DYD without also moving the funding needed to carry them out. DYD and community-based providers need enough staff, training, systems, and services to support youth effectively.

We respectfully ask the Board to approve the motion and make sure the budget plan:

- Provides more funding to DYD and community-based services.
- Moves funding along with any new responsibilities.
- Addresses labor trafficking, including forced criminality.
- Reduces reliance on Probation and law enforcement for identifying and referring youth.
- Includes survivor leaders, community organizations, and impacted youth in budget decisions.
- Protects and expands services for youth already receiving support.

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Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative

Los Angeles County has an opportunity to invest more in prevention, early identification, healing, and community-based care. Directing more funding to DYD would help ensure that trafficked and exploited youth receive support instead of punishment.

Sincerely,

Paloma Bustos

Paloma Bustos, MSW
Policy Associate
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Loyola Marymount University
Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative

May 1, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St, Room 381B
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Motion on Strengthening Services for Youth Impacted by Human Trafficking and Support for the Department of Youth Development (DYD)

Dear Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

We appreciate Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath's leadership in introducing the motion, *"Strengthening Services and Aligning Resources for Probation and Foster Youth Impacted by Human Trafficking."* We strongly support its focus on improving coordination, staffing, and service delivery for impacted youth.

The motion raises serious concerns about how support for youth impacted by human trafficking is currently working, including gaps in staffing, referral systems, coordination, and the use of existing resources. These concerns reflect what many of us working directly with providers and youth have been seeing for years.

The County already has a five-year strategic plan to address child trafficking. This plan provides a framework for full integration of programs and services and moves the County toward a public health approach. We have the tools to do better. The issue now is ensuring resources are directed and expanded in ways that support prevention, early identification, and access to services for all trafficked youth.

For too long, many young people impacted by trafficking have not been seen, supported, or given a real opportunity to heal. The County still has a long way to go to build systems that reflect a true public health approach focused on prevention and early identification.

The motion's focus on underspending within programs, including probation or programs waiting for referrals from law enforcement agencies, does not fully address the root issue. For many years, experienced advocates have raised concerns about the County's reliance on probation and law enforcement as the primary entry points for identifying trafficked youth.

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At the same time, departments such as the Department of Youth Development (DYD), Public Health, and the Los Angeles County Unified School District (LAUSD) cannot be expected to shift this trajectory without sufficient funding, time, and system level changes. This work will take sustained investment and coordination.

SJI is writing to more fully explain the support and resources needed for DYD to effectively engage and support youth impacted by trafficking. This includes updating intake and assessment practices and expanding training and technical assistance, while also strengthening access to specialized services for crime survivors.

If DYD is expected to play a larger role in anti-trafficking efforts, these gaps must be addressed to ensure youth are identified early and connected to appropriate services for crime victims, even though DYD was originally designed to serve youth in diversion programs.

1. Intake and Assessment: Youth Are Not Identified Early

The motion highlights that referral systems are not working as they should, noting low referral numbers and ongoing challenges in connecting youth to available services.

As a result, many youth who are already experiencing human trafficking are not being identified during intake or early interactions with systems. If youth are not identified, they are not referred to services, and the support that exists never reaches them.

Youth experiencing trafficking often remain invisible in County data, which contributes to unspent funding because services are never triggered.

This also points to clear gaps in intake and assessment processes. Based on my experience working with services providers contracted with DYD, standard intake processes do not include screening for human trafficking, including both sex and labor trafficking. In addition, required intake forms tied to DYD funding do not capture this information.

In 2025 and 2026, SJI conducted trainings on labor trafficking and forced criminality to 7 community-based organizations supported by DYD. As part of this work, we reviewed intake forms used by these organizations and suggested specific language to support identification of both sex and labor trafficking, including forced criminality, which refers to situations where youth are coerced or forced into illegal activity as part of their exploitation, at the initial intake stage.

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Providers were receptive and open to updating their intake practices. However, they identified a key barrier. The standardized intake system required by County for DYD funded programs does not currently allow for these updates to be incorporated. This means that even when providers are trained and willing to identify trafficking, the system itself limits what can be documented and addressed.

Universal intake tools used by DYD service providers must be designed to support early identification of trafficking, including situations where youth are being exploited or forced into illegal activity.

To address these gaps, DYD should strengthen intake and assessment by:

- incorporating trauma informed screening questions for both sex and labor trafficking
- including clear indicators of coercion, exploitation, and forced criminality
- ensuring that identification does not rely on law enforcement involvement

Further, DYD funded diversion programs are intended to receive referrals from local law enforcement instead of youth being arrested. However, because the First Responder Protocols (FRP) were not updated in 2025 to include comprehensive screening for sex and labor trafficking, especially labor trafficking involving forced criminality, law enforcement agencies have not been given clear guidance on how to refer these youth.

As a result, youth who are experiencing labor trafficking through forced criminality may still be arrested instead of being referred to either trafficking specific advocacy programs or DYD diversion providers. This gap should be addressed in 2026 so that more youth are identified and referred to services instead of entering the justice system.

Finally, schools are an additional and often safer point of identification and referral for youth impacted by trafficking. Schools can provide a more trusted and trauma-informed environment for early identification. However, despite the Child Trafficking Subcommittee on Education and Awareness spending 2025 vetting and reviewing qualified programs to increase identification and training in schools, no funding was allocated to pilot this work or begin collecting evidence-based data.

This gap is especially concerning given that the County has already identified available funding for prevention efforts. DCFS has proposed using $100,000 of $400,000 in unspent funds toward a

Human Trafficking Training contract to support prevention education curriculum development, survivor consultation stipends, and prevention and intervention workshops.

In 2026, funding must be allocated to pilot programs that support prevention, early identification, and referrals from schools to DYD so the County can begin collecting evidence-based data and make informed decisions about how to best support vulnerable youth.

2. Training and Technical Assistance: Building Foundational Knowledge and Expanding Access to Specialized Services

Community-based organizations that currently receive funding for diversion programs through DYD are uniquely positioned to identify and respond to the needs of youth impacted by trafficking, including both sex and labor trafficking, especially labor trafficking involving forced criminality.

These organizations are located in the communities they serve, often in the same neighborhoods where young people live. Based on our outreach and training, we also believe that many current caseworkers may have their own lived experience with exploitation, including labor trafficking through forced criminality in their own youth. Because of this, they represent a strong source of peer advocates, which is a recognized best practice in trafficking services.

We have also observed that DYD supported providers are able to build real relationships and trust with young people. Many youth feel safer going to organizations based in their own communities rather than to traditionally funded trafficking advocacy providers that work closely with law enforcement. This is especially true for youth who have had negative experiences with those systems in the past.

However, DYD funded organizations need more support to fully meet the service needs of youth impacted by trafficking.

Through my work with DYD-supported providers, I have seen firsthand the need for more specialized training. Many providers do not yet have a strong foundation in trauma, trafficking dynamics, or the ways young people are exploited. This includes situations where youth are coerced into criminal activity and then punished for it, rather than recognized as victims.

Providers may also have difficulty identifying less visible forms of trafficking, such as family-based labor exploitation or work in informal settings. In addition, many providers report that they do not feel confident identifying trafficking without relying on law enforcement involvement.

Targeted funding should be used to expand training and technical assistance so providers can identify trafficking within the population they already serve. This investment should ensure that DYD providers are equipped with trauma informed and survivor centered approaches.

This should include:

- training on labor and sex trafficking dynamics, including forced criminality
- training on trauma informed and youth centered approaches to engagement and care for crime victims
- ongoing technical assistance to support providers in applying this knowledge in practice

These efforts will help ensure that providers are able to identify trafficking and provide an appropriate initial response for youth experiencing exploitation.

Even when youth are identified as trafficked by DYD providers, their current service provision model and access to specialized services for crime victims remain limited. Many providers need additional skill building to properly serve youth as crime victims, as well as additional support to expand current programming or connect youth to the full range of services needed for stabilization and recovery.

Additional funding is needed to support access to specialized trafficking services, including immigration relief, assistance through the California Victim Compensation Board, legal services, and comprehensive case management for crime survivors. These services are critical to helping youth stabilize and recover. At the same time, DYD providers will need additional support and training to deliver or connect youth to this level of care.

To address this, the County should:

- expand access to immigration, legal, and California Victim Compensation Board services for youth impacted by trafficking
- strengthen partnerships between DYD supported providers and specialized service organizations
- provide training and guidance to help providers connect youth to these services
- ensure funding supports DYD in expanding ongoing case management, stabilization services, and access to specialized services for crime survivors

3. Reducing Over Reliance on Law Enforcement

There is still too much reliance on law enforcement to identify and refer trafficked youth, even though many young people do not feel safe engaging with these systems. This approach does not align with the public health approach the County has committed to, which focuses on prevention, early support, and healing.

Instead, the County should invest more in community-based organizations that are trusted, accessible, and better positioned to engage young people early and provide ongoing support.

Many of the youth who enter probation systems have experienced significant adversity, including abuse, neglect, violence, and instability at home and in their communities. These experiences increase their vulnerability to trafficking, including situations where they are forced or coerced into committing crimes for the benefit of others. As a result, youth are often arrested or enter the probation system even though their actions are directly connected to their exploitation.

Because of this, trafficked youth are often labeled as offenders and pushed through systems that do not fully address what they have experienced. This can lead to further harm, deeper system involvement, and missed opportunities for support.

At its core, what we are seeing is a response to pain and survival. Youth are often reacting to trauma and coercion, yet are treated as offenders rather than victims in need of care. What young people need is access to trusted mentors, mental health care, stable housing, and community-based programs that recognize their experiences and support their healing.

Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath's motion highlights what many in the community already know. Youth are being left without the support they need, not because resources are unavailable, but because systems are not working together effectively.

If the County is serious about addressing human trafficking, it must ensure that law enforcement is not the primary referral source for this population. Schools, the Department of Youth Development, and community-based providers should serve as the primary points of identification and referral for trafficked youth.

At the same time, law enforcement must be equipped with the tools and training to immediately refer youth to services and avoid arresting children who are victims of trafficking, including those experiencing forced criminality.

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The five-year strategic plan to address child trafficking provides the framework for full integration of programs and services for all trafficked children. We have the tools to do better. Now the County must direct and expand resources to support prevention, early identification, and services for all trafficked youth, based on evidence informed approaches.

Sincerely,

Paloma Bustos

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Sarah K. Pillsbury

July 20, 2026

Dear Esteemed Supervisors,

I'm Sarah Pillsbury, a resident of Venice; Liberty Hill Foundation, Board Member Emeritus; and Advisory Board member of La Defensa. I'm writing today regarding Agenda Items 8 and 62.

Regarding Item 8: Meeting Probation's Emergency with a New Approach to Budgeting

I want to ensure that Supervisor Horvath and her staff will be in regular conversation with the CEO and Probation staff as they draft the proposed budget pilot. It's imperative that as the CEO and Probation explore alternative budgeting methods and build out a potential budgeting pilot, SD 3 remain hands-on to encourage timeliness with report backs and fidelity to the Youth Justice Reimagined and Care First, Jails Last visioning in any proposals brought forth.

This is a moment to prioritize divestment and reinvestment!

During the Final Budget presentations, Interim CEO Joseph Nicchitta stated that divestment and reinvestment are priorities for both the Board of Supervisors and the CEO. We agree and urge the CEO to honor that commitment by incorporating a divestment/reinvestment strategy into the budget pilot proposal.

The CEO should acknowledge, examine, and if possible, incorporate community feedback lifted up in the Probation Oversight Commission meetings.

As directed in the motion, the POC represents an ongoing opportunity for the public to track and weigh into this proposed Probation budget pilot. The CEO must be responsive to the questions and recommendations shared by system-impacted and formerly incarcerated youth and families, direct services providers, and advocates

Ultimately, DYD should track and allocate JJRBG, JJCPA, and other non-NCC dollars.

Probation has historically accumulated tens of millions of dollars in unused state funds, stemming from issues like ineffective allocation processes, lack of data collection, inaccurate tracking of spending, and inconsistency in meetings. In 2024 the unspent balance of JJCPA dollars peaked at almost $100 million!

The JJCC, JJRBG, and other County bodies responsible for apportioning these funds in public meetings are plagued with technological issues, missing agendas and materials, and unclear instructions for engagement. We need a department committed to transparency, community involvement, and efficacy to lead these spaces, namely the Department of Youth Development.

Regarding Item #62: County of Los Angeles Ethics Commission Charter Amendment

In Measure G and Measure J, voters were promised an independent Ethics Commission, as well as community investment and alternatives to incarceration. Strong ethics protect public trust.

- Communities are more likely to engage with County government when they know decisions are being made transparently.
- Public trust grows when elected officials and County employees are held to clear ethical standards.

This ordinance helps ensure the County Ethics Commission is accountable to the people it serves —not to the elected officials it oversees.

Independence is essential to accountability. Independence allows the Commission to investigate complaints and enforce ethics rules without political interference or outside influence.

Weak ethics create real harm and an environment where corruption can flourish. Weak oversight leads to mismanagement and wastes public funds. And every dollar lost to corruption is a dollar that can't be invested in housing, healthcare, youth programs, mental health services, and community-based care.

Strong ethics and independent oversight are proven tools for making government more transparent and accountable. Good governance protects public resources and ensures decisions are made in the public interest.

L.A. County manages billions of taxpayer dollars every year. This ordinance will protect our public investments and create confidence among County residents that these resources are being managed responsibly. And Strong ethics protections help ensure funding reaches the communities and programs it was intended to support.

Accountability strengthens government and builds public confidence. This ballot measure doubles down on those promises to ensure that voters get what they thought they were voting for.

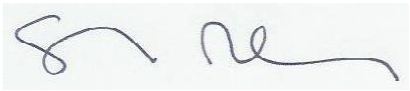
Transparent decision-making leads to better outcomes for everyone and strong ethics standards help County government operate more effectively and fairly.

This charter amendment is an important step toward a more transparent, accountable, and trustworthy County government and builds on reforms that will strengthen County government for years to come.

We urge the Board to be accountable to Angelenos who voted for Measures G & J by supporting this ordinance. Vote Yes!

Thank you for your attention to these comments and concerns regarding Agenda Items 8 and 62.

Warm regards,



Sarah Pillsbury

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Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officers' Union
AFSCME LOCAL 685

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(213) 386-5860 FAX (213) 386-5878

July 21, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Agenda Item 8 – Meeting Probation's Emergency with a New Approach to Budgeting

Dear Chair Solis and Honorable Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Executive Board of AFSCME Local 685 representing the Deputy Probation Officers of Los Angeles County, we appreciate Supervisor Horvath and Mitchell's recognition of the importance of engaging represented employees in the development of the proposed Budget Realignment Strategy.

We respectfully urge the Board to include labor as a full partner throughout the development of the strategy from the very beginning.

As the Board evaluates the future of the Probation Department, we believe we all share the same objective: ensuring that every grant dollar and every taxpayer dollar is used for the purpose it was intended. Every available resource should be invested in effective rehabilitation, public safety, and the programs our communities expect. Frontline employees can provide valuable insight into how those resources can be fully utilized, rather than left unspent because the Department lacks the staffing necessary to deliver the services those grants were designed to support.

The challenges facing the Probation Department cannot be solved through budget analysis alone. They require the combined expertise of policymakers, management, and the professionals who carry out the Department's mission every day.

The Board brings policy leadership. Management brings administrative expertise. Frontline employees bring operational knowledge that cannot be learned from a budget spreadsheet. A genuine labor-management partnership will produce stronger recommendations, better stewardship of public resources, and more practical, sustainable solutions. **Together, we can help ensure that every dollar is spent wisely and consistent with legislative intent, every program has the staffing necessary to succeed, and every recommendation advances better outcomes for the youth, families, and communities we all serve.**

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working collaboratively with the Board, the Chief Executive Office, and Department leadership throughout this important process.

Respectfully,

Curtis Chambers
President