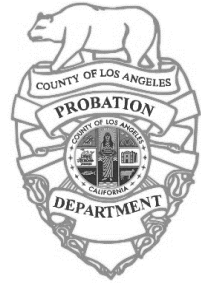




COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501



GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA

Chief Probation Officer

December 08, 2025

TO: Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director
Probation Oversight Commission

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa 
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S
AUGUST 28, 2025, ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR
LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL**

On November 14, 2025, we received a draft of the Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) Annual Inspection Report for Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) based on a nine-hour inspection on August 28, 2025. Your observations and feedback are greatly appreciated and assist us in our joint goal of improving conditions and operations at LPJH. As indicated in your report, changes and improvements have occurred since the inspection. While not all changes and improvements to the facility are noted below and not all observations are commented upon, this response focuses on some of the more significant ones.

Improvements Relating to Violence and Core Responsibilities

It is first and foremost important to note that there were significant decreases in both use of force (UOF) incidents and youth on youth violence (YOYV) incidents from 2024 to 2025. When comparing the first 10 months of each year, LPJH experienced a decrease of 17.28 percent in UOF incidents and a decrease of 39.44 percent in YOYV incidents. Moreover, approximately 80% of all YOYV incidents were resolved by Probation staff without the use of any force. A number of violence reduction strategies are currently in place which we expect will continue to result in a reduction of both use of force and youth on youth violence: (1) weekly meetings are conducted with all youth who were in multiple fight incidents to collaboratively develop a plan with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education to reduce violent youth behavior; (2) weekly meetings are conducted to review use of force incidents to provide training, identify trends, and address performance concerns; (3) staffing has been adjusted to ensure youth who are involved in recent altercations or are exhibiting concerning behavior, are placed in appropriate housing to prevent further

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities

escalation; (4) veteran staff have been assigned to high incident units to strengthen supervision and support youth in de-escalation; (5) our critical incident team (CIT) has been expanded in collaboration with DMH to assist in de-escalating a situation before it rises to crisis levels; and (6) management conducts debriefings with supervisors to review emerging issues and address any YOYV or UOF concerns.

The Department of Justice's Deputy Monitor for LPJH has in fact recognized these improvements. In his report after a week-long inspection period in August of 2025, the monitor noted the Superintendent's engagement and leadership and commended her for her presence in the units which appeared to be making a positive difference. The current Superintendent has been at LPJH since April of 2025 and has been acting as the Superintendent since July of 2025. During the Deputy Monitor's two-week inspection period in November of 2025, he attended the use of force incident review process and commended the process which he believes will continue to improve practice.

With respect to the staffing levels at LPJH, they remain sufficient to meet operational and legally mandated requirements. Probation staff are effectively managing supervision responsibilities and available resources are already aligned to support safe and consistent facility operation. Hence, the POC's asking the Board of Supervisors to "call for the activation of County partners to assume or contract all possible roles within their expertise" . . . "to provide Probation the ability to move all available sworn staff into direct supervision roles to increase focus on legally required tasks" is ill-advised and unnecessary.

Facility and Visitation

The report accurately points out the efficiency and consistency with the improved security protocols and outdated but well-kept grounds. With respect to graffiti observed in some older units, this issue has since been addressed. The Deputy Monitor from the Department of Justice has visited the facility a number of times since the POC's inspection in August and reported that "not only were all units and areas clean and sanitary, but there has also been a focus on reducing clutter and organizing supplies and equipment. The new entry security, which includes scanners and dogs, is a vast improvement, and graffiti is greatly reduced throughout the facility." With respect to the screening of visitors and visitation protocols, the Department is currently working on developing a uniform visitation policy based on both the POC's recommendations and those of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration.

Access to Medical/Mental Health Services

The report indicated that although transportation services for appointments outside of the facility had improved, JCHS advised that 35% of internal medical appointments were missed as a direct result of inadequate Probation staffing to adequately supervise the number of youth detained in the facility. This issue was not mentioned at the out briefing, so it is difficult at this point to verify whether or to what extent missed appointments were due to inadequate staffing. In order to eliminate this issue and ensure youth receive timely

medical treatment, the following practices have been put in place: (1) a Joint Medical Transportation Plan was created with Probation, DMH, JCHS and the CEO's Office which meets bi-weekly to discuss and resolve transportation issues; (2) Probation meets with JCHS and DMH at 1:30pm and 8:30pm every day to learn about and address any missed appointments; (3) an Internal Medical Appointment List was created to track all clinic appointments and walk-ins so that they are accounted for; and (4) all Internal Appointment Logs are uploaded into a Teams Folder to allow Probation employees to access and assist with making sure that youth are transported to their appointments.

Grievances

The report noted concerns with follow-up documentation relating to grievances and the need for additional staff to handle grievances. These issues have since been addressed and corrected. A formal process is in place to ensure the grievance log is updated with detailed information as grievances are closed out. The log is now reviewed on a weekly basis. In addition, management followed up on the POC's concern regarding whether emergency grievances were addressed appropriately. It was determined that most emergency grievances were responded to in a timely manner but a couple originating from female units were delayed due to supervisor turnover. The issue has since been resolved, and all units are now properly staffed with both a supervisor and a manager. In addition, to strengthen the grievance process, an additional officer has been assigned to support the current grievance officer. As of October of 2025, a supervisor has also been assigned to oversee the grievance system.

On the issue of room confinements, an email was sent to personnel in July directing that only the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Director on duty may authorize Room Confinements and Suspension of Standards. In order to re-emphasize the rules and regulations relating to Room Confinements, staff received additional training and information in August. Since then, the number of room confinements has dropped dramatically.

Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray

As the POC reports, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion in 2022 relating to ending the use of OC spray in juvenile facilities. The Board motion directed the Department to create an implementation plan to phase out the use of OC spray in the housing units with developmental disabilities, girls and gender expansive youth. The Department is committed to downscaling and ultimately eliminating the use of OC spray in all juvenile facilities. Currently, probation officers do not carry OC spray on their persons at any of the camps. However, at LPJH, the use of OC spray fluctuates daily. Staff are not mandated to carry OC spray but are issued a canister upon request as an additional tool to either prevent or deescalate violence. The Department continues to collaborate with the Department of Justice's court appointed monitor to develop an updated OC spray phase out strategic plan as directed by the Board.

The report additionally states that a POC staff member observed a probation officer run toward a girl holding up and shaking an OC canister readying to deploy it despite the lack of physical violence. The girl had been engaged in a verbal altercation with another girl. Another probation officer was able to engage with the girl and successfully deescalated the situation prior to the deployment of the OC spray. This incident was brought to the attention of the Superintendent as a concern at the debriefing. Upon first review of video footage capturing the incident, the Superintendent believed the item in the probation officer's hand was a radio. However, after speaking with the POC staff member who asked for another review, a second angle of video footage was located which confirmed the item in the officer's hand was an OC canister. The Department appreciates the POC's engagement on this issue and has gone over the incident with the employee which will be followed up with a worker/supervisor conference..¹

GVR:JC:MG:dt

¹ The report also mentions a commissioner heard a security officer make "disparaging comments about people in the transgender community based on a televised news report about a recent school shooting" at some point during the inspection. After receiving a copy of the draft report with this information, the Department asked for more information about the incident in order to take appropriate action but was advised that POC staff had already reported the incident to the County Equity Oversight Panel.