

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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December 04, 2025

TO: Wendelyn Julien. Executive Director

Probation Oversight Commission

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa

Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR

CAMP CLINTON B. AFFLERBAUGH

On November 25, 2025, we received a draft of the Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) September 8, 2025, Annual Inspection Report for Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh. (CBA) Department appreciates the POC's recognition of Camp Afflerbaugh's "long running successful functioning" as well as its observations regarding the environment at CBA being structured yet less restrictive than other facilities. As the POC's report notes, the environment at the camp contributes to the relaxed overall tone of the facility with youth allowed more independence and an ability to walk freely around the campus with officers keeping close track of them. During the debriefing, one of the POC staff even commented that the camp felt like a normal High School environment with a respectful atmosphere overall.

Because the camp recently combined youth and staff from two camps, one whose culture was more compliance-based and the other whose culture was more relationship-based, we acknowledge that full integration has not taken place and has led to some differences in culture between shifts. The Director at CBA has been working hard at moving toward a relationship-based culture without compromising the safety of the youth. The Department further recognizes that working with youth and hearing about the trauma youth have suffered prior to ending up at the camp is arduous and stressful. The Department has a Wellness Plan, and the County has a Wellness Program to support employees with both on-duty and off-duty stressors. The Department also offers courses that cover vicarious trauma for those willing to participate and recently approved a class entitled "Vicarious Trauma: Recognition, Recovery, and Resilience." We hope to be able to include the class in next year's annual training plan.

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As the report noted, there was a youth who reported to the POC during the inspection that his visitation had been limited to one hour. That is not the norm. An inquiry into this allegation was made by the Director who determined that visitation had been cut short for some on an unusually hot day in September during a heat wave which lasted several days. The supervisor on shift moved visiting to an air-conditioned location which could not accommodate all the families who showed up to visit their loved ones. The supervisor on duty decided to cut some of the visitations short to accommodate all the families. The Director has instructed staff that if the situation presents itself again, one of the air-conditioned classrooms should be utilized instead of cutting anyone's visitation short. The Department is appreciative of having the issue brought to our attention so we could take corrective action.

With respect to the observation that one of the youths was taken away from the facility by a law enforcement officer in the middle of the inspection, the Director confirmed that this rarely occurs but indicates that the removal was based on an order from the court accompanied with an arrest warrant. While a youth's attorney may not be called in advance of the removal, both the youth's attorney and parent or guardian are called upon the youth's return. The arrest warrant for the youth who was removed during the inspection concerned an incident which occurred prior to his detention at CBA.

Lastly, we acknowledge the section of the report indicating that a youth reported being threatened with having his personal items thrown away if he did not attend scheduled programming and then upon returning from programming finding his personal items were gone. Such behavior is not tolerated and violates Department policies. However, this incident was not documented in a grievance to allow for a prompt investigation and the taking of corrective action. Since the POC's inspection, staff has nonetheless received reminders on Abusive Institutional Practices, including the prohibition of threatening youth and taking their personal items.

GVR:RA:JR:dt