

# PROBATION NEWS

## A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM CHIEF GONZALES

### *Season's Greetings,*

At this festive time of year, I would like to take a moment to wish you a season filled with the joy of spending time with friends and family. 2021 has been an unpredictable year. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you as we look forward with hope to a new year filled with peace, prosperity, and good health.

As I reflect on my ten months with the department, I have so many memories to treasure. Having the opportunity to meet my colleagues, the officers and staff of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, has been one of my greatest pleasures. In less than a year you have shown a courage and resolve that prove to me that this department will be the greatest probation department in the nation. Ours is a department made up of a caring, considerate staff who love their work, their clients, and their communities. I am privileged to work with each of you. I am also honored to work alongside our new Chief Deputies, Karen Fletcher and Adam Bettino. Their leadership and life experience have brought new energy and vitality to the department. We will all benefit from their ideas and direction as we move forward.

I wish to thank you for your diligence this year. We are in difficult times, and to know that probation staff are there to help is reassuring to our clients and families. I also recognize those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. From volunteering to assist during the devastating Caldor Fire, to those who gave their time giving back to many in the community during what could have been a very lonely Thanksgiving season, I am so proud of the men and women of this department. You work hard and you care. You are a pleasure to lead. I also wish to acknowledge our family, friends, and co-workers that passed on this year. While those losses may never disappear, their memory will always be a comfort.

Please continue to take time for self-care, it's well deserved. Spend some time alone as well as enjoying time with the people you love and who love you. Unfortunately, the pandemic continues; please continue to observe safety. Wear a mask, wash your hands, and if you haven't yet, please consult your doctor about getting your vaccine booster.

I hope you and your families experience the joy and laughter we all deserve during this Holiday Season. Let us all be grateful for what we have, and what we are building together.

Wishing you and yours a joyful Holiday and a very Happy New Year.

