

County DIGEST



JULY 1999

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Los Angeles County Probation Department

Created in 1903, the Los Angeles County Probation Department is the largest department of its kind in the nation. Currently, the Department has a staff of 4,650 of whom 3,190 are sworn personnel. It consists of six operational and two support bureaus that provide a variety of mandated and non-mandated services to both juveniles and adults throughout the county.

Probation's services are delivered from 50 major work locations comprising three juvenile halls, 18 juvenile probation camps, a residential treatment program for emotionally troubled juvenile probationers and 28 field or administrative offices. Its department head, the Chief Probation Officer, is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Probation Commission, whose volunteer members are also appointed by the Board, acts as an advisory body to the Chief.

Often referred to as "Community Corrections," *probation* is a criminal sanction imposed by courts on offenders, in lieu of incarceration, that allows the offenders to serve their sentences under supervision in the community. It is not feasible either socially or economically to imprison all offenders. Probation provides a cost-effective alternative in offender management.

Probation is distinct from parole, which involves the supervision of offenders who have been sentenced to jail or prison, but have been released before serving their full term. Offenders released from prison are supervised by the parole division of the California State Department of Corrections. The Probation Department

operates a small parole unit to supervise offenders released from county jail.

Mission and Goal:

The mission of the Department is: 1) to protect the community by recommending sanctions to the courts, enforcing court orders, operating correctional institutions and incarcerating delinquents; 2) to design and implement additional programs to reduce crime; and 3) to ensure victims' rights.

The Department's primary goal is to decrease probationers' ability and desire to commit criminal acts by measurably: enforcing court orders; providing programs to address their needs; and/or recommending additional sanctions up to and including removal from the community.

Departmental Facts:

- During 1998, the Department completed over 151,000 adult investigations.

- During the Fiscal Year just completed, the Department's adult bureaus collected over \$20.4 million in fines, fees and restitution.

- In 1998, the Department received over 40,000 juvenile referrals and completed more than 22,000 juvenile investigations.

- There are approximately 77,000 adults and 23,000 juveniles on probation.

- Last year, the total average daily population of the Department's three juvenile halls was 1,978.

- The juvenile camp population



Deputy Probation Officer Russell Clark, Jr. explains to a minor and his father the conditions of the minor's probation.

totals approximately 2,125 per day.

- Probation supervises 1,500 to 1,600 minors who have been placed in group and foster homes by the Juvenile Court.

Activities and Programs: The primary duties of Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs), as "part cop and part social worker", include enforcing court orders designed to minimize the likelihood probationers will re-offend, referring probationers to needed services and reporting the noncompliance of probationers to the court with a recommended disposition. However, Probation is active throughout the criminal justice process, offering a wide range of prevention, intervention and suppression programs created to protect the community.

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Calendar of Events



The Arboretum of Los Angeles County
(626) 821-3222

Festival on the Green
August 7, 1999
5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale
August 14 and 15, 1999
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

John Anson Ford Theatre
(323) 461-3673
www.lacountyarts.org/ford.html

To Duke, With Love -- A Celebration of the Music of Duke Ellington
August 7, 1999
8:00 p.m.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org

Post-Impressionist Prints: Paris in the 1890s
July 1 through September 13, 1999

Department of Public Works
(626) 458-3566
<http://dpw.co.la.ca.us>

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
July 31, 1999
1845 Ontario Street, Burbank

Petersen Automotive Museum
(323) 930-CARS
www.petersen.org

Discovery Day: Get ready, set, go!
July 31, 1999
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Commission for Women
(213) 974-1455

1st Annual 5K Run/Walk & Health Expo
September 25, 1999
Rose Bowl

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Shelia Abron-Mitchell

"The nomination was gratifying; however, the selection was exhilarating," said Shelia Abron-Mitchell. "The selection after 24 years of service sits on top of my list of accomplishments."

Abron-Mitchell, a Staff Assistant, Nursing with Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center of the Department of Health Services, was named June 1999 County Employee of the Month. She received a scroll from Chairman Don Knabe with her family, friends and colleagues in attendance.

The honoree provides staff support for the hospital's Chief Nursing Officer, participates in the administration of nursing services by independently carrying out specialized staff assignments for a segment of nursing operations, assists in special projects and events and acts as office manager for the Administrative Nursing Office with the responsibility of supervising clerical staff.

She began her County career as a Typist Clerk for the Department of Facilities, moved to the Department of Health Services and has been promoted since then up to her current position at the hospital. Her transfer has been a blessing.

As special events coordinator, Abron-Mitchell has successfully coordinated the opening of the Mammography Center, the Nurse of the Year recognition ceremony and the design and development of the hospital's International Room.

She has also assisted in the reorganization of the Administrative Nursing Office, Clerical Operations which resulted in a decreased time in communicating incidents within the Department,

facilitating clear reporting lines and an increased harmonious working relationship among staff. Moreover, she has participated in a study to cut down patient waiting time in an ambulatory setting.

Since she spends a majority of her work hours indoors, Abron-Mitchell relishes her time with nature.

"I enjoy camping with my family in natural parks," she said. "The serenity of the ocean and its calm blue waters provide for a refreshing change."

Children's welfare and health care accessibility are also her passions. She is a member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Stakeholder and the Black Health Ser-

vices Action Committee. Lately, she has been "surfing the net" and has enrolled in university courses via the Internet.

On a professional level, this recognition may well be the highlight of her career. But on a personal plane, "working as a co-administrator for a small family group home with the responsibility of assisting the mentally challenged to progressing to independent living settings" she considers to be her most rewarding experience to date.



The Chairman of the Board congratulates Shelia Abron-Mitchell on her selection, as well as her many contributions benefiting the citizens and the County of Los Angeles.





Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Alan M. Packard
COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES: John L. Farley, Mariana Noriega

FIRE: James A. Brewer, Steven W. Johnson, Arthur R. Millette, Steven J. Dahlmeier, John W. Everett, Keith J. Miller, Chester J. Epperson, Gerald A. Himango

HEALTH SERVICES: Sallie M. Anthony, Jo A. Dixon, Romeo Flores, Dorothy Victorian

MUNICIPAL COURTS: Patricia J. Woodard

PARKS AND RECREATION: Earl D. Breitbarth

PROBATION: Joel T. Noble, Jr., Carl G. Reeves, Johnny P. Risk, Elsie M. Strickland

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Vito A. Cacucciolo

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Bessie Perkins, Pamela Wheeler

PUBLIC WORKS: Eddie Bravo, Perry L. Howell, Ramon H. Powell

SHERIFF: Paul G. Alexander, Royal L. Clinton, Jr., Eldon D. Horsley, Edward P. Huffman, Henry J. Laporte, David E. Leroy, Robert F. Mann, Robert R. Pash, James E. Sanders, Durward E. Schrick, William B. Diehl, Robert L. Wilson, Daniel L. Burt

SUPERIOR COURTS: James L. Moran, Anthony M. Gonzalez

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the people of the County of Los Angeles for more than 25 years:

ASSESSOR: Rodolfo F. Rapadas

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Emilie A. Martens

COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES: Nancy C. Harris

FIRE: Amparo Ramirez, David C. Hutchinson, Stephen R. Noble, Michael D. Thorpe

HEALTH SERVICES: Elimellie D. Castillo, Peggy M. Collins, Benjamin S. Facun, Sung J. Lee, Cheryl Lowenstein, Joann V. Osby, Teresa Pena

INTERNAL SERVICES: Martina M. Butler, Barbara A. Johnson, Nick P. Metchikoff, Barbara J. Russell

MENTAL HEALTH: Julio A. Carias

PARKS & RECREATION: Omega L. Freeman, Demarvin Lawrence

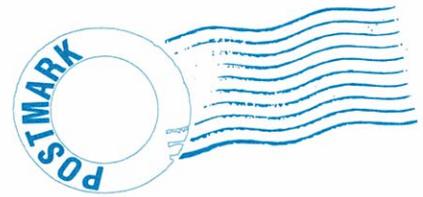
PROBATION: Johnny L. Kirby, CJ Melia, Jesse C. Zaragoza

PUBLIC SAFETY: Rienzi T. Davis

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Rebecca Bondad, Carmelo Miranda, Ruben Edmondson, Jr.

PUBLIC WORKS: Joseph Lindsay, Shirley F. Meech, David A. Myers, Michael L. Olivier

SHERIFF: Paul J. Click, Robert G. Snapper, Tommy M. Smith, Geraldine P. Hogan



Mailing Address Change

If you have changed your mailing address, please notify your Personnel Office immediately.

Supervisor Antonovich Hosts Youth Summit

In a continued effort to provide open lines of communication between our youth and County government, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich held the first annual Youth Summit on May 7 at the Arcadia County Park. Approximately 100 students from various school districts within the San Gabriel Valley participated.

The forum offered our youth an opportunity to inform the Supervisor and representatives from approximately 20 County departments on the problems and stresses they face in their daily lives. Students shared their concerns and solutions regarding issues such as foster care, teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse, gangs, suicide and respect between au-

thority figures and students.

"I have gone from one foster home to another and have been abused but this is the first time in eight years that anyone has ever asked for my opinion," said one of our young people.

Representatives from County departments have been asked to report to Supervisor Antonovich on how they are addressing the major issues at the summit and if they have not, then how they will be addressed.

"Hearing from these young people was a learning experience for all of us and one I intend to continue throughout the Fifth Supervisorial District," Supervisor Antonovich said.



Students listen attentively to their colleague as she shares her story with them. In the foreground are the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation Rodney E. Cooper, Deputy JC Iamurri, Supervisor Antonovich, Master of Ceremonies Mario Machado and Deputy Jay Gomez.

Probation

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Prevention: The Probation Department's Gang Alternative and Prevention Program (GAPP) concentrates on pre-delinquent and marginal gang youth who live in neighborhoods characterized by a high crime rate, violent gang activity, and heavy drug use. The Multi-Agency At-Risk Youth Committee (MAARY-C) focuses on at-risk youth who display repeat offender characteristics but who have not yet entered the juvenile justice system. Teen Court offers an alternative sanction in the form of a diversion program for first time juvenile offenders in lieu of more formal delinquency proceedings. These are just three of the Department's programs designed to divert minors from the formal juvenile justice system.

Jail Alternatives: The Department's Pretrial Services division evaluates certain adult offenders following their arrest and makes recommendations regarding Own Recognizance release and bail deviation. To free additional jail beds needed for more serious offenders, the division provides Pretrial Supervision and Electronic Monitoring programs. The Department also operates a work furlough program that allows offenders serving jail time to maintain their employment, support their families and pay their restitution.

Juvenile Detention: Juvenile offenders, brought to juvenile hall following their arrest, are interviewed by the Department's Intake Detention Control Officers, who decide whether or not to detain them.

In Los Angeles County, the Probation Department is mandated to operate juvenile halls, which are temporary detention facilities for juveniles from the time of arrest through their court proceedings. Detained minors are housed in one of the Department's three juvenile halls pending their court hearing.

Investigation: For both adult and juvenile offenders, the Probation Department assists the court by helping to identify suitable candidates for probation and by recommending appropriate sanctions to be imposed, including time in custody, fines, restitution and community service. The Department also helps identify those persons who are a poor risk for

probation by providing information to the court to justify their removal from the community.

Supervision/Intervention: Once probation is ordered, the Probation Officer designs an appropriate supervision plan for each offender that guides the offender toward accepting the responsibilities of being a law abiding citizen. In cases involving a victim, this typically involves making restitution for any loss suffered by the victim.

As a condition of their probation, juveniles may be ordered to spend additional time in juvenile hall, placed in a foster home or group home, or committed to Probation's camp program.

Juvenile and adult probationers in the community are assigned to probation caseloads according to the risk they pose, their individual needs, and their court-ordered conditions of probation. Offenders presenting a greater risk or having specific needs or court orders are placed on reduced caseloads that permit more intensive supervision. Specialized adult caseloads include High Risk Offender, Narcotic Testing, Child Threat, Domestic Violence and Welfare Fraud. Minors released from camp are placed in the camp aftercare program.

Suppression: Programs designed to suppress delinquent behavior in which the Department participates include Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (CRASH) and Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR), both of which are multi-agency collaboratives targeting gangs in specifically designated areas. Probation's goal in these programs is to deter gang activity through pro-active field supervision and the swift violation of probationers who continue their gang involvement.

In the process of recovering from the effects of years of budget constraints, the Probation Department is currently involved in rebuilding and refurbishing its infrastructure; enhancing its information services and level of automation; developing and expanding programs that increase departmental effectiveness and productivity; reducing caseloads; increasing accountability and developing a strategic plan that will guide it into the next century. For those interested in knowing more about the Department, its job opportunities, or its Reserve Deputy Probation Officer Program, a web site is available at <http://www.co.la.ca.us/probation/>.



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