

From:
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:52 PM
To: BSCC Public Comment <publiccomment@bscc.ca.gov>
Cc:
Subject: LOS PADRINOS

Hello, Please include this comment for April 18, 2024 for Los Padrinos. Thank you.

I am writing to raise concerns about violations of law and civil rights within the Los Angeles County Probation Department regarding its juvenile facilities. Despite the department's mandate, officers are not receiving proper training under the current BCSS TITLE 15 criteria, as the department did not initiate such training until 2012. Many field officers, being forcefully deployed to the juvenile halls, lack this training, posing a serious safety concern for both officers and juveniles.

Prior to the last BSCC meeting, officers received emails on a Monday, instructing them to participate in mandatory use of force or pepper spray training the following Wednesday, with basically one day notice. This was all done just a few days before the meeting, so the Chief Probation Officer could inform the BSCC that the department was in compliance with training.

What they did not inform the BSCC of, was the fact that the training was incomplete and inadequate because the training did NOT include practical training, as received in an 11 week Juvenile CORE training academy.

They do this because the BSCC does not check what the training entails per the Detention Service Bureau manual, just a piece of paper to perform the same as officers who have received complete training.

Because of this, officers and juveniles are being injured. Officers are being disciplined for violating training policies that they have not received complete training on, some even losing their jobs and having to fight to get them back.

The department's actions may also be violating the civil rights of juveniles within its institutions, as mandated by the U.S. Bill of Rights AB-2147-2021-2022, Section 224.71 which establishes the policy that all youths in juvenile facilities have the right to live in a safe, healthy, and clean environment conducive to treatment and development, treated with dignity and respect.

The department has been assigning hundreds of officers with work restrictions to these juvenile facilities who play no active role in day-to-day operations. They are being placed in areas like the visiting center, chapels, and security, collecting regular pay and overtime for just sitting there. This was done to meet quotas without ensuring these individuals were providing any meaningful support or had the necessary training.

Officers are being COERCED into performing these illegal duties. The Chief of Probation, as you know has sent notice to Local 685 and 721 informing them that on March 1, 2024 an initial 50 filed officers will be removed from their REGULAR assignments for a minimum of 90 days. If the officer with restrictions does not comply, they will be sent home to use their own time.

The majority have work restrictions ONLY for juvenile hall, as the physical demand and risk of physical altercation are greater. However, they have NO restrictions for participating in their REGULAR field office duties. The Chief of Probation is using THREATENING tactics to force compliance, creating an environment of fear and intimidation. He is forcing these officers to go home for 90 days instead of reporting to their REGULAR assignment, supervising VIOLENT adult offenders.

Many of these officers supervise VERY DANGEROUS HIGH-RISK OFFENDERS such as sex offenders, rape, murder, sex trafficking, child threats, and domestic violence. These officers are MANDATED by policy to go into the community and supervise these individuals, not just conducting office visits. **These violent probationers will NOT be supervised.**

Remember El Monte police officers: Michael Paredes and Joseph Santana were gunned down outside a motel by convicted felon, who was on probation for a weapons violation. OR the DEATH of Brian Diaz at Sylmar juvenile hall who died from overdose.

Special Enforcement Officers and co-located officers, which are officers attached to other law enforcement agencies, are also being reassigned to juvenile facilities. This means that compliance checks, which will result in taking guns and drugs off the street will NOT be conducted. The BSCC is not conducting thorough investigations into these facilities. They are counting bodies provided by the county through automated systems without verifying if these individuals are actually providing support. This lack of oversight allows the department to manipulate numbers and deceive the BSCC – from the Chief of Probation who recently left BSCC.

Minors/Adults are overdosing on narcotics DAILY. ASSAULTS on officers and detainees are rampant and not being reported to the media. For (4) years deployed officers have been sent to juvenile halls and the problem remains. Rules and regulations MUST be established allowing the officers to gain control of the institution. When ORDER is established – officers will return to work, detainees will feel safe and secure, not feeling they need to act out, and programs can be established and implemented.

It APPEARS that no one wants to address the ISSUE – CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MINORS/ADULTS. Not the Board of Supervisors, BSCC or the Probation Department. I URGE you to conduct a more thorough investigation into these matters and shed light on the violations of law and civil rights within Los Angeles County juvenile facilities. The SAFETY and well-being of both officers and minors/adults is at stake, and it is CRUCIAL that these issues are addressed and rectified.

PEACE & BLESSINGS!

CORNELIUS A. PETTUS, Sr.