



March 11, 2022

Dr. Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer
Los Angeles County Probation Department
1601 Eastlake Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90033

Dear Chief Gonzales:

We are in receipt of your letter dated March 10, 2022, outlining the county's plan to temporarily remove youth from the Central Juvenile Hall for a period of 90 days.

As outlined in our December 12, 2021 and February 8, 2022 correspondence, the Los Angeles County Probation Department Central Juvenile Hall was required to remedy the following items of noncompliance no later than March 10, 2022:

Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

- § 1328, Safety Checks (based on October 15, 2021 notice of noncompliance)

Central Juvenile Hall

- § 1328, Safety Checks (based on October 15, 2021 notice of noncompliance)
- § 1354.5, Room Confinement (based on October 15, 2021 and February 8, 2022 notice of noncompliance)
- § 1371, Programs, Recreation, and Exercise (based on February 8, 2022 notice of noncompliance)

As you are aware, Field Representative Lisa Southwell was scheduled to conduct a reinspection of both Barry J. Nidorf and Central Juvenile Hall on March 14, 2022 to determine whether the items of noncompliance had been remedied by the March 10, 2022 deadline. If either facility remained out of compliance, the Board would then be required to make a determination of suitability at its April 7, 2022 board meeting pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivision (d).


In your correspondence, you have indicated that you plan to suspend operations at the Central Juvenile Hall facility to make leadership changes, conduct staff training, and make repairs to the facility. Youth will be moved to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall for a period of 90 days, but the department will maintain an intake unit, a medical unit, and a

court holding area at the Central Juvenile Hall. To the extent youth are no longer being housed at Central Juvenile Hall and it is no longer operating as a juvenile hall, we would agree that postponing the reinspection process would be appropriate. Under this plan, while Central Juvenile Hall's operations are suspended, we would expect that youth will not be detained longer than necessary to accomplish intake, medical screening, or court appearances (and under no circumstance overnight) and will be transported immediately offsite after those tasks are accomplished.

Based on your correspondence it is not clear when the Central Juvenile Hall will be vacated. As such, if youth remain housed at Central Juvenile Hall on March 14, 2022, Field Representative Southwell will begin the reinspection process of the facility as previously scheduled. In addition, please be advised that BSCC staff will also conduct both announced and unannounced inspections from March 14, 2022 through June 12, 2022 during this 90-day suspension of operations to verify that the facility is not operating as a juvenile hall. We will share the Probation Department's plan for suspension of operations with the BSCC Board at the April 7, 2022 meeting. If, however, youth remain housed at the Central Juvenile Hall and the facility remains out of compliance the above-reference regulations, the Board will make a determination of suitability at the April 7, 2022 meeting.

After the phased return of youth to the facility on June 12, 2022, the BSCC will return to conduct the reinspection of the Central Juvenile Hall for the above noted items of noncompliance. While we appreciate the need to suspend operations to implement a modified Corrective Action Plan, after reinspection, a determination of suitability of the Central Juvenile Hall will be made by the BSCC Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting following BSCC staff reinspection.

Sincerely,



ALLISON GANTER
Deputy Director

cc:

Kathleen T. Howard, Executive Director
Aaron R. Maguire, General Counsel Allison Ganter, Deputy Director
Lisa Southwell, Field Representative, Board of State and Community Corrections
Honorable Eric C. Taylor, Presiding Judge Los Angeles County Superior Court
Honorable Akemi Arakaki, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel, Los Angeles County
Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission