



City of Compton

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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Attn: Kimberly Bushard
California Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Los Angeles County Youth Reinvestment Grant Award

Dear Board of State and Community Corrections:

The City of Compton is a vital supporter of the Los Angeles County's regional effort to build infrastructure for youth diversion and equitably reduce the number of youth arrested and becoming involved with the criminal justice system. The City supports the County of Los Angeles' efforts to utilize resources on diversion of youth crime in the City of Compton.

The City of Compton, which residents are primarily composed of Latino and African American ethnicities, understands that there is a dire need for programming to help all youth become productive members of society. Nationwide trends show that Black youth are consistently more likely than their peers to be arrested and less likely to be referred to diversion programs. Although Black youth are disproportionately arrested in Los Angeles County—youth arrests reported in recent years are consistently about 62% Hispanic/Latino, 24% Black/African American, 10% White, and 4% Asian/Pacific Islander or "Other"—Youth Development Diversion works to reduce the disproportionate arrest of persons of color and advance equitable access to community alternatives to justice system involvement by ensuring that youth are not disproportionately excluded from referral, enrollment, or completion by race, age, or gender.

Reducing youth Crime, which ultimately enhances the quality of life for all of Compton's residents, is a primary goal of the City. Although, youth crime has slightly declined, it remains a major concern within the City. The City of Compton reported 809,700 crimes committed by youth ages 8 through 17 in 2017. (Source: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>). This was a 59% decline in crimes committed



COMPTON CITY HALL

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by youth in Compton since 2008. The City is continuing to utilize comprehensive approach to reduce crime by addressing negative economic indicators associated to youth crime such as high poverty rates, high unemployment, and low median incomes. In addition to the City's comprehensive approach to reducing youth crime, gaining access to regional assistance is critical to its crime reduction efforts.

Overall, the City encourages programs that consider the conceptual framework that youth who are referred to diversion before they are arrested are less likely to re-offend than similar youth who are referred post-arrest or not diverted at all. Again, the City supports the County of Los Angeles's efforts to take a regional approach to youth diversion.

On behalf of the City of Compton, it is our pleasure to support LA County's regional youth diversion efforts.

Cordially,


Craig J. Cornwell
City Manager

Attachment 1-2