

**San Francisco Deputy
Probation Officers' Association**

TO: Juvenile Probation Commission

FROM: Rich Perino, President DPOA

RE: Public Comment

DATE: September 21, 2005

I respectfully submit this memorandum in the spirit of open communication and mutual problem solving. Association members in significant numbers make the following observations:

- 1) Judges: Judge Davis and Judge Mahoney appear to be pursuing an agenda that is creating a hostile work environment for line officers. They repetitively order unnecessary reports without regard to other demands on officers' time and routinely fine officers \$25.00 or more for failure to meet arbitrary filing deadlines. The Judges general behavior toward probation officers is distrustful and disrespectful without just cause.**
- 2) Reorganization: The result of the recent reorganization is disaster. Nancy Yalon was warned of her reorganization plan's pitfalls, but she insisted on implementing it before the new Chief arrived.**
- 3) Budget Priorities: The Probation Commission appears to prioritize the subsidy of private agencies instead of funding positions that are required to adequately staff the Department.**
- 4) JDAI: If put to a vote, no doubt many San Francisco voters would approve of the basic objectives of JDAI because it "feels good" to support a concept that *claims* the use of juvenile hall detention can be eliminated "without risk" to the young person involved or to others. However, since a liberal policy of pre-trial release has been vigorously implemented by this Juvenile Court for the last twenty years, the JDAI program is irrelevant to our current circumstances.**

In view of the Commission's responsibility to guide the operations of the Department in a manner that ensures its effective functioning, we ask that you take note of the foregoing and take such action as you determine to be appropriate.

Please accept this memorandum as Public Comment and read it into the record accordingly. Thank you.