

Rebecca L. Woodson, President
Katharine M. Albright, Vice President
Dirk J. Beijen, Commissioner
Ellouise Patton, Commissioner
Jacqueline Lingad Ricci, Commissioner
Susana Rojas, Commissioner



City and County of San Francisco
Juvenile Probation Commission

William P. Siffermann
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

March 12, 2009

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
City Hall, Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Newsom:

The Juvenile Probation Commission would like to collectively express its deepest concern regarding further budget reductions from the Department. We understand that the dire economic condition of our City, State, and Country is one where hard decisions must be made by all; we are not immune to it. We truly appreciate the difficulty of your fiscal decisions, and the burden of having to balance the many competing needs of our community with fewer resources. Nevertheless, serving the youth of San Francisco is our highest priority, and we believe that if the Department were to reduce its budget by 25%, the impacts would dramatically impinge on the Department's ability to provide its core services – probation, detention, rehabilitation and ultimately positive outcomes for our youth.

As you know, the Juvenile Probation Department was given a 12.5% budget reduction target of \$3.9 million, and an overall reduction target of 25%, or \$7.8 million. The Department, already operating on a "bare bones" budget, has submitted a plan which proposes a combination of fees and reductions, which reduces the department's reliance on the General Fund by \$1.45 million. In order for the Department to achieve an additional \$3.9 million in cuts, laying off as many as 40 employees may be necessary - many of whom would be probation officers, given the mandated staff levels at Juvenile Hall and Log Cabin Ranch. We strongly urge you to maintain these core services to our City's youth and families.

We also encourage you to find creative financial solutions elsewhere in the City's budget process. For example, the new joint violence prevention RFP (supported by Juvenile Probation, DCYF, DPH and MOCI) will provide the City with a rare opportunity to ensure the effectiveness of violence prevention programs while maximizing our local funds. If there are opportunities to restore funding this year, we ask that you reallocate the \$1.5 million mid-year reduction for community programs. While we recognize that the mid-year cuts cannot be changed at this point, we urge you to consider replacing these funds in the Department's 2009-2010 budget.

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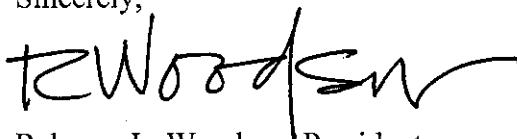
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The Honorable Gavin Newsom
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Page 2

The Juvenile Probation Department is charged with helping youth who need us most -- many of whom have lost their way, and in many cases their hope. These youth need to build confidence and faith in themselves to make a fresh start towards a better future. We cannot simply abandon these young men and women to an uncertain future lacking in support and necessary services. Creative solutions must be found. We appreciate your careful consideration of this letter, and look forward to working closely with your office as we confront these challenging times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Woodson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rebecca L. Woodson, President
Juvenile Probation Commission

cc: Chief William Siffermann
Jason Chan