



**City and County of San Francisco  
Juvenile Probation Department**

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**CPO Presentation to the Juvenile Probation Commission  
January 9, 2013**

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Good Evening President Chang, Commissioners, Colleagues, Community Partners and Members of the Public.

Thank you for attending tonight's meeting that includes an agenda item (I requested) dealing with Probation Officers' field safety when monitoring the compliance of the highest risk probationers we are charged with the responsibility of supervising in the community.

I stand here this evening along with my colleagues to present our thoughts on the **changing landscape and climate** of the Juvenile Probation Department's work that is directly associated with preserving public safety in both the short term and the long term.

Our concern is predicated upon a number of circumstances, namely, the elimination of state administered juvenile parole, the expansion of extended foster care benefit coverage to individuals up to the age of 21, escalating street violence, and the proliferation of firearm possession and use among juveniles, particularly last Summer.

The increased City-wide efforts to reduce violence, must continue to rely upon the vigilance, expertise and reliability of Juvenile Probation Officers who are specially trained to calculate the level of a **youth's public safety risk** in conjunction with the **youth's rehabilitative service needs** when developing a comprehensive case supervision plan.

Those comprehensive community supervision plans will continue to rely upon our partnership with community based agencies that provide necessary rehabilitative programming and services.

The Juvenile Probation Department's active participation in the City's IPO Violence Prevention plan designed to **interrupt** those well documented incidents of street violence, and **predict** chronic patterns of violent crime perpetrated by juvenile probationers armed with firearms, **is absolutely necessary.**

These strategic efforts, designed to better protect the residents and visitors of San Francisco, now requires an examination of those existing safety measures provided to our officers performing focused field supervision operations designed to ensure that the **small number of repeat violent juvenile probationers** (some of whom are now adults) are compliant with court ordered conditions of community release.

A September 20<sup>th</sup> watershed event, that placed 2 of our DPOs and 2 SFPD gang task force officers in a life threatening situation, (that you will later here about), galvanized my resolve to advance this issue for public discussion.

The time has come for us to re-examine our current methods of engagement with those youth who **resist** our efforts to guide them into positive life choices and who **persist** in threatening the lives of San Franciscans and those who protect us.

I will continue my discussions with City leaders, Department staff, community partner agencies and community members on the changes I see in our work with the highest risk youth here in SF.

Our goal for this evening is to create the foundation for the thoughtful examination and careful development of a future plan that will better safeguard juvenile probation officers engaged exclusively in field supervision operations focusing on the measurement and enforcement of court ordered conditions imposed upon high risk juvenile probationers and parolees now inhabiting our juvenile justice landscape.

As the Chief Probation Officer charged with the responsibility to rehabilitate SF juvenile offenders within the sound framework of public safety (in the short term and long term), **I also have a moral obligation** to ensure

that the deputy juvenile probation officers I lead, who perform high risk duties with high risk individuals, in high risk circumstances and environments in partnership with other peace officers in San Francisco, are afforded the appropriate protection and safeguards that will allow them to enhance the safety of SF residents.

Our team presentation this evening will use data, anecdotes and graphic portrayals to describe our changing landscape, the expanded dimensions of our workload, the nature and prevalence of serious criminal activity being perpetrated by a very small % of our total caseload that threaten the well being of our residents as well as the safety of the officers who protect them.

We will appreciate your attention and interest.

It is my pleasure to introduce Assistant Chief Probation Officer Allen Nance to begin our presentation.

[ \*\*\*\*\*POWER POINT PRESENTATION\*\*\*\*\* ]

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Juvenile Probation remains firm in its commitment to provide guidance and direction to youth and families we serve in ways that hold them accountable for their actions, increases their competencies to develop positive lifestyles and protects the safety of San Francisco residents and visitors.

Probation, by its very nature, is rooted in the **promise of reform** upon the grant of community supervision.

The good news is that 90% of the youth and families we deal with are trying very hard and doing very well in their efforts to keep the promises they each made when granted probation.

It is the 10% of our workload, comprised of the most serious, chronic and violent individuals who continue to eschew the sound advice dispensed to them by probation officers and community advocates, that now causes us to examine our methods of managing this high risk population safely.

The Juvenile Probation Department registers its concern about Field Officer Safety and the ever changing demands made of probation officers since the characteristics of our work and the risks involved has changed significantly.

**State laws** have changed resulting in young adults now being returned to our caseloads after serving time in a correctional setting, with a majority of them having been sentenced on murder charges.

**The prevalence of guns** including automatic assault weapons in the hands of youthful and adult offenders in SF is devastating

our neighborhoods (as evidenced in areas of Visitation Valley, Bayview Hunters Point, Mission and Western Addition).

**Only a small number** of our high risk offenders possessing demonstrable histories of serious, chronic and violent offenses for which they were granted Probation, with the promise of reform, pose the most significant risk for future harm.

**Despite our outreach and intercession**, including those initiated by CBO caseworkers, some high risk juveniles and young adults continue to associate with chronic, serious and violent adult offenders, which makes effective community supervision dangerous and compromises overall public safety.

The Juvenile Probation Department will review our practices relative to community supervision of high risk offenders, in an effort to determine the most practical tools and practices needed to increase field officer safety, enhance public safety, and maintain the safety of and protection of juveniles during high profile transports.

**No conclusions or determinations have been made** at this point, but all lawful options will be considered.

I expect that our comprehensive analysis will extend into the next few months and will benefit from continued dialogue with City leaders, system practitioners, and community partners and residents. Suggestions will be welcomed and considered.

I hope to return to this body by April to present the results of our analysis, before I implement any operational changes.

Thank you for your attention.