



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

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CPO Presentation to the Juvenile Probation Commission  
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Good Evening President Beijen, Commissioners, Colleagues, Community Partners and Members of the Public.

Thank you for attending tonight's meeting that includes my Chief's Report 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 again stand here this evening along with my colleagues to present our thoughts on how **other** Probation Departments are addressing the **changing landscape, climate and conditions** of Juvenile Probation work that is directly associated with preserving the public's safety by holding the highest risk, chronic, violent repeat juvenile offenders accountable for their actions while released into our communities under the Court's supervision.

Our concerns remain 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.

We continue to maintain that the increased City-wide efforts to reduce violence, **must include** 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 to provide necessary rehabilitative programming and services.

**It is absolutely necessary, however,** for the Juvenile Probation Department to remain actively involved 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 that will likely be perpetrated again by juvenile probationers armed with firearms.

These strategic efforts, designed to better protect the residents and visitors of San Francisco, now **requires** Juvenile Probation Officers to be equipped with appropriate safety measures when performing focused field supervision operations designed to ensure that the **small number of repeat violent juvenile probationers** (some of whom are now adults) remain in full compliance with court ordered conditions of community release.

The Department has already imported and installed a number of nationally recognized evidence based case management practices and rehabilitative programming which have improved case outcomes,

particularly among the majority of JPD youth who have responded positively to their conditions of probation.

**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.

May I remind you of the series of **disturbing, compelling and sobering images** we displayed during our January presentation depicting repeat violent juvenile offenders known to the Juvenile Probation Department, who, despite their “promise to reform”, continue to **flaunt their criminal intent** directly in the faces of the Courts, law enforcement and in the faces of our families, neighbors and loved ones.

May I remind you again of the perilous event that occurred on September 20<sup>th</sup> of last year when two (2) Deputy Probation Officers and two (2) SFPD Gang Task Force Officers were placed in a real life threatening situation by two (2) repeat violent offenders who had obviously eschewed the rehabilitative measures extended to them in the past.

The time has come now for the Department to adjust our current methods of engagement with **those youth** who continue to **resist** our best efforts to guide them into positive life choices, and who continue to **persist** in threatening the lives of San Franciscans and those who protect us.

A strategic measure of law enforcement oriented activities and practices appear necessary to ensure that those youth are held accountable for their promise to reform, lest further victims fall.

Since our January meeting my continued discussions with City leaders, members of the BOS, City Department staff, community partner agencies and community members have been extremely helpful in rethinking our traditional practices, re-charting our course, so we can better navigate the changing landscape of juvenile probation.

Please note that we appreciate and have taken into serious consideration the voices of youth and youth advocates who have registered their opposition to the prospect of JPD arming our probation officers.

Our primary goal for this evening is to share the results of our survey of **other** probation department’s field safety provisions and practices put in place to supervise high risk juvenile probationers and parolees now inhabiting our juvenile justice landscape.

It is my pleasure to once again introduce Assistant Chief Probation Officer Allen Nance to share the Power-point presentation he has prepared for this evening.

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

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

### Juvenile Probation Department Finds Itself In:

- Two “Camps”
  - Child/Family Welfare
  - Public Safety
- Wearing Two “Hats”
  - Counselor/Social Worker
  - Peace Officer
- Following Two Codes
  - WIC
  - Penal Code
  
- Our new vision seeks to preserve the special nature and legacy of the only stand alone Juvenile Probation Department in the state, one that remains fully committed to the principles of rehabilitation and treatment steeped in evidence based practices, and one that seeks to mitigate the dangers associated with holding the most violent probationers accountable through a closer association with the San Francisco Police Department.

### Findings/Conclusions

- The Department has exercised due diligence in completing its survey and review of Bay Area, CA and National Practices in dealing w/ high risk juvenile probationers
- None of the existing models reviewed would preserve the special identity of the SF Juvenile Probation Department AND provide the necessary protection for Probation Officers’ safety when performing high risk peace officer functions
- There is once again pending CA legislation that would **mandate** probation officers assigned to high risk caseloads be armed w/ a firearm
- **JPD has no intentions of establishing an armed unit of juvenile probation officers w/in JPD**
- JPD Probation Officers’ formalized, full time presence within the SFPD would enhance its understanding of juvenile probationers and enrich the City’s ability to administer its public safety agenda
- The integrity of the SFJPD and the safety of Juvenile Probation Officers performing high risk law enforcement activities with serious, chronic violent juvenile probationers can best be balanced if JPD’s “high risk” peace officer functions\* were to be **exported and embedded** within the SFPD under the auspices of a **Juvenile Probationer Intensive Compliance (JPIC)Task Force**

## **SFJPD Proposed Model for Further Development**

- JPD's Serious Offender Program (SOP) Unit will be redesigned as the **Intensive Probation Services (IPS) Unit** that will accelerate its efforts focusing primarily on the rehabilitative and treatment case management components developed for high risk probationers
- High risk JPD peace officer functions/responsibilities associated with measuring and enforcing high risk juvenile probationers' compliance with court ordered conditions of release and staffing secure detainee transports will be **exported** to the SFPD and assumed under the auspices of the **JPIC Task Force**
- JPD will redeploy (under work orders) up to four (4) Deputy Juvenile Probation Officers who possess significant experience in supervising high risk juvenile probationers, and who possess superior service records, to the SFPD for assignment to this Task Force, following qualification, selection, certification, training and subscription to SFPD's training standards, arming policies and use of force continuum
- The JPD IPS Unit probation officer would remain as the primary probation officer performing intensive case management responsibilities
- JPIC probation officers would perform the intensive community supervision compliance responsibilities that will accompany the treatment components of the case plan
- IPS Unit Supervisor would serve as JPD's liaison to the JPIC Task Force
- JPIC Task Force field operations would be assigned and supervised under the existing SFPD command structure
- Costs to select, train and equip JPD staff assigned to the JPIC Task Force (not yet assessed) will be borne by JPD
- A Memorandum of Understanding between JPD/SFPD, similar to conventional task force agreements in existence, covering this proposed model will be created

The Juvenile Probation Department 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** that is advanced on the threshold of the Court's grant of community supervision.

While over **90%** of the youth 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 adjust our methods of managing this high risk population according to this proposed model.

The Juvenile Probation Department will continue to develop the details of this new San Francisco Juvenile Probation model that has been specially designed to balance the safety needs of probation officers performing high risk peace officer functions with the Department's need to preserve its long standing identity of purpose.

I anticipate that our attention to all the details of this model will extend over the next 3-6 months. We will report before this body prior to implementation.

Thank you for your attention.