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Sarah Ching Ting Wan, Vice President
Katharine Albright, Commissioner
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Julian Chang, Commissioner
Susan Jones, Commissioner
Rebecca Woodson, Commissioner



City and County of San Francisco
Juvenile Probation Commission

William P. Siffermann
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

March 11, 2013

Supervisor David Campos, Chair
Supervisor Eric Mar, Vice Chair
Supervisor Norman Yee, Member
Board of Supervisors, Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Re: Addressing Concerns for Public and Juvenile Probation Officer Safety

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee:

It is my understanding that the Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing, on March 21, 2013, in response to concerns about escalating gun violence that threatens the public as well as juvenile probation and other law enforcement officers in our City. It is anticipated that the Juvenile Probation Department will be presenting those concerns at your upcoming meeting.

Please be assured that the Chief Probation Officer, William P. Siffermann, has already informed the Juvenile Probation Commission of his growing concerns regarding the gun violence in San Francisco and the threat posed, not only to residents and visitors, but also to juvenile probation officers. The Commission is taking this issue seriously and is responding with the deliberateness that such an issue requires.

The topic "Report on JPD's Field Safety and Monitoring Compliance with High-Risk Probationers and DJJ Parolees" was placed on the agenda of the January 9, 2013 Juvenile Probation Commission's meeting at the request of Chief Siffermann. It included a comprehensive discussion regarding specific violent threats to juvenile probation officer safety, including gun violence as well as other violent offenses committed by high-risk juvenile and young adult probationers and parolees. In response to the issues presented and the need to enhance probation officer and public safety, the Commission has requested the Juvenile Probation Department to research strategies and practices being used by probation departments in other jurisdictions that supervise high-risk offenders. The Department is scheduled to return to the Juvenile Probation Commission, at its April 10, 2013 meeting, with a follow-up report on the findings.

The Juvenile Probation Commission recognizes its responsibility to help guide the Department in its efforts to develop thoughtful policies that enhance the safety of probation officers while at the same time improving the effectiveness of services to the public. This Commission welcomes the continued input from the public as we explore the various aspects of public and juvenile probation officer safety.

As President of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission, I look forward to a transparent, thorough, and deliberate process toward developing an informed understanding of the risks, challenges, and options to address the concerns. I welcome the opportunity to coordinate our efforts with the efforts of the Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee.

Sincerely,


Dirk J. Beijen, President
Juvenile Probation Commission

cc: Mayor Edwin M. Lee, City and County of San Francisco
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commissioners
William P. Siffermann, Chief Probation Officer