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**SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS SUPPORTS COUNTY'S
PLAN TO HELP YOUTH TRANSITION FROM
PROBATION CAMPS BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY**

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today described a plan to help support youth with their re-entry into the community, as part the County's Gang Violence Reduction Strategy Initiative, as an important step toward helping them make the difficult transition.

The Supervisor offered support for the initiative, which last year had no investment of resources for helping youth coming out of the probation camp system to obtain the needed services for themselves and their families to make the transition from probation camp to the community easier.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said he was optimistic that the initiative would act as a foundation for the County's pilot re-entry program, which is implemented in four demonstration sites, including the Florence Firestone and Harbor Gateway communities in the Second District.

The Supervisor's initial concern was that probation department personnel, rather than community advocates, might deter participation on the part of those who could make the program a success.

"This might be problematic," the Supervisor said. "It's more difficult to gain the trust of youth when they fear the probation officer has the ability to send them to camp."

“I will hold Acting Chief Probation Officer Cal Remington to his commitment to work together with the community as a partner to assist youth in their positive re-entry back into their communities. It’s in everybody’s best interest to make this gang reduction initiative strategy a success.”

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