



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS APPLAUDS L.A. NAACP CHAPTER'S SUPPORT OF HIS CALL FOR DEPT. OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATION OF L.A. COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

*He will address a luncheon at the National NAACP Convention, where he will call for support of his efforts to restore public confidence in the Probation department*

**LOS ANGELES** – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today applauded the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) public support for his call for a federal investigation of the L.A. County Probation Department and the Office of Education.

The Supervisor will embark on a trip the National NAACP Convention in Kansas City, MO today, where he will deliver remarks welcoming members of the organization to Los Angeles for the 2011 NAACP National Convention here in Los Angeles and call on the nation's oldest civil rights organization to support his local efforts to reform and restore confidence in the Probation Department and Office of Education.

Stating that the rehabilitation of African-American juveniles is a national problem, which directly affects African-Americans in every state, the Supervisor called on the L.A. NAACP Chapter to pledge its support by presenting a resolution of its own to the Department of Justice asking for an investigation by the federal agency.

The organization issued a media release echoing Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' concerns that "the problems within the Probation Department are too great to drop at the feet of a new manager alone."

The Supervisor's concerns stem from reports that problems at the Probation Department are spread far beyond the confines of its remote youth camps. County auditors and the Department's own investigations found evidence of wrongdoing by managers and Probation officers throughout the Department.

"We've tried to repair the department from within, and we now know the results. We need the authority and resources of the federal government," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

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