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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS HOSTS FIRST-EVER COMMUNITY YOUNG OFFENDER RE-ENTRY SUMMIT

Goal was to develop a countywide plan to successfully transition youth out of the L.A. County Probation system and back into their community

LOS ANGELES -- Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas hosted the Young Offender Re-Entry Summit, the first-ever effort by the County to engage parents, educators and community stakeholders in detailed and candid discussion about the challenges of transitioning youth from the Los Angeles County Probation system back into their respective communities.

With approximately 20,000 juveniles in its system, the L.A. County Probation Department is the largest and oldest youth probation services agency in the nation. During any given period, the Department currently houses between 2,500 to 3,000 juveniles at detention facilities throughout the County.

“We know what ex offenders need,” the Supervisor said, addressing those in attendance at the Carson Community Center. “Jobs and education are the paths to successful re-entry into our society.”

In an effort to find solutions, the Supervisor partnered on the event with members of the Second District Empowerment Congress, and the County Department of Community and Senior Services Workforce and Community Services Branch, in collaboration with the Human Relations Commission.

The Supervisor acknowledged the Probation Department’s successful Day Reporting Center, a program offering access to a full range of services to youth on probation in one location, including job training, resume building and job interview preparation.

Newly appointed Probation Chief, Donald Blevins, as well as a number of other agency officials and community stakeholders, addressed the Summit as well.

Los Angeles County has been awarded a \$300,000 Young Offender Re-entry Planning Grant funded 100% by the U.S. Department of Labor. The goal of the Re-Entry Summit was to learn more about current research and best practices, in order to create a master plan to maximize existing resources for re-entry programs.

“The development of the appropriate re-entry program is the key and once the ‘wrap-around’ services delivery system is established, it can be used to assist individuals who are on probation or parole to make the proper transition into our communities.”

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