



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Strengthening Probation Oversight

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas will ask the Board of Supervisors to adopt a comprehensive roadmap for reforming the troubled Probation Department, including creating a Probation Oversight Commission with unprecedented authority to conduct inquiries and investigations in partnership with the Inspector General.

Over the years, the Board has commissioned several studies to determine how best to reform Probation. At the Board's direction, County Chief Executive Officer Sachi Hamai on April 9th proposed recommendations for creating an independent body focused on Probation reform and accountability.

In the motion, which will go before the Board for a vote on May 1st, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas calls for those recommendations to be adopted. "The County has the components necessary to transform the Department. Now is the moment to realize sustainable transformation," he wrote in the motion, coauthored by Supervisor Hilda Solis.

Hamai proposed creating an independent Probation Oversight Commission that would oversee ongoing reform efforts, and provide direction on the department's supervision policies and practices.

The existing Probation Commission could be strengthened and repurposed by having it report directly to the Board, and by expanding its mission to include

adult populations and hiring permanent support staff. Its new structure would mirror that of the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission, with the Office of Inspector General acting as the investigative entity for both.

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