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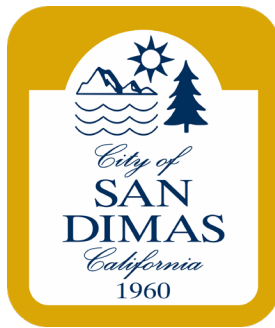
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December 16, 2021

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District Supervisor
Los Angeles County
500 West Temple Street, Room 869
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov

RE: Opposition to Afflerbaugh-Paige or Glenn Rockey Camp Conversion to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities

Dear Supervisor Barger:

I am writing as City Manager to express concerns and opposition over converting probation camps Afflerbaugh-Paige and/or Glenn Rockey Camp to permanent Secure Youth Treatment Facilities.

I appreciate the work of the Commission. While I recognize that a decision has not been made nor a recommendation finalized, based on the information that has been presented it suggests that the Afflerbaugh-Paige facilities are on preferred list of the County's Realignment subcommittee and Glenn Rockey Camp could serve as an alternate. I do not see these as acceptable and strongly request that the Commission and the Board of Supervisors remove them from further consideration.

First and foremost, I do not believe this proposal has been sufficiently vetted for the Commission to make a decision at this time. Based on the information that has been shared, none of the essential elements have been developed. (These elements include model of selection of clients to be housed, programs and services that will be provided, personnel and security enhancements that will be needed, and overall investment in the facility, to name a few).

These aspects are essential for the Commission to conduct a fair and accurate evaluation on the effects these changes will have to whichever location the DJJ youth will be sited. Additionally, before any such decision is considered by the Commission, it would be imperative for the community and local law enforcement to be engaged to understand what the impacts would be

on their services and the community at large. To date, it is our understanding that level of detail has not been completed. Therefore, it is not possible for our local law enforcement department and residents to understand the potential impact on the safety of our community.

Notwithstanding the points above regarding the review process, I further believe that these locations should not be on the Commission's "shortlist." As such, following are some of the more pertinent reasons. Please be aware, while the following are the major points for our position, this does not represent all the concerns that have been raised by residents.

- The selection of sites process seems to be driven by the squeaky wheel approach rather than what is the best fitness for purpose. In the early stages of this review process, Camp Kilpatrick was identified as the likely location for housing DJJ youth. Further, the County's Youth Justice Workgroup studied this issue for months, and issued a report (Youth Justice Reimagined). This plan was what the majority of the stakeholders wanted. This report recommended Campus Kilpatrick as the best option for an alternative to DJJ, and was the assumption Juvenile Justice professionals saw as the logical choice to place this heightened level of clientele.

The reason Campus Kilpatrick was identified as the best options by the professional's in this field and majority stakeholders was because it is already set up as a site to house these youth and offer a similar "care first" model. Through the County's Youth Justice Reimagined report dated October 2020, as described on page 18, Campus Kilpatrick was revamped in 2017 to create the LA Model, which is one of the models for secure track. This facility has case planning, a redone location, a more therapeutic environment, and resource partners which are critical for more difficult cases. It was only when the Supervisor who represents the area around that camp expressed concerns that Kilpatrick was identified for permanent housing that it was removed from permanent consideration. Based on the actual data, this location still remains the best option as it has the most resources for this population. The sudden departure of this location from the mix raises serious questions on the integrity and validity of the commission's selection process and any final recommendation that may be brought forward.

- Access to these Camps can only be achieved by traveling through numerous residential neighborhoods. The characteristics of the area leading to the camps has changed significantly from when the camps were first put into service. At that time, the road leading to these camps had few homes and was primarily open space and orchards. Now, these sites have more conflict with area residents than other County locations. Camps Paige and Afflerbaugh are both off of Stephens Ranch Road which can only be accessed by traveling up one of two roads, Wheeler Avenue or Esperanza Drive. Both are collector streets for neighborhood communities. Glenn Rockey Camp is off Sycamore Canyon Road and can only be accessed by traveling through residential neighborhoods. Additionally, there is no form of public transportation that services that section of the community or the camps themselves. This results in visitors to the facility needing to pass by more than 2,500 residential properties to access the camps or the facility being completely inaccessible to transportation-challenged families wishing to visit.

- Residential neighborhoods are too closely located to the camps to house this heightened level of offenders. In their current state and population, these facilities experience frequent breakouts and incidents of unrest that cannot be handled by the existing campus staff. With this heightened level of offender, longer length of stay, and lessening of the physical barriers for containment, incidents of escape will undoubtedly increase. This will create a greater level of adverse contact for our residents and severely affect the level of safety and security they currently enjoy. Glenn Rockey Camp is adjacent to residential neighborhoods with several residential properties that bound the Glenn Rockey perimeter fence.
- Other facilities are already more closely suited to deal with clientele. From the DJJ "Location Evaluation Report" dated October 6, 2021, a snapshot of the population to be relocated indicates that 57% are located from the City of Los Angeles and west, meaning a facility on the eastern edge of the County does not best meet the needs of those youth and their families. Los Padrinos in Downey or the existing Detention Center in East Lake are much more centrally located and have better access to the court systems and other relevant services. While both would require modifications to address the "care first" approach, investing in modifications to existing infrastructure which is better located is a more efficient use of tax dollars than a location that is as remote as San Dimas or La Verne.
- I do not have confidence that County Probation will follow through on whatever commitment and measures that will be required. Unfortunately, based on our past experiences with the current level of communication and response between our public safety department and the current operations, I do not feel that the site administration will be a good partner to the community in mitigating the issues that will result from any change.
- Our City is already home to the McKinley Children's Center and Canyon View School which routinely impact our public safety services with over 300 calls for services on yearly average and have led to severe impacts on the community. This is one of two facilities in the County that continues to operate with a lack of resources. In addition, other treatment facilities such as David and Margaret Youth and Family Services, LeRoy Haynes home and more recently the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center are located within less than 5 miles of the community.

In the County's 2020 Youth Justice Reimagined report, the overarching objective is to "explore the transitioning of the Los Angeles County's juvenile justice system out of the Probation Department into another agency, with the goal of creating a rehabilitative, health-focused and care-first system." Based on the points raised above (distance to relevant services, access to families, investment required), locating this population in either of these locations does not move to fulfill those core objectives in the most effective manner. As such, I reiterate our request to explore alternative sites that are more closely aligned with that outcome.

In closing, I sincerely hope you will give this request serious consideration. I strongly believe that based on the points above, there is no way that these facilities can be modified and

repurposed while still preserving the current level of safety and tranquil environment enjoyed by our community, which is a main reason why they have chosen to live in San Dimas.

Sincerely,



Chris Constantin
City of San Dimas
City Manager

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