



## 2013



### Chief Jerry Powers

*Probation Department*

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***“Two-thousand and thirteen was a year of transformation and accomplishment...we launched a recruiting campaign called 'Probation's Most Wanted: the Best of the Best' and established a Youth Opportunities Program.”***

The Department has over 6,600 positions and an \$843 million annual budget. Our mission is to enhance public safety, ensure victims' rights and effect positive behavioral change in the probationers under our care and supervision. We operate the largest juvenile corrections system in the United States. This includes three juvenile halls and 13 juvenile residential treatment camps. On any given day there are approximately 2,000 juveniles under our care in these facilities. We also have 30 area offices that provide an array of services to approximately 70,000 juvenile and adult probationers throughout Los Angeles County.

Two-thousand and thirteen was a year of transformation and accomplishment. In December 2013, we reached an important milestone: after many years, we were informed by the Department of Justice that the final three paragraphs of the original 42 in a settlement agreement pertaining to our camp operations were being placed in monitoring status. This marks the beginning of the close-out portion of federal involvement in our camps.

We continued to push forward with the implementation of AB 109, the State's Public Safety Realignment program that shifted the responsibility for over 20,000 prison releases from the State to our Probation Department, the most historic restructuring of the criminal justice system in our lifetime. We completed a one-year television partnership with KTTV Los Angeles that engaged the audience in a fugitive apprehension program called "LA's Most Wanted", that appeared on television and on the station's website. Overall, we have come to a point where the AB 109 population has stabilized and we can now concentrate on the expansion of our staffing resources and program capacities.

In 2013, we provided and will continue to provide leadership to other County departments as we work toward a solution to abolish Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, a horrific issue affecting our most vulnerable children.

We also continued to address educational matters for our youth, which included collaboratives with some of our partner agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Office of Education and Department of Public Works, which resulted in the establishment of a Youth Opportunities Program designed to prepare participants for careers in Public Works, and along with LACOE, implemented the Freedom Schools program.

The implementation of our Bureau Chief District reorganization that included restructuring juvenile and adult operations is serving its intended purposes of improving accountability, increasing managers' expertise, and providing more targeted and strategic services to the Districts.

In 2013, we launched a recruiting campaign called "Probation's Most Wanted: The Best of the Best", to attract top level candidates with personal video testimonials by staff and a clear articulation of new hiring standards as we re-launched our Department website.

In 2013, we continued to decrease our Return to Work numbers and our Risk Management injury reductions continued to lead the County. In 2010, there were 915 Workers' Compensation Claims filed in comparison to 712 filed in 2013, representing a 22% reduction. This contributed to our second consecutive year closing the fiscal year with budget savings.

As part of internal and external communications strategies, we initiated the issuance of the Department's newsletter, "Probation Connection", and our Annual Report, "A New Day". I have always believed that each new year brings the optimism of fresh beginnings and opportunities, and envision that we will improve our departmental operations and service delivery in 2014, through the continued implementation of innovative and strategic initiatives.

I appreciate the tireless work of my staff as we remain committed to working with our key stakeholders in our effort to increase public safety and better serve the residents and many communities in Los Angeles County.