



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Probation Chief Honors Officers and Staff Who Keep Our Communities Safe in Celebration of Probation Services Week 2020

Probation Services Week Commemorates the Work of Probation Professionals

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – Today, Chief Probation Officer Tanja Heitman announced this year's annual Probation Services Week will be taking place from July 19 – July 25, 2020 to honor probation professionals working to keep our communities safe.

Chief Heitman stated, "The Santa Barbara County Probation Department is committed to the well-being and long-term success of our clients, through the use of evidence-based practices to improve outcomes and the quality of life for all citizens of Santa Barbara County. We are pleased that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors has recognized the important work of Probation staff, and has adopted a resolution honoring the over 300 dedicated professionals of our department. Our officers work collaboratively to deliver evidence-based programs to justice-involved adults and juveniles, while focusing on the enhancement of safety, the reduction of recidivism and racial inequities, the protection of and compensation to victims, and the promotion of crime prevention services, intervention, rehabilitation, positive youth development, and restorative justice principles."

Probation has proven to be successful in multiple facets of the juvenile and criminal justice system. Officers are committed to assisting clients with transformational life changes in order to stop the cycle of crime and create safer communities, and to work alongside community organizations to connect clients with the resources and programs they need to grow and change successfully.

In his proclamation commemorating Probation Services Week, Governor Newsom states: "Probation Departments have a profound impact on the safety and health of our communities by working to reduce recidivism through evidence-based programming and supervision. Probation's success ensures that our state's communities are a safer environment for all Californians to live and prosper. This week, I encourage all Californians to join me in recognizing Probation's immense contributions to our communities and state."

The progress and success of Probation in California is based on the commitment to providing quality supervision, supports and services to clients, especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic. To continue supervising clients as safely as possible, Probation has adopted guidelines recommended by state and county health officials and informed by the latest data.

During Probation Services Week, it is important to recognize probation officers and department staff for their dedication to their clients and our community, regardless of the challenge.

For more information about the Santa Barbara County Probation Department, please visit www.sbprobation.org

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