



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Probation No. 20-13

DATE: 10/15/2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA PROBATION DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS OPERATION SAFE AT HOME

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) -On October 14, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Probation Department conducted county-wide wellness checks on a variety of clients on active Probation or Post Release Community Supervision. Specifically, the operation focused on those under supervision for crimes related to domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, family violence, and sex offenses, where it was determined there were potentially vulnerable individuals in the home, including children, prior victims, or elderly adults. The operation covered the Santa Maria, Orcutt, Lompoc, Santa Barbara and Goleta areas. Chief Probation Officer Tanja Heitman indicated, "While the success of our probationers is a paramount focus for our officers, the wellness of their families and victims are also priorities". She also commented that this operation was timely not only because of COVID-19 potential barriers to resources, but also because October is recognized as "National Domestic Violence Awareness" month.

The operational objectives were to perform wellness checks on active probationers and their families. This included observing any needs of the probationer and/or family members, any potential risk factors, and providing information on community resources. Additionally, ensuring client compliance with their terms and conditions of probation was a priority, as well as a focus on deterring future criminal activity, reducing recidivism, and checking on the welfare and safety of victims. Wellness bags were provided which included facemasks, hand sanitizer, first aid kits, stress balls and several brochures for resources available in the community and through the Probation Department. Also, for children in the home, wellness bags were Halloween-themed and included popcorn, fruit snacks, coloring books, crayons, a children's facemask, hand sanitizer, and other Halloween treats. The county operation was highly successful with 56 wellness visits and 26 searches conducted, and over 130 adult and child wellness bags distributed, including pumpkins for the smaller children. In total, 29 Probation Officers and three Sheriff's Department personnel participated in this event.

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For more information about the County of Santa Barbara Probation Department, go to www.sbprobation.org.



Deputy Probation Officer Nick Consorti delivers a wellness bag to a home in the community.



Deputy Probation Officer Marina Carrillo delivers a wellness bag to a family.