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County of El Dorado Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

BOS Letter from the JJDPCC / BOS Agenda Item: 21-1028

Mario Guerrero <mario@casaeldorado.org>
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Sat, Jul 10, 2021 at 8:37 AM

Dear Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,

Good morning. My name is Maro Guerrero and I'm a member of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDPCC). The JJDPCC wanted to forward a letter to the Board of Supervisors in hopes of addressing the BOS Agenda Item 21-1028. Specifically, we would like to respectfully request that our letter be entered and read for public commentary as it relates to BOS Agenda Item 21-1028. Shall you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for your time, consideration and attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

LATE DISTRIBUTION
DATE 7/12/2021
BOS 7/13/2021



Mario Guerrero
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Child Advocates of El Dorado County
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JJDPCC BOS Letter 7.8.2021.pdf
1054K

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DELIQUENCY
PREVENTION
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PHONE (530) 621-5625

July 8, 2021

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, Ca 95667

Re: Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission

Dear Members of the Board,

We are educators, therapists, social workers, lawyers, coaches, youth and retirees who live throughout El Dorado County and who work with youth who are, or at risk of becoming, involved with the juvenile justice authorities. Each of us has been appointed by the Presiding Juvenile Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court due to our knowledge of and experience in working with these youth. Although commissioners are appointed by the Court, the Commission actually falls under the auspices of the Board of Supervisors. The purpose of this Commission is to investigate, advise and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, the court system and the probation department regarding the administration of the juvenile court law in our county. In addition, we are tasked with the job of coordinating governmental and nongovernmental organizations engaged in activities designed to prevent juvenile delinquency.

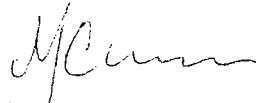
With the recent election of new supervisors, it is possible that not all Board members were aware that this Commission exists. Moreover, it is likely that the Board was not aware that we have had multiple discussions regarding the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice, the designation of the Juvenile Treatment Center as a regional hub and the opportunities created by the funding streams that are now available to our County as a result of S.B. 823.

We are aware of the decision by the Board of Supervisors on May 18, 2021 not to move forward with obtaining grant funding for infrastructure improvements to the Juvenile Treatment Center ("JTC"). The grant would have benefitted El Dorado youth because all detained youth would have been able to take advantage of the facility and therapeutic improvements. The grant would also have obligated this County to accept appropriate out of county youth who have offended sexually into the facility for treatment.

Throughout the last year, many of us dedicated hours of our time to the question of whether providing treatment to out of county youth was a worthwhile venture and in the best interests of our own youth. Moving forward, we hope to be considered in the decision-making process and are hopeful that you will call upon us for our advice and expertise on similar issues of such importance. Ideally, we would like to help and support the Board of Supervisors make informed decisions regarding juvenile justice matters by exploring potential negative, positive and unintentional outcomes and ramifications related to issues such as S.B.823 and future issues affecting our community and youth. For instance, without designating the Juvenile Treatment Center as a Secure Tract Youth Facility with the capability of providing treatment to out of county youth, it may not be feasible to keep the JTC as a facility for South Lake Tahoe youth. We are concerned that not having a local facility will be a significant hardship and barrier to the families and youth in the South Lake Tahoe area who are ordered to family reunification services.

In hopes of increasing our communication and collaboration in the future, we would like to invite the Board of Supervisors to our monthly meetings that are generally held on the third Tuesday of every month from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Should you wish to attend our meetings, please contact Jennifer Delgado, as she will be happy to provide you with our meeting information and details. Thank you for your time, consideration and attention as we are here to help and look forward to doing so in the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mario Guerrero', written in a cursive style.

Mario Guerrero
Vice Chair