

PROBATION E-GRAM



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Unions Representing LA County Probation Dept. Peace Officers Endorse Antonovich for CA Senate

Three unions collectively representing approximately 4,500 peace officers employed by the Los Angeles County Probation Department today announced the endorsement of LA County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich for California State Senate. After 36 years serving the 2 million residents of the Fifth Supervisorial District, Antonovich is termed out of office and running for California Senate District 25.



"The LA County Probation Officers Union endorsed Supervisor Antonovich when he first ran for County Supervisor in 1980, and since his first day in office he has been a strong advocate for public safety and for the peace officers who keep the public safe," said Ralph Miller, President, Los Angeles County Probation Officers Union, AFSCME Local 685.

In 1999, Antonovich initiated the DISARM program, which stands for "Developing Increased Safety Through Arms Reduction Management." Since its inception, DISARM, a multi-agency effort led by the LA County Probation Department, has resulted in the confiscation of more than 10,000 weapons from felons on probation.

"Antonovich has been a true public safety leader for the greater Los Angeles area, spearheading critical crime reduction programs and supporting the peace officers who put our lives on the line every day to keep the public safe and rehabilitate juveniles," said Jim Schoengarth, President, Supervising Deputy Probation Officers Union, SEIU Local 721.

"Supervisor Antonovich has a solid track record of putting public safety first while respecting the rights of the officers, supervisors, and managers in the Probation Department. He has stood by us for more than 30 years, and we stand by him in his race for the Senate," said Andrea Gordon, President, Professional Managers Association, AFSCME

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Calendar of Events

Stewards' Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016
7:30pm

Meetings are held at the Local 685 office

3701 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 510
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Send Us Your Stories!

We welcome any story ideas - anything from success with a probationer, to the birth of a child or retirement of a co-worker, to the effect of staffing shortages or workload requirements on your ability to do your job.

Please email your story ideas to Cookie Lommel at clommel@afscme685.com.

[Email story ideas!](#)

Member Benefits

[AFSCME Advantage](#)

LA County Program Seized 10,000 Guns From Felons Since 2000



An L.A. County program designed to confiscate arms from convicted felons on Probation has netted more than 10,000 guns over its 16-year run, L.A. Supervisor Mike Antonovich announced Thursday.

County officials have seized 10,873 weapons and more than \$729 million in illegal drugs and drug money since the DISARM program - which stands for "Developing Increased Safety Through Arms Reduction Management" - kicked off in early 2000, Antonovich said. Touting the numbers, he said DISARM was a "good example of successful coordination of law enforcement agencies which should be required in each county in California."

Under DISARM, L.A. County's Probation Department works with a number of other government agencies to determine where felons on probation may be hiding guns, drugs or other types of contraband. The Probation Department then conducts unannounced searches - which felons are subject to as a term of their probation - to uncover them.

Since the program began, the County has also seen a significant reduction in the number of probationers found to be violating the terms of their probation. In 2002, 55 percent of felons on probation were out of compliance with their probation terms; that figure dropped to 15 percent in 2016, Antonovich said.

The supervisor initiated the program in the wake of two violent incidents in 1999: the deadly shooting of the North Valley Jewish Community Center by a white supremacist attacker, and the murder of postal worker Joseph Santos Lletto by a convicted felon from Washington state.

DISARM is separate from a larger California firearms seizure program that targets gun owners who bought arms legally before being convicted of a felony or violent misdemeanor. The statewide program, backed by California Attorney General Kamala Harris, is still dealing with a hefty backlog in tracking cases.

Tony Bell, a spokesman for Antonovich, told KPCC that

Discounts and benefits for AFSCME members that can help stretch your dollars and make life a little easier.

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Several scholarship programs are available for AFSCME members and their children. Select an individual scholarship for information on requirements and deadlines.

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Education & Trainings

Our union is only as strong as our activist core. That's why AFSCME is dedicated to working with our affiliates to provide high-quality training for AFSCME leaders.

Online Learning

- See upcoming live online workshops
- See available self-paced courses
- Investor education for working families

Classroom Learning

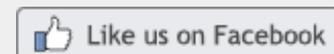
- See AFSCME programs for info

Women's Leadership & Training

Additional Resources

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DISARM would likely continue and even be enhanced within L.A. County. He added that he feels it should become mandatory for all other California counties.

"It's a good bang for your buck type of program," he said. "When you're taking guns away from those who have a propensity to use guns in the commission of crimes and who have experience doing so, that is a good public safety tool."

Creative Members of Our Banquet Committee: Coleman Sisters Design T-Shirt for K-9 Team Member

Valerie Coleman of Department Children and Family Services and her sister, Celeste Coleman, our union's Vice President of Children's Services, designed a special Local 685 T-shirt for K-9 Tula for our recent banquet ceremony. Celeste had the idea to make Tula and honorary Probation Officer, then Valerie went to her sewing machine designing and formulating the shirt. Tula proudly displayed her shirt as she was a highlight at the banquet.



K-9 Tula and her handler, Sheriff Deputy Guillermo Loza, were awarded The James Lewis Medal of Valor Award during our banquet for their outstanding services to the Los Angeles community. Tula has saved many lives in the middle-east and here in America, she is now retiring from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Tula is originally from North Carolina. She served three tours of duty with the U.S. Marine Corps in Afghanistan, where she found more than 50 improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Now, instead of roaming an active war zone Tula has had to adjust to civilian life and joined the LA County Sheriff's Department.

"Coming from a military overseas environment and coming back to civilian life was a big change for her," Loza said. "Now she's dealing with the public, vehicles, homes, buildings, trains and planes - which are very different scenarios from being in Afghanistan."

Deputy Loza and Tula together have been called on to check suspicious packages left in parks, inspect public hearing rooms ahead of community college and County Board of Supervisors' meetings, and check vehicles for firearms, her specialty.

[Read more here.](#)

Working Group for Probation Department

Oversight

In California, a District Attorney's office has 48 hours after an arrest and typically only a police report to decide whether or not to put a minor through the adult or juvenile court system.



A recent report by the Attorney General shows that 88 percent of juveniles tried in adult court were convicted. When the DA makes the decision concerning adult or juvenile court, this circumvents the role of a judge, who would otherwise conduct a "fitness hearing" to determine where an offending youth should be tried. It's like one parent quickly and unilaterally deciding on a child's punishment without first talking it over with the other parent.

In 2000, California voters approved Proposition 21, which allows DAs to have the power to determine whether or not a minor should be tried as a juvenile or an adult. "With direct file, there's no opportunity for it to go before a judge to make that very important decision on whether or not a child should be prosecuted as an adult," said Nisha Ajmani, a lawyer and program manager at the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice who opposes the practice. She works with lawyers and young clients on direct-file cases or to prepare for fitness hearings.

The fitness hearings involve evaluating the young person on five criteria: the degree of criminal sophistication exhibited; whether rehabilitation is possible before the end of the juvenile court's jurisdiction, at age 21; the delinquency history; the success of any previous attempts at rehabilitation by the juvenile court; and the circumstances and gravity of the offense that's alleged.

California has worked in earnest in recent years to provide judges more guidance on those fitness criteria. Now, the state also emphasizes factors such as the offender's home and family environment growing up, exposure to violence and trauma, mental and emotional development, and circumstances outside of the seriousness of the crime that might be relevant to the decision to prosecute in an adult court.

Many feel, a judge should really be the party making this decision after a fair, thorough, and neutral process.

[Read more here.](#)

LA County Sheriff Inspires Youth To Stay In School

The organization, [Concerned Black Men \(CBM\)](#), recently organized an inspiring 2nd annual 'Teen Dialogue Back to School' event. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department partnered with the organization, where leadership and mentors of CBM hosted the event with 25 middle school youth, ages 11 to 14.



The event was held at the historic Hall of Justice in Downtown Los Angeles to challenge and inspire the students to graduate from high school, pursue college, or a career.

"My father would often say, 'education is the great equalizer.' His words inspired me when I was the same age as the youth at our back to school event," LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell said. "Education opens doors and opportunities, which is why the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is committed to help these students make good decisions."

The Sheriff was joined by members from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (LASD) Black Peace Officers Association; NBC President, General Manager, and Emmy winner; Steve Carlston; and Consumer Investigator Randy Mac. After a roundtable discussion, the youths received backpacks filled with educational supplies.

The backpacks were donated by the LASD and contained:

- Notebooks
- LASD Pens, Pencils and Rulers
- Earbuds
- 1 GB flash drives

[Read more here.](#)

California Coast University Offers Unique Curriculum for Probation Officers

With many bonus position developing, you may be considering getting your Master's Degree or completing your undergraduate degree. California Coast University have special programs for the Law Enforcement community that should be considered when looking to pursue your degree.



When DPO Helen Pagan heard about this University, she immediately called the LA County Probation Department to be certain it was on the accreditation list and if the department accepted degrees from the University. DPO Pagan invited California Coast University leaders to give a presentation at the Crenshaw office. The University was able to offer some exclusive discounts on the application fees, classes, and enrollment.

California Coast University is an accredited online degree university that will offer the law enforcement professionals an opportunity to mold the time spent studying around your work schedule.

California Coast University was founded in 1973 to meet the needs of professional men and women from all areas of business, industry, and education whose geographic, professional, or personal time limits them from completing their education. Originally, the University's goal was to offer distance learning undergraduate and graduate degree programs to working adults who were looking for a realistic method for completing their education without returning to the traditional classroom setting. That continues to be their goal today, as they support new generations of students to reach their educational goals

Here's a little sneak peak at their program:

- Probation Training can turn into school credit. Approximately 135 hours of training is worth one elective class.
- Challenge Exams allows an officer to receive credit based on work experience.
- Tuition is affordable there are no loans therefore there is no interest, because you pay as you go.
- Classes are self-paced; you can graduate in nine months or you can decide you want to be finished in five years.

The School of Criminal Justice includes the following degrees: Associate of Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Master of Science in Criminal Justice.

To find out more or set up a presentation at your office, contact:

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