

**JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2005 – 2006**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) of Santa Clara County is a state-mandated, court-appointed authority. The general purpose of the Commission is to inquire into the administration of the juvenile law in this County. The Commission is dedicated to the promotion of an effective juvenile justice system operated in an environment of credibility, dignity, fairness, and respect for the youth of Santa Clara County.

The Commission's responsibilities include:

- Inspecting juvenile facilities including shelters, detention facilities and group homes used for the placement of any minor in Santa Clara County
- Conducting public or closed hearings on matters relating to juvenile law in the County
- Advocating for needed services for youth in the justice system

**COMMISSIONERS**

Betty Benson (appointed September 2005)

Robert W. Campbell (appointed September 2005)

Charles Fikes

Nancy S. Freeman (term completed January 2006)

Nancy B. Greene (term completed September 2005)

Barbara Hansen (resigned June 2006)

Patricia A. Khan

Arthur E. Knopf

Nora Manchester

Vilma Palette (appointed November 2005)

Carol Petersen

Stephen L. Rice (appointed September 2005)

William J. Scilacci, Chairperson

Michael A. Smith (appointed February 2006)

Susan Sullivan

Paddy Wray

## JJC COMMITTEE ROSTER FOR 2005-06

### **Executive Committee**

Bill Scilacci, Chair  
Pat Khan, Vice Chair  
Nora Manchester, Past Chair

### **Membership Committee**

Pat Khan, Chair  
Nora Manchester

### **Nominating Committee**

Nora Manchester, Chair  
Art Knopf  
Paddy Wray

### **Education Committee**

Carol Petersen, Chair  
Barbara Hansen  
Bob Campbell

### **Commendations**

Paddy Wray, Chair

### **Group Homes Inspection Committee**

Sue Sullivan, Chair  
Michael Smith  
Nora Manchester

### **Juvenile Detention Reform**

Nora Manchester, Chair  
Art Knopf  
Carol Petersen

### **Past Chairs Committee**

Nora Manchester, Chair  
Chuck Fikes  
Art Knopf  
Carol Petersen  
Sue Sullivan

### **Wright Center Inspection Committee**

Pat Khan, Chair  
Chuck Fikes  
Carol Petersen  
Paddy Wray  
Sue Sullivan  
Vilma Palette

### **Children's Shelter Inspection Committee**

Paddy Wray, Chair  
Barbara Hansen  
Nora Manchester  
Art Knopf  
Stephen Rice

### **Police Facilities Inspection Committee**

Art Knopf, Chair  
Chuck Fikes  
Michael Smith

### **Juvenile Hall Inspection Committee**

Carol Petersen, Chair  
Chuck Fikes  
Sue Sullivan  
Bob Campbell  
Barbara Hansen  
Pat Khan  
Nancy Freeman

### **James Ranch Inspection Committee**

Nora Manchester, Chair  
Betty Benson  
Michael Smith  
Barbara Hansen  
Pat Khan  
Art Knopf

### **Ad Hoc Committee**

Bill Scilacci, Chair  
All Commissioners

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2005-06**

The Juvenile Justice Commission approved the following Goals and Objectives on August 2, 2005:

1. Conduct mandated inspections and, within two months of the inspection, submit written reports for Commission approval.
2. Ensure that a quality education, including GED and Vocational Education, is available to minors in facilities inspected by the JJC.
3. Continue to focus on Juvenile Detention Reform by active membership on task forces, including monitoring of Roush Report Recommendations.
4. Maintain a full membership; increase minority representation.
5. Monitor recommendations of the 2004-05 JJC Inspection Reports.
6. Re-affirm the Mission Statement.
7. Revise and update the Procedures Manual.
8. Develop an Orientation Program for new members.
9. Schedule speakers occasionally for monthly Commission meetings.
10. Recognize, by means of commendation certificates, the efforts and contributions of various leaders.
11. Establish a Past Chairpersons Council to perform a needs assessment and recommend changes to improve Commission efficiency.

### **ACTIVITIES TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS**

1. Conduct mandated inspections and, within two months of the inspection, submit written reports for Commission approval.

All mandated inspections took place by the end of the year. The approved reports include:

- Juvenile Hall - Seven announced visits were made in November and December 2005 and an unannounced visit was made in January 2006. The report was approved at a special meeting on January 17, 2006.
- Children's Shelter - Two announced visits were made in January and February 2006. The report was approved at the March 7, 2006 meeting.

- James Ranch - Five announced visits were made in February, March, April and May 2006. The report was approved at a special meeting on May 15, 2006.
  - Police Facilities – Eight law enforcement jurisdictions were visited during March 2006. The report was approved at a special meeting on May 15, 2006.
  - Wright Center - Two announced visits were made in March and May 2005. The report was approved at a special meeting on June 29, 2006.
2. Ensure that a quality education, including GED and Vocational Education, is available to minors in facilities inspected by the JJC.

Special attention was given to the students, teachers, classes and educational programs during each of the four facility inspections. Recommendations were made concerning maximum class size, Special Education services, General Educational Development (GED) test preparation, English as a Second Language (ESL), and remedial programs.

One or more Commissioners attend monthly meetings of the Juvenile Court's Special Committee for Education, and, on occasion, meetings of the Santa Clara County Board of Education.

3. Continue to focus on Juvenile Detention Reform by active membership on task forces, including monitoring of Roush Report Recommendations.

Commissioners continue their participation in the Juvenile Detention Reform (JDR) movement as members of work groups and the JDR Oversight and Steering Committees. The Court Processing Committee, by examining other states for models, is looking into the violation of probation recall warrant process.

Commissioners actively participate in monthly Juvenile Court Systems and Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council meetings and quarterly Children's Shelter Multi-Agency Team meetings. The Chairperson and/or one or more Commissioners attend monthly Juvenile Hall Advisory Board and Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Justice Committee meetings.

There was no monitoring of the Roush Report recommendations due to a pending lawsuit.

4. Maintain a full membership; increase minority representation.

One Commissioner resigned during the year due to a work conflict. Two Commissioners did not apply for re-appointment upon completion of

their terms of office. Four new Commissioners, one a minority, were appointed during the year.

5. Monitor recommendations of the 2004-05 JJC Inspection Reports.

Probation Department responses to the June 13, 2005 James Ranch inspection report, the March 4, 2005 Juvenile Hall inspection report, and the March 4, 2005 Wright Center inspection report were received by the Commission, with each response signed by the Chief of Probation. The responses were noted in a memorandum from the Chairperson to the Commission, dated March 20, 2006, and receipt of the responses was officially acknowledged by the Commission at the April 4, 2006 meeting. The Commission had previously seen draft copies of the responses in 2005, prior to their approval by the Juvenile Hall Advisory Board, the Public Safety and Justice Committee, and the Board of Supervisors.

The response to the 2005 Children's Shelter inspection report was received from the Executive Director in a letter dated August 10, 2005.

6. Re-affirm the Mission Statement.

The Mission Statement was reaffirmed at the meeting on September 6, 2005.

7. Revise and update the Procedures Manual.

The Procedures Manual was not updated during the year.

8. Develop an Orientation Program for new members.

A Handbook was developed for new Commissioners. Section 1 covers the roster, committee assignments, meeting schedule and oath of office. Section 2 includes copies of agenda and minutes. Section 3 includes copies of inspection reports. Section 4 covers the mission statement, goals and objectives, and confidentiality statement. Section 5 includes the by-laws, California Welfare and Institutions Code, and procedures and guidelines.

Commissioners Manchester, Khan and Scilacci held a training session for recently appointed Commissioners Benson, Palette, and Smith on March 21, 2006.

9. Schedule speakers occasionally for monthly Commission meetings.

Rev. April Lussier, representing People Acting in Community Together (PACT), addressed the Commission at the November 1, 2005 meeting. Her subject was Wasted Moves, Wasted Lives.

Paddy Douglas, Principal of Alternative Placement Academy (APA) and Bridge Community Day School, spoke at the March 7, 2006 meeting. APA is operated by the County Office of Education in collaboration with the Probation Department and the California National Guard, and Bridge is operated in collaboration with the Probation Department.

Larry Soto, Executive Director of the Starlight Adolescent Center, spoke at the June 6, 2006 meeting. Starlight is a Community Treatment Facility providing secure care for adolescents who are seriously emotionally disturbed.

10. Recognize, by means of commendation certificates, the efforts and contributions of various leaders.

September 6, 2006 was proclaimed Dr. Nancy S. Freeman day by Judge Loftus. He noted that no one has given as much time and talent as she has. Commissioner Manchester said that Commissioner Freeman is credited with making the Commission a more professional organization.

Kurt Kumli, District Attorney – Delinquency, was congratulated on his appointment to the Superior Court of Santa Clara County at the February 7, 2006 meeting.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Penelope Blake, District Attorney – Dependency, at the April 4, 2006 meeting. She was recognized for her many years of service to youth of Santa Clara County.

Commissioner Manchester presented a Commendation to Judge Leonard Edwards at the May 2, 2006 meeting. He was recognized for his 25 years of exemplary service to children and their families.

Certificates of Appreciation were mailed to former Commissioners Freeman, Hansen, and Greene. The Certificates, dated June 30, 2006, thanked them for their volunteer contributions.

11. Establish a Past Chairpersons Council to perform a needs assessment and recommend changes to improve Commission efficiency.

A Past Chairpersons Committee was established, but no other action was taken during the year.

### **SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Commissioner Petersen reported at the October 4, 2005 meeting on her visit to the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility. She indicated that this facility uses the High Point

curriculum that has helped students pass the California High School Exit Examination with as little as three to six months of intensive instruction time.

Six Commissioners attended the Beyond the Bench conference on November 3, 2005.

A special meeting was held on January 17, 2006 to review and approve the Juvenile Hall inspection report and recommendations.

Commissioner Petersen reported at the March 7, 2006 meeting on her visit to the Glen Mills School facility in Pennsylvania.

Commissioners Scilacci and Campbell attended Judge Loftus' first meeting on Youth Not in School. The meeting was held at the County Office of Education on January 30, 2006.

Assembly Bill AB 1234 requires all local agency officials to receive two hours training in ethics by January 2007 and every two years thereafter. Six Commissioners attended the training session on May 11, 2006 and four Commissioners attended the training session on June 8, 2006.

A special meeting was held on May 15, 2006 to review and approve the James Ranch inspection report and recommendations and the Police Facilities inspection report and recommendations.

A special meeting was held on June 29, 2006 to review and approve the Wright Center inspection report and recommendations.

Commissioner Palette represented the Commission on a multi-agency task force initiated by Judge Lucero to form a "Girls Court."

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Commission sent letters regarding pertinent issues to the following individuals or organizations:

- to Governor Schwarzenegger in support of his efforts to reform the Division of Juvenile Justice.
- to Senator Cedillo in support of his bill to enroll youth in a health care plan upon being released from a juvenile detention center.
- to Bernard Warner, Chief Deputy Secretary, Juvenile Justice Division, inviting him to address a JJC meeting.
- to Congresswoman Lofgren supporting the San Jose Conservation Corps pilot program to offer an alternative to youth offender incarceration.



- to Supervisor Beall expressing concern about the elimination of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Services position at the Children's Shelter.
- to Supervisor Alvarado in appreciation for the timely manner in which Chief of Probation Mitchell's response to the Juvenile Hall report moved through the approval process.

### **OTHER EVENTS**

At the October 4, 2005 meeting, the Juvenile Justice Commission celebrated 75 years serving Santa Clara County youth. Commissioner Fikes, who has served as a Commissioner since 1976, as well as serving on both Civil and Criminal Grand Juries, presented a brief history of the organization. He said the purpose of the Commission is to guarantee the health and safety of all the youth in the institutions. He noted that Judge Leonard Edwards and former San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer have both served as Commissioners. Continuing the history, Judge Loftus noted the statute that gave rise to the Commission was established in 1903, but was not funded until 1905. In 1961, the body became known as the Juvenile Justice Commission. Judge Loftus added that the success the Commission has enjoyed has been made possible by the support services received from the Probation Department.

Chairperson Scilacci met with the Civil Grand Jury on April 13, 2006, seeking potential Commissioners. He noted that the work of the Juvenile Justice Commission is very similar to the work of the Civil Grand Jury. Both organizations do research, perform inspections and write reports. The function of the Commission, as one judge stated, is to "serve as the eyes and ears of the court." A number of former Civil Grand Jurors are currently serving on the Commission. Although there were no openings on the Commission at the time of this meeting, the Commission likes to have qualified individuals on the waiting list.

The Commission initiated action on an expense reimbursement policy by which Commissioners could be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The Commissioners volunteer their time and resources, but currently receive no compensation.

### **COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC**

The Commission continues to receive communications from the public and others through the secure land telephone line. Phone messages are retrieved daily by the Chairperson. Messages include inquiries, complaints, and requests for help. Each caller receives information or help. If the chairperson is unable to resolve the caller's concern, the appropriate referral telephone number is provided.

Descriptive information is provided on the Superior Court website regarding the Commission and its mission, responsibilities, membership, meetings, and contacts. Copies of recent annual reports and inspection reports are also provided, along with youth

and adult membership application forms. This information can be accessed on the internet at: [www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/juvenile/jcc.htm](http://www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/juvenile/jcc.htm)

**Approved by the Juvenile Justice Commission on August 1, 2006.**