

# SANTA CLARA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION 2009 – 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County is a state-mandated, court-appointed authority. The broad purpose of the Commission is to inquire into the administration of the juvenile justice system in the 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.

## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

### Commissioners:

Pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 225, the County's Commission shall consist of 15 volunteer citizens, two of which shall be youth Commissioners or persons between 14 and 21 years of age. Commissioners must also be residents of Santa Clara County. At the end of fiscal year 2009 – 2010, there were 11 adult Commissioners and one youth Commissioner and each are included in the following roster:

Pamela Serrano, Chair  
Raymond Blockie, Vice Chair (reappointed January 5, 2010)  
Penelope Blake, Secretary  
Patricia Khan, Past Chair (reappointed April 6, 2010)

Dana Bunnett  
Stephanie Dong, Student Commissioner (appointed April 6, 2010)  
Rada Ford (appointed May 4, 2010)  
Nora Manchester  
Calixto Manriques (appointed April 6, 2010)  
Vinod Mehta (reappointed April 6, 2010)  
Mary Ryan  
Anita Sunseri (appointed 11/10/2009)

Commissioners are sworn to four-year terms, except for youth Commissioners who are sworn to two-year terms. Over the past fiscal year, a number of Commissioners have resigned for reasons such as illness, family emergencies, employment responsibilities and college entry.

### Commissioner Resignations:

Phillip Gonzalez (resigned November 20, 2009)  
Art Honda (resigned October 13, 2009)  
Daniel Peak (resigned September 1, 2009)  
Divya Prabbaktar, Student Commissioner (resigned June 1, 2010)  
Robert Ramirez (reappointed January 5, 2010; resigned March 31, 2010)  
Neil Siciliano (reappointed November 3, 2009; resigned February 25, 2010)

The membership of the Commission should be representative of the community and should include representation from the different geographical areas of the County. In an effort to achieve such diversity, Commissioners have actively recruited new applicants to the Commission over the last fiscal year. The Commission sponsored a vendor table at Juvenile Court Judge J. Duong's Vietnamese Family Violence Training Workshop, where Commissioners distributed applications to parents and other persons attending. Commissioners also attended several La Raza Roundtable meetings to give a brief description of the duties and responsibilities of Commissioners and distribute applications to community members and parents.

## ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTIONS

The Commission conducts annual inspections of the County's juvenile detention facilities and at least one group home. All Commissioners are required to participate in these inspections and to document their findings in written reports, which are forwarded to the facility manager and to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Chairperson assigns Commissioners to inspection committees and other standing committees. In Fiscal Year 2009-2010, it was necessary to revise the committee roster because of resignations and absences. The final 2009 – 2010 Commissioner Committee Roster, scheduled inspection dates, and status of each facility inspection are as follows:

### Committees Roster:

#### Executive Committee

Pam Serrano, Chair  
Vice Chair Ray Blockie  
Penny Blake, Secretary  
Patricia Khan, Past Chair

#### Membership Committee

Committee Chair Ray Blockie  
Dana Bunnett  
Nora Manchester

#### Juvenile Hall Inspection

Committee Chair Nora Manchester  
Dana Bunnett  
Phillip Gonzalez  
Ray Blockie  
Penny Blake  
Divya Prabhakar  
Art Honda  
Anita Sunseri

Nominating Committee  
Patricia Khan, Past Chair  
Dana Bunnett

Group Home Inspection  
Committee Chair Mary Ryan  
Past Comm. Chair Ray Blockie  
Anita Sunseri

Law Enforcement Facilities Inspection  
Committee Chair Dana Bunnett  
Past Comm. Chair Vinod Mehta

Children's Receiving Center  
Committee Chair Penny Blake  
Dana Bunnett  
Patricia Khan  
Nora Manchester

Muriel Wright Inspection  
Committee Chair Vinod Mehta  
Past Comm. Chair Nora Manchester  
Penny Blake  
Mary Ryan  
Neil Siciliano  
Patricia Khan

James Ranch Inspection  
Committee Chair Patricia Khan  
Past Comm. Chair Pam Serrano  
Divya Prabhakar  
Mary Ryan  
Robert Ramirez  
Ray Blockie  
Anita Sunseri

Ad Hoc Committee  
All Commissioners as assigned

Facilities Master Inspection Schedule:

November, 2009	Juvenile Hall
January, 2010	James Ranch
March, 2010	Wright Center
May, 2010	Group Home
May, 2010	Law Enforcement Facilities
May, 2010	Children's Receiving Center

## Facilities Inspection Report Status:

The Juvenile Hall Inspection Committee began its inspection as scheduled in November of 2009, and the Commission approved its final report, dated January 2010, on February 16, 2010.

The James Ranch Inspection Committee began its inspection as scheduled in January of 2010, and the Commission approved its final report, dated May 2010, on June 1, 2010.

The Wright Center Inspection Committee began its inspection in February of 2010, prior to its scheduled date, and the Commission approved its final report, dated June 2010, on July 6, 2010.

The Group Home Inspection Committee began an inspection of the Bill Wilson Center's Quetzal House as scheduled in May of 2010, and the Commission approved its final report, dated May 2010, on June 1, 2010.

The Commission delayed its annual inspection of the Receiving Center so that the facility will have been in operation for one year at the time of inspection.

The Law Enforcement Facilities Inspection Committee began an inspection of the Santa Clara County Law Enforcement Facilities in June of 2010. The inspection has been completed and the report is pending. Vote and approval by the Commission is expected in September of 2010.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Commission prepares goals and objectives for each fiscal year. The following is a list of the goals and objectives prepared and approved by the Commission for the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year. The status of these goals and objectives is noted in italics.

1. Complete all scheduled inspections by 6/30/10

(All inspections have been completed, but some inspection reports were delayed because of Commissioner resignations and Commissioner absences due to family emergencies).

2. Publish a status report on all inspection recommendations no later than 180 days from report publication

(This goal was not accomplished during the 2009- 2010 Fiscal Year as the Commission was not in full membership. This is one of the priority target goals for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Period).

3. Update the Policies and Procedures Manual by March 1, 2010

(This goal is near completion. The Executive Committee has worked on this goal for the last six months. A final draft of the manual has been presented to the Commission for vote and approval. Upon completion of any final edits, it will be distributed in electronic copy to all Commissioners).

4. Conduct orientation for new Commissioners by December 1, 2009, and schedule new Commissioner orientation within 60 days of new Commissioner appointment

(This goal has been accomplished).

5. Recognize, by means of commendation certificates, the significant efforts and contributions of members of the juvenile justice community

(This goal has been accomplished).

6. Encourage community members to apply to become Commissioners of the Juvenile Justice Commission with emphasis on Youth Commissioner applicants

(This goal has been accomplished).

7. Monitor and report to the Juvenile Justice Commission all Incident Reports (IRs) filed at all dependent/detention facilities inspected during the year

(This goal has not yet been accomplished, but it is one of the priority goals and objectives for the fiscal year 2010–2011).

8. Establish a training program for all Commissioners on how to conduct all juvenile facility inspections

(This goal has been accomplished).

9. Investigate any juvenile justice issues that are brought before the attention of the Commission and fall within the scope of the Commission's responsibilities

(This goal has been accomplished).

## COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC

In a continuing effort to make the Commission accessible to juvenile justice partners, the general public, minors served within the juvenile justice system, and the parents and relatives of those minors, the Commission has established several means to communicate with the public and disseminate information.

The Commission continues to provide information about the Commission and its activities on the Superior Court website, at [www.sccsupercourt.org/juvenile/jjc.htm](http://www.sccsupercourt.org/juvenile/jjc.htm). Information on this site includes the responsibilities and duties of the Commission, public meeting details, and archived facilities inspection reports. Adult and youth commissioner applications and special reports are also available.

During the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year, the Commission created an e-mail address, [sccjjc@gmail.com](mailto:sccjjc@gmail.com), which was announced in the Commission's monthly public meeting. The address is also included in the revised Commission brochure.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### Standing Committee Meetings:

The Commission regularly attends standing committee meetings within the juvenile justice system. During Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010, the Commission was represented by either the Chairperson or the Chairperson's designee at each of the following regularly scheduled juvenile justice system meetings:

Juvenile Court Systems (monthly)

Dependency Court Systems (monthly)

Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative (quarterly)

Child Abuse Council Interagency Collaborative Committee (monthly)

Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Justice Committee (monthly)

Board of Supervisors Children, Family and Seniors Committee (monthly)

Commissioners also periodically attend the monthly San Jose Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force meeting, the Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative Case Systems and Processes Work Group meeting, and the Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative Prevention and Programs Work Group meeting.

### Special Committee Work Groups:

In addition to the aforementioned standing committee meetings, the Commission was an active participant in the following special committee workgroups during Fiscal Year 2009 - 2010:

Educational Rights Committee (Chaired by Judge Patrick Tondreau)

Disproportionate Minority Contacts Committee (Chaired by Chief Sheila Mitchell)

Psychotropic Medication Committee (Chaired by Judge Patrick Tondreau)

Reproductive Health Education Committee (Chaired by Judges Patrick Tondreau and Katherine Lucero)

Commissioners also attended the Board of Supervisors' State of the County Address by President Ken Yeager.

## TRAINING

All newly appointed Commissioners attended a four-hour orientation and training session. The Court and Commission Counsel attended this meeting and provided an overview and description of their respective role with the Commission.

Commissioners attended the first annual Joint Juvenile Justice Commission training held on April 3, 2010, at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center. Commissioners received training throughout the day from various legal professionals including representatives from the California Standards Authority (CSA) and Alameda County Juvenile Court Judges. Commissioners also toured the new state-of-the-art Alameda County Juvenile Hall.

Additionally, Commissioners attended the following training sessions:

Juvenile Court Judges' training regarding the confidentiality of juvenile court records and the process through which and to whom those records can be released, copies or viewed

Juvenile Court Judges' training regarding paternity rules and laws

Probation Department's training regarding Probation Programs

Disproportionate Minorities Contacts training presented by Dr. Wedding of Sacramento State University

Electronic Medical Records training presented by the Juvenile Hall  
Medical staff

Specialty Courts training presented by the Juvenile Justice Courts' Judges

Taser use training with an emphasis on police interaction with juveniles  
presented by San Jose Police Department Lt. Rick Weger

Vietnamese Family Violence Workshop presented by Judge J. Duong

Reproductive Health and Safety for Court-Involved Youth presentation by  
Dependency Court Judge Katherine Lucero

Education Rights for Minors training provided by Legal Advocates for  
Children and Youth (LACY)

Model Courts training

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The Commission strives to be an active participant in the programs and projects made available to the minors in the juvenile justice system. During the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year, Commissioners attended the following special events:

Juvenile Hall Holiday Season Living Units Decorating Contest

Mother's Day Flower Arranging

Juvenile Hall Cinco De Mayo Celebration

Juvenile Hall Hot August Nights Celebration

## COMMISSION SPECIAL PROJECTS

In addition to those duties and responsibilities assigned to the Commission by the Welfare and Institutions Code, the Commission has initiated and/or completed numerous other special projects over the past fiscal year. Those projects include the following:

### Detention of 12-Year -Olds and Younger Minors in Juvenile Hall:

In January 2009, the Commission approved a subcommittee to investigate the detention of young minors with mental health issues in Juvenile Hall. This investigation was prompted by a report to the Commission regarding a 10-year-old minor with a diagnosed mental illness who had been detained in Juvenile Hall for several months



because another appropriate placement was not available. The initial investigation focused on the processes that led to the long-term placement of this minor in Juvenile Hall, but the investigation was later expanded to review the broader issue of the detention of children 12 years old and under in Juvenile Hall. Commissioners reviewed nationwide research, observed the process of the Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents (CITA), attended various meetings, and conducted interviews with probation, mental health and school staff. The Commission also reviewed the cases of 30 minors under 12 years old who were detained in Juvenile Hall. The Commission issued a report with its findings on December 18, 2009. The Commission gave a presentation of its report to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Justice Committee and Children, Families and Seniors Committee. The report was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors, who enacted a policy that juveniles under the age of 13 should not be placed in Juvenile Hall, and requiring the County to make every possible effort to find a more suitable placement. The Commission's full report and recommendations can be accessed online at the Commission website.

#### Visits with Minors in Juvenile Hall:

Commissioners have initiated routine visits with minors detained in Juvenile Hall. Visits are scheduled every three to four weeks during the evening hours. Commissioners visit with the minors one-on-one or in groups. On some occasions, Commissioners have an opportunity to observe minors during various scheduled program or leisure activities.

#### Commission Accessibility for Minors in the Detention Facilities:

Commissioners have begun a discussion about how to improve the ability of minors in detention and their families to contact the Commission with issues or concerns.

#### Commission Organizational Chart:

Commissioners have prepared an organizational chart, which lists all duties, meetings and projects of the Commission. The primary goal of this project is to categorize and prioritize the Commission workload.

#### Commission Procedures Manual:

The Executive Committee is in the process of updating, revising and transferring the Commission Procedures Manual into digital form. Commission approval of the Manual is expected in November 2010.

## COMMISSION RECOGNITIONS

The Commission recognized the following persons during Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010 for their dedication and contributions to the minors served in the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice System:

Deputy District Attorney Aaron West for her service to the minors in the Dependency Court System

Judge Margaret Johnson for her service to the minors in the Juvenile Justice Court System

Approved by the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice

Commission on \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

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Pamela Serrano, Chairperson