

## **PROBATION-JUVENILE-BOOT CAMP**

### **SYNOPSIS**

On March 22, 2011, the Grand Jury visited the Kings County Probation Department and toured Juvenile Hall and Boot Camp.

### **WHY THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATED**

Public Interest.

### **AUTHORITY**

California Penal Code Section 919(b). The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the County.

### **METHOD OF INVESTIGATION**

The Grand Jury met with the Chief Probation Officer and Deputy Chief Probation Officer, who provided a guided tour of the Juvenile Hall and Boot Camp facilities.

### **BACKGROUND AND FACTS**

The Kings County Probation Department, encompasses Probation, Juvenile Hall and Boot Camp, and operates with a staff of approximately 140. The Kings County Juvenile Hall is rated to house 45 juveniles up to 18 years of age with a staffing ratio of one officer per 10 juveniles. Detained juveniles are schooled 240 minutes per day, up to 12<sup>th</sup> grade level, Monday through Friday, meeting all educational requirements including special needs and providing outside activities. The average stay is 30-45 days, depending on the court's calendar to complete the due process proceedings. The disposition of a juvenile's case is then decided by the judge.

The appearance of the facility was satisfactory and the staff was forthcoming with all inquiries made by the Grand Jury.

Parents or guardians are responsible for the \$15.00 per day fee that is charged for their minor dependent's incarceration.

### **BOOT CAMP**

The Grand Jury toured the Kings County Boot Camp facility. Boot Camp is a physically and psychologically challenging program fashioned after military style training for boys. There is a positive focus on individual development of life skills. The stay in Boot Camp is ninety days to one year for ages 14 to 18. A Judge can sentence a juvenile to Juvenile Hall or Boot Camp. Additionally, Juvenile Hall staff determines which juvenile earns the privilege to be accepted to Boot Camp

and appointments are made when space is available. Juveniles in Boot Camp have been active with community volunteer work such as graffiti clean up when supervision is available. They also officiate at various Hanford sports programs when properly trained and again depending on supervision availability. Boot Camp juveniles are housed in separate barracks and are responsible for the cleanliness of the facility.

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

None

**COMMENTS**

Kings County Probation Department is under staffed due to the economy.

**RESPONSE REQUIREMENT**

None