



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**County Seeks Nominations for Newly Established
Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative**
*Residents Encouraged to Apply for Eight Available Positions
Supporting Continued Efforts on Prevention and Detention Issues*

SAN JOSE, CALIF.—The County of Santa Clara is soliciting nominations for the newly established Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative (JJSC), a new community council created to continue the work accomplished by the county's Juvenile Detention Reform. In the best interest of minors in the local juvenile system, members of the collaborative will ensure the deployment of evidence-based practices in the County Juvenile Justice System and create more effective opportunities for prevention and rehabilitation.

Based on its organizational structure, eight of the collaborative's 25 positions are currently open for nominations and application by Santa Clara County residents. The positions currently open to the public for nominations and application by Santa Clara County residents are: 1) Parent Advocate; 2) Faith-Based Organization Representative; 3) Superintendent of a School District; 4) Victim Advocate; 5) Youth Advocacy Organization; 6) Youth Advocate; 7) Youth or Youth Representative; and 8) Youth Service Provider Representative.

Anyone interested in serving as a member must fill out an application form (attached). Once assigned, the membership spans the duration of the Collaborative, until it expires on June 30, 2011. Applicants must submit completed applications to the County of Santa Clara Executive's Office, 70 West Hedding St., 11th Floor, San Jose, CA 95110. Attention: Kathy Maniaci. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 2008.

On the Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative (JJSC)

The County of Santa Clara Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative (JJSC) is a community council focusing on collaboration among the Juvenile Courts, Probation, District Attorney, the Public Defender, local governments, law enforcement, schools and community based service providers. Comprised of 25 members, the collaborative will be dedicated to preventing youth from penetrating the juvenile justice system, continuously improving processes within the system; and ensuring the deployment of evidence-based practices to more effectively rehabilitate youth. The collaborative is chaired by the County Executive and supported by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The Collaborative will include the following 25 representatives:

1) Chair, County Executive's Office; 2) Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department ; 3) County Counsel, Office of the County Counsel; 4) Director, Dept of Drug & Alcohol Services; 5) Director, Mental Health Department ; 6) Director, Social Services Agency; 7) District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney; 8) Parent Advocate; 9) President, Santa Clara County Police Chief's Association; 10) Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court; 11) Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender; 12) Representative, Faith Based Organization; 13) Sheriff, Office of the Sheriff; 14) SJPD Chief, Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force; 15) Superintendent, County Office of Education; 16) Superintendent, School District; 17) CEMA Representative; 18) 521 Bargaining Unit Representative; 19) 1587 Bargaining Unit Representative; 20) Victim Advocate; 21) Youth Advocacy Organization; 22) Youth Advocate; 23) Youth or Youth Representative; 24) Youth Service Provider Representative; and 25) Youth Service Provider Representative as nominated by the Silicon Valley Council of Non-Profits

Juvenile Detention Reform - Background

Established in 2002, the county's Juvenile Detention Reform teams made much progress in the past six years. The work groups successfully implemented countywide the Police Booking Protocol and created the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (Detention RAI). These changes have decreased the total number of referrals to Juvenile Hall and the detention of the youth referred.

Juvenile Detention Reform also identified other efforts that may help reduce the disproportionate representation of minorities detained within the juvenile justice system. The Community Release (CRP) and Electronic Monitoring Programs (EMP) and the Alternative Placement Academy (APA) were among the earliest alternatives to detention (ATD), implemented before JDR began, and the most recent alternative, the Evening Reporting Center (ERC), opened its doors in September 2006.

Specific goals set by JDR were to use data to determine where there are opportunities to reduce the unnecessary and inappropriate detention of youth; Create and use alternatives to detention; Reduce disproportionate minority confinement; Reduce unnecessary delay in case processing; Reduce unnecessary and inappropriate detention of youth; Control the Juvenile Hall "front gate" by developing and implementing effective admissions policies and practices; Improve conditions of confinement; Engage impacted parents and youth; Develop ombudsman type services for juvenile justice system (later dropped as a goal); Conduct public forums to better understand community concerns; Help inform the JDR planning and implementation process; and Improve community understanding of the juvenile justice system.