

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Wilson

SUBMITTAL DATE:
February 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Vocational and academic training program for parolees to reduce recidivism

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Chairman to send a letter endorsing the concept of a three-pronged "Riverside County Parole Project" aimed at reducing the revolving door of recidivism.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2007, a group of four distinguished and experienced citizens produced a proposal for a comprehensive program for prospective and current parolees, aimed at reducing recidivism and the resultant crime and need for jail space in Riverside County. The three facets of this program are:

- 1) A "Community Education and Employment Training Service Center (CEETSC)," which parolees would enroll in voluntarily in order to receive vocation and academic training and for social and family services. The goal is to enable parolees to get a job with a living wage, giving them a chance to avoid recidivism.
- 2) A "Parolee Day Reporting Center (PDRC)," which, unlike the CEETSC, is mandatory. The PDRC is a small parolee service center sought by the California Department of Corrections, and parolees are referred to it when their Parole Agents feel that they are in imminent risk of recidivism. The PDRC is operated at the same site as the CEETSC.
- 3) A "Secure Reentry Facility," which is essentially a mini-prison for inmates who are several months away from release, and which will house the prisoner in the area where they will parole.

The proposal calls for an "Inside-Outside" program, which teaches basic skills to prisoners while they are still incarcerated, and continues, seamlessly, that education once they are paroled. The objective is to transform parolees into "taxpayers" instead of "tax recipients."

The proponents of this program are:

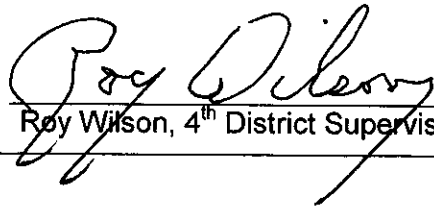
Frances Hesselbein, CEO of the National Girl Scouts of America, and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient

Robert Presley, Retired Secretary of the Youth & Adult Correctional Agency, former Undersheriff of Riverside County and retired California State Senator

D.O. "Spike" Helmick, Thirty year member of California Highway Patrol, the last nine as Commissioner

Larry Bowler, Retired Sacramento County Sheriff's lieutenant and former California State Assembly member.

Funding for this project is available primarily through AB 900.



Roy Wilson, 4th District Supervisor

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County of Riverside

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SUPERVISOR ROY WILSON FOURTH DISTRICT

February 21, 2008

Mr. Robert Presley
1127 11th Street #544
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Community Education and Employment Training Center (CEETSC), and The Parolee Day Reporting Center (PDRC) in Riverside County

Dear Bob,

This letter is intended to communicate the support of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for your proposal, which offers a new approach in dealing effectively with the problem of the revolving door of recidivism.

A great deal of emphasis has been placed on construction of jails at an enormous cost, mainly to house repeat offenders. Riverside County needs a plan to help ensure that parolees get necessary skills and monitoring. This will help to ensure that they do not commit new crimes and return to prison for violations of their parole.

We must end prison overcrowding and help make our neighborhoods safe. While construction of jails may be one tool toward achieving that end, your program appears to offer another tool.

Reducing parolee crime through education and training makes sense and we wholeheartedly endorse it.

Sincerely,

Roy Wilson, Chairman
Riverside County Board of Supervisors