



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



PRESS RELEASE

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PROBATION CHIEF HONORS STAFF, OFFICERS WHO KEEP COMMUNITY SAFE

Probation Services Week Commemorates the Work of Probation Professionals

Probation Service Week takes place from July 17–July 23 and honors probation professionals who work to keep communities safe and support the rehabilitative process for those under their supervision and care. Throughout the week, the Santa Cruz County Probation Department will be showcasing its countywide work to provide accountability, opportunity and hope for justice-involved individuals, making a true difference in the lives of people by using evidence-based rehabilitation that helps people achieve long-term success and sustainable community safety.

“I want to thank my staff for their dedication to some of our communities most vulnerable individuals. They inspire me each day and I am so proud of them. Collectively, my staff are driven each day to support our clients on their transformative path to wellness and healing and also serve as a connector and bridge to capacity building services provided by our wonderful community partners,” Santa Cruz County Chief Probation Officer Fernando Giraldo said.

The goal of the Probation Department and staff is to promote public safety, reduce recidivism, and support victims and all those impacted by crime, in partnership with the community. For decades, California has been a leader through effective policies within California’s justice systems, and Probation is focused on ensuring accountability while helping justice-involved individuals transition out of the system permanently through transformative and evidence-based rehabilitation.

In addition to participating in the community in a variety of ways including providing leadership to the Aztcas Youth Soccer Academy, the Department recently opened its second probation success center in Watsonville, increasing equitable service access for



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clients in south county. Multi-disciplinary case management and services access for greater support includes employment services, parent education, and cognitive behavioral interventions. An open house will be scheduled later this summer.

Probation is an alternative to incarceration and connects services and needs to enhance community safety and the restoration of justice-involved individuals to enhance long term public safety. Probation officers are educated, and highly trained experts prepared to successfully manage the multifaceted needs of justice-involved individuals and community safety.

During Probation Service Week it is important to recognize probation officers and staff for their dedication to the people they work with and to our community.