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News Release

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Supervisors Approve Funding for County's First Neighborhood Safety Unit *Providing Opportunities for Success to Juvenile Youth and Young Adults is Key to Public Safety*

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to invest \$800,000 annually to establish the County's first Neighborhood Safety Unit (NSU) under the Probation Department in an effort to reduce juvenile crime and foster safe neighborhoods.

The board voted on Wednesday June 17, 2015, during its third budget hearing in advance of the expected adoption on Friday, June 19.

The NSU was proposed by Board President Dave Cortese in his State of the County address in January. Modeled after the City of Richmond's Office of Neighborhood Safety, the program will begin on July 1.

"Many of our youth and young adults caught up in the Justice System are from neighborhoods and schools that can benefit greatly by crime intervention and

prevention strategies aimed at creating opportunities for success and safety for all,” said Cortese.

The NSU’s main responsibility will be to assess current resources available to prevent and respond effectively to juvenile crime, as well as identify service and resource needs in specific neighborhoods available to young adults over 18 not currently on probation. It will initially focus on two neighborhoods and then expand to other communities with high rates of juvenile crime. The NSU will also leverage the existing School Linked Services infrastructure to enhance rehabilitation efforts of youth and young adults exiting the Juvenile Justice System.

A critical component to the success of the NSU will be the deployment of “neighborhood change agents” that will help build healthy and consistent relationships with those most likely to be perpetrators, or victims of violence. Equally critical will be the Juvenile Justice Fellowship program that will provide juvenile youth and young adults with the opportunity, services and financial resources to improve their lives.

For more information, please contact the Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese at 408-299-5030.

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