

A Message from the Sheriff



The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department has implemented a countywide program called JIP, which stands for Juvenile Intervention Program. JIP was developed by deputy sheriffs from the Public Affairs Division. It is designed to show troubled teens the reality of incarceration and the importance of making better life choices. Juveniles have misconceptions about what life in jail is truly like. They see incidents such as police pursuits, gang violence and drive-by shootings but do not realize the consequences of criminal behavior. Today's youth have developed respect for today's criminals, and have developed misconceptions that life in the criminal justice system is glamorous. These misconceptions have been delivered by television, or by friends and family members of the juvenile.

This program is not for all youth. It is geared toward those who have begun a negative lifestyle or are on the verge of heading down the wrong path; such as alcohol, gangs, drugs, etc. JIP is for parents or guardians of at-risk juveniles who are in need of intervention. These parents and guardians also need to be aware of the social influences their children encounter, and participate in a class while the juveniles are taken through the jail experience.

JIP is a structured, one day program that utilizes personnel from the Department's Public Affairs Division, and college interns from the University of Redlands. Together these individuals work side by side in all aspects of the program, from mentoring to teaching the tools of social responsibility. I believe that the makeup of this team produces the influential role models who will assist these young people in becoming productive citizens within our community.

During each one of the programs, every participant will be exposed to and learn the importance of:

- Choices and Consequences
- Understanding the Criminal Justice System
- Realities of Incarceration
- Risk Factors that could lead to Death
- Life Skills Development
- Personal Responsibility
- Counseling for Youth and Families

At the conclusion of the one-day program, each participant receives a "Certificate of Completion" and is re-evaluated after one, three, six and nine months.

JIP was developed at the recommendation of the Information Exchange Committee, a group of influential community members who meet regularly with me and my Executive staff. It is another step in the logical progression of law enforcement working in conjunction with local communities and other countywide resources to serve our youth.

I am very excited about this program and its innovative approach to interacting with and positively influencing local youths and their families.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Hoops".

Rod Hoops, Sheriff - Coroner
San Bernardino County Sheriff

