



## Probation Association of New Jersey

*Serving New Jersey Since 1904*

*An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association*

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## PROBATION ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY APPLAUDS EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS TO GUN VIOLENCE

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUPPORT PROBATION OFFICERS

**Wall, NJ** -The Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ) applauds Assemblyman's Charles Mainor's "PEACE on Gun Violence" initiative to help address gun violence in New Jersey.

New Jersey Probation officers oversee over 120,000 adults and 15,000 juveniles, many of whom are dangerous offenders. In fact, offenders currently on probation make up a significant number of gun violence incidents. According to PANJ statistics, more than a dozen persons on probation in New Jersey in 2013 were killed by gunfire. Also, a total of over seventy also on probation have been shot or been charged as active shooters by police since the beginning of the year.

"Supervising offenders that are involved in gang and gun related activity, probation officers see firsthand the need for creative initiatives to address the public safety problem plaguing our communities," said Bradley Fairchild, President of PANJ. "More attention needs to be paid to keeping guns off the streets and providing the necessary training and resources to our public safety personnel, including probation officers, so they can aggressively supervise these dangerous offenders."

The New Jersey Judiciary must embrace anti-crime programs, such as PEACE on Gun Violence or Operation Ceasefire, which was developed in response to gang-related gun violence in the Hollenbeck area of Los Angeles in 2005. Planned by 19 public and private agencies working with researchers, this initiative was intended to send gang members the message that there would be consequences for all members of a gang if any one member committed a crime that involved guns. Many of New Jersey's approximately 130,000 adults and juveniles have been identified as high-ranking street gang members.

"Efforts, such as Assemblyman Mainor's, are needed to curb gun violence and gangs as Probation officers supervising offenders are given only one week of training and a can of pepper spray to protect the communities they serve, as well as themselves," said Fairchild. "Probation officers need more training, technology and arrest powers to

properly protect the public from these dangerous offenders. PANJ supports the passage of legislation (ACR116/A1662) which would transfer probation authority to the Bureau of Parole where probation officers would be given the necessary tools to supervise our state's offenders."

**About The Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ)**

PANJ represents an estimated 2,800 probation officers and supervisors statewide employed by the Judiciary through two collective bargaining units that include other professional personnel. PANJ members oversee over 120,000 adults and 15,000 juveniles in New Jersey, making it the 10<sup>th</sup> largest adult probation system in the nation. PANJ has resolved more than 7 million cases through their various courts, proving that probation can indeed lead to rehabilitation.

PANJ representatives attend APPA training institutes nationwide and PANJ is an affiliate member of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA).

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