



# COUNTY of VENTURA

## Board of Supervisors

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**  
CARMEN RAMIREZ, CHAIR  
MATT LAVERE  
LINDA PARKS  
KELLY LONG  
ROBERT O. HUBER

July 26, 2022

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT: Recommendation of Supervisor Long and Supervisor Ramirez to Conceptually Approve the Resurrection and Expansion of a Tattoo Removal Program; Direct Staff to Return with Final Program and Budgetary Transactions.**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Conceptual approval for the resurrection and expansion of a tattoo removal program.
2. Direct staff to return with a final program and budgetary transactions for approval.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The first County of Ventura-sponsored Tattoo Removal Clinic started in 1998 by former Supervisor Kathy Long. At that time, a machine was purchased by the County with Ventura County Health Care Agency funds. The clinics were held monthly at Santa Paula Medical Clinic, with the first visit free. Follow up visits were also free with verification of 40 hours of volunteer service, or a donation.

The Oxnard Clinic started in 2011, with a machine purchased by the Oxnard Police Department through a CalGRIP grant (Gang Reduction Intervention Program). The clinics were held at Las Islas Medical Center with the first treatment free and subsequent visits free with verification of 40 hours of volunteer service.

After Supervisor Kathy Long retired, Supervisor Kelly Long and her staff continued supporting and organizing both clinics, which were held on Saturday mornings. With the welcome addition of Supervisor Ramirez and her staff, we have together, spearheaded a committee who are working diligently on the logistics of reopening the clinics, along with the procurement of new machines. Due to the success of these programs, the Santa Paula Clinic was listed in the 2016, "Jail to Jobs Tattoo Removal How-To Guide" publication as one of the case studies in how to start and run an effective tattoo removal clinic. Both clinics are currently listed on the "Jail to Jobs" website for tattoo removal programs.

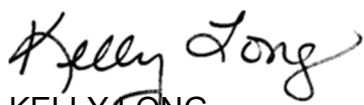
**DISCUSSION:**

In February 2020, the tattoo removal equipment at the Santa Paula Clinic broke down and a few months later, the tattoo removal program was closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We are requesting the Board's support and conceptual approval for the resurrection of this valuable program. Additionally, we are requesting expansion of the program to include the provision of tattoo removal services at the Sheriff's Todd Road Jail and Probation's Juvenile Facilities for youth residents. The tattoo removal services at the Juvenile Facilities will enhance program services with the SB 823 population serving multi-year commitments due to the pending closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities.

The tattoo removal program has been very popular and is still one of the most common inquiries to our respective Board offices. Individuals have stated that removing gang-related or anti-social and visible tattoos on the face, head, neck, or hands will help them find employment and will better lead to permanent careers. Moreover, studies have shown removing visible tattoos may actually lead to lower recidivism rates and it can also signify a new chapter in someone's life. Additionally, clients are often times introduced to other comprehensive wraparound services such as mental health, job development and GED tutoring.

We request that the Board direct County staff to return with a final program and budgetary transaction necessary to procure new state of the art equipment to assist those individuals who are ready to make a positive change to their lives.

Sincerely,

  
KELLY LONG  
Supervisor, Third District

  
CARMEN RAMIREZ  
Supervisor, Fifth District