

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Time: 08-26-25 09:00

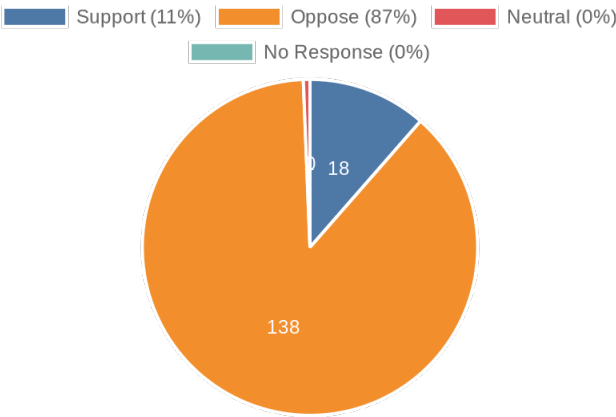
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Board of Supervisors	08-26-25 09:00	41	157	18	138	1

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

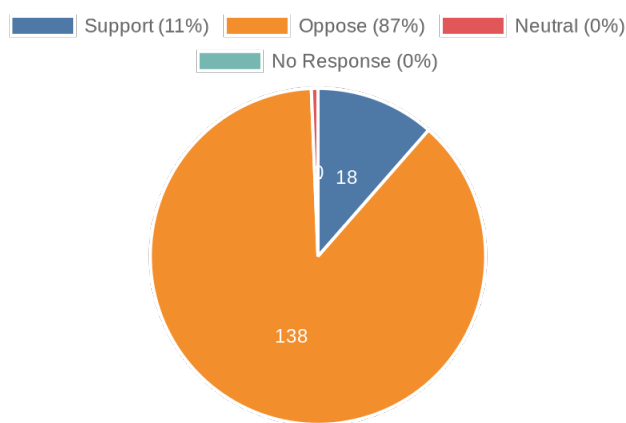


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
26. IMPROVING YOUTH SAFETY IN JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES	157	18	138	1

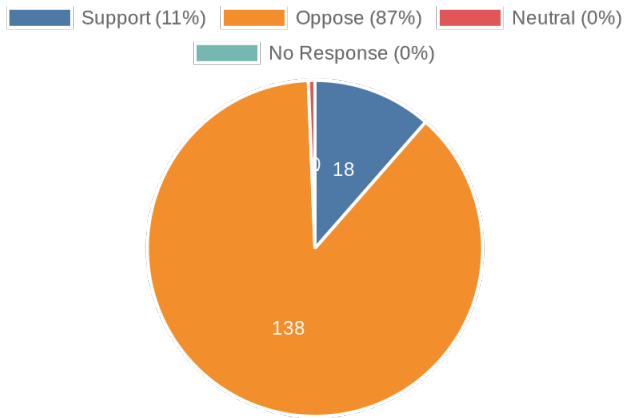
Sentiments for All Agenda Items

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Overall Sentiment



Sarah Gonzales

Location: 92065, Ramona
Submitted At: 10:27pm 08-26-25

it is needed due to incidents of gang-related violence and other forms of physical aggression by detained youth.it is a tool to de-escalate situations when de-escalation efforts have failed or are not possible.OC spray is a last resort to control violent or combative youth, preventing injuries to both the youth and the detention officers. It reduces injuries to both youth and staff during violent incidents. If the board of supervisors went to shadow a shift at the hall for one day they wouldn't last. Let alone without OC. This is a very ignorant non solution to a much bigger problem of why it needs to be used in the first place.

P B

Location:
Submitted At: 7:53pm 08-26-25

Strongly oppose. More use of force options should be provided to staff.

Van Hoang

Location: 92115, San Diego
Submitted At: 6:35pm 08-26-25

it's necessary

Kristopher Goesch

Location: 91941, La mesa
Submitted At: 2:04pm 08-26-25

I appose this proposition. OC is an effective method of reducing injuries. The removal will remove a tool that Officers have to prevent fights. The presence of OC is enough of deterrent alone. Youth will not engage in violence due to the possibility of OC used on them.

Furthermore, when without the use of OC the fights will last longer and more injuries will occur. OC stops the youths from fighting immediately. Please consider the option of the keeping it.

John Durment

Location:

Submitted At: 1:29pm 08-26-25

Making a right decision requires critical thinking, careful evaluation of available options, and consideration of potential consequences. It involves weighing the pros and cons of various choices and selecting the one that aligns with our values, goals, and beliefs. A right decision requires a thorough understanding of the problem at hand and a willingness to seek out all relevant information before choosing a course of action. With that said, please come work the floor with us for 1 week and then make a recommendation. Perspective is key.

Francisco Frias

Location: 90621, Buena Park

Submitted At: 12:56pm 08-26-25

Removing OC spray from San Diego Juvenile Facilities endangers both youth and staff. Fights will occur despite de-escalation training, and OC spray is the safest, fastest way to stop them. Without it, officers must use physical force, increasing injury risk for all involved. Female officers outnumber males 2-to-1 and often face large, adult-sized youth—OC spray is the only equalizer. Physical altercations damage rapport and escalate trauma. OC spray prevents hands-on force and protects everyone. For the safety of youth and staff, please do NOT approve agenda item 26.

MARIO JONES

Location: 92124, San Diego

Submitted At: 12:21pm 08-26-25

Law Enforcement needs the proper tools to get home safely and to protect the Youth. Oppose taking away OC.

V G

Location: 91950

Submitted At: 12:00pm 08-26-25

I strong oppose this item. Taking away this tool is a huge mistake. Officers need to have options that do not require physical force. Which can harm both officers and youth.

The probation department needs more resources, a bigger budget and better training.

I also believe that officers need a seat at the table of this subcommittee. Why are people who do not do the job get to have a say other the people that do it everyday. That's ridiculous!

Lastly, the headline that was used for this item is misleading. Who doesn't want safer facilities? We all do. STOP LYING TO THE PEOPLE!

Paul E

Location:

Submitted At: 11:50am 08-26-25

OC is a deterrent and helps to keep the youth and staff safe just by its presence. Removing OC from institutions will result in more injuries to youth and staff resulting in a large financial burden to the county as well as additional unnecessary trauma to youth and staff. Do not remove OC from the institutions!

J P

Location:

Submitted At: 11:32am 08-26-25

The proposal of removing OC spray in juvenile detention facilities is an asinine way of catering to an agenda that encourages violent behavior amongst offenders and to continue this entitled attitude amongst incarcerated youth. In turn, removing OC encourages injury to officers and YOUTH.

OC is an effective tool used to de-escalate and stop fighting, assaults and threats to staff. We are inundated every single day by threats, both verbal and physical. Our job is to intervene when youths are fighting one on one, in large riot groups, or against officers. There are many times where simply upholstering our OC is enough for them to stop. The removal of OC will directly result in great bodily injury towards officers who attempt to intervene as well as other youth, when fights become too big to separate on our own.

I implore all of the board of supervisors to work at detention facilities for just one day to experience what we are enduring. I can guarantee that your opinion will change.

Sarah Samson

Location: 93301, Bakersfield
Submitted At: 11:28am 08-26-25

I am completely opposed. As a female in the institutions dealing with today's youth we need to be equipped with some form of protection. Today's men we have in our facilities will only continue to gain sophistication and rights. In order for us to continue to wear a hat of rehabilitation we must have some equipment that allows us to do our job to the best of our ability! If pepper spray is removed, we will see an increase of fights, injuries to other youth, and staff injuries, making it more difficult for staffing to stay up to par and for us to do our job!

J W

Location:
Submitted At: 10:46am 08-26-25

The use of OC spray in a detention facility, both juvenile and adult is a necessary intermediate level of force that can resolve a violent confrontation with less potential for injury to any of those involved. If OC spray is removed as a tool, officers will only have the use of physical force which will inherently result in more injuries to those committing the violent offenses and the officers who have to stop the violence from continuing. The belief that removing OC spray makes an institution safer has no statistically proven validation. As a state that embraces evidence based decision making, I highly encourage the board to consider the fact there are no evidence backed studies that show OC spray is more dangerous or causes more injury than the physical use of force. Staffing levels in juvenile facilities are already extremely low and are evermore difficult to find new qualified officers. Staff being out on light duty due to injury from a use of force will further lower staffing.

Nicole Dina

Location:
Submitted At: 10:35am 08-26-25

'Improving youth safety in juvenile detention facilities' is a misnomer when used to describe the removal of OC spray. While this title by itself challenges anyone to disagree with it, for fear of appearing to not care about the safety of juveniles, the actual actions this misnomer refers to are detrimental to the safety of the juveniles and the staff in juvenile detention facilities. OC spray is a tool to be used when needed to deter or cease violence the juveniles inflict upon each other and upon the officers that work with them. In the absence of such a tool, fights between juveniles will take place more often and take much longer to quell which will likely result in more harm to the juveniles fighting each other. This is not to mention the potential injuries to the staff who now would have to use physical force against 'juveniles', many of which range in age from 18-25 years old. One can only imagine the cost of all the worker's comp medical Provided to the injured officers.

Nancy Behm

Location: 92115, San Diego
Submitted At: 10:29am 08-26-25

Juvenile detention should be abolished. There are so many more effective ways to support traumatized youth. Using tools like OC spray and physical aggression to "keep youth safe" is the epitome of gaslighting. Let's reallocate the funding toward prevention with creative therapeutic tools to actually "rehabilitate".

J C

Location:
Submitted At: 10:03am 08-26-25

Ms Montgomery-Steppe. We invite you and your counterparts to work a few shifts in juvenile hall. We do not use OC spray u less necessary. If you come work with us, you can make a better informed decision about the need for OC. What do you say? We will give you your uniform so you don't pay out of pocket for them (as we do!)

Christopher Raahauge

Location:
Submitted At: 9:39am 08-26-25

This is dangerous for both the staff working in the facilities and the youth housed inside. It eliminates a critical

non-lethal tool staff rely on to quickly de-escalate violent situations. Without it, staff will be forced into more physical confrontations, increasing the risk of injury to both youth and staff. OC spray serves as a deterrent and a last-resort option that helps restore order while minimizing long-term harm compared to other force alternatives. Remember that Juvenile Facilities house “youth” up to age 25 who are grown men.

S L

Location: 91942, La mesa
Submitted At: 9:23am 08-26-25

I oppose, this is very dangerous for both the youth in the facility and the officers supervising them.

Miguel Ojeda

Location: 93311, Bakersfield
Submitted At: 8:53am 08-26-25

As someone who worked inside Juvenile facilities for over 13 years, I believe the removal of OC spray in Juvenile Facilities brings a greater risk to both officers and youth. Changes brought forth by the state in recent years, including the implementation of Secure Youth Track Facilities where “youth” can be housed up to the age of 25, has led to a severe increase in assaults on officers here in Kern County, as well as a significant increase in the number of assaults by youth to other youth. OC spray is purely used as a safety tool to end incidents safely and prevents hands-on altercation by officers when effective. Please do not approve agenda item #26.

F Moreno

Location: 91911
Submitted At: 8:49am 08-26-25

OC is used to de-escalate staff and youth assaults, it's not used as a punishment, removing OC will increase staff injuries and youth as well. please keep in mind at the east mesa "juvenile" detention center 70% or more males in this detention facility are over the age of 18 they are serving life sentences. if removing OC, you need to revise PC 835a

Ben Therriault

Location: 95834, Sacramento
Submitted At: 8:34am 08-26-25

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), represents more than 87,000 public safety professionals across the state. We urge the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to reject any proposal that removes pepper spray (OC) from the tools available to probation officers in juvenile facilities. OC is not a weapon of punishment—it is a less lethal, carefully regulated, and last-resort safety measure that prevents volatile situations from escalating into physical violence. The reality is that juvenile halls house individuals up to age 25, many of whom are larger, stronger, and capable of inflicting serious harm on staff or peers. Removing OC would force probation officers—many of them women and smaller in stature—into dangerous physical confrontations that increase the likelihood of injuries for both staff and youth. Taking away a proven, less-than-lethal defensive tool like OC undermines officer and youth safety alike, and risks creating more harm than it prevents.

J A

Location:
Submitted At: 8:22am 08-26-25

Can we see Montgomery Steppe work as a correction officer for a day and see what the officers go through. No she won't, because she hides behind her desk not watching any videos or incidents.

Anonymous Anonymous

Location: 92139, San Diego
Submitted At: 8:18am 08-26-25

Citizens hear the word “juveniles” and automatically think minors. The truth is that facilities hold people up to 25 years old.

Juveniles can be unpredictable, impulsive, strong and aggressive. Officers are easily outnumbered and are already limited with the amount of physical contact they can make with juveniles. OC spray provides a safer way to de-escalate situations without resorting to physical force, which can hurt the officer and juvenile.

As a family member of a juvenile probation officer, every time my officer goes to work, I know there's a possibility something could go wrong. OC spray is not used as a punishment but instead used as protection. It's a tool used to ensure my husband, and other officers make it home safe. OC spray is a way to de-escalate situations without resorting without physical contact, ensuring the safety of youth, officers and facility staff.

Christy Serra

Location: 92065, Ramona
Submitted At: 8:14am 08-26-25

I strongly oppose the removal of OC. I served as a sworn probation officer for over 28 years before retiring in 2023. I have since returned as a retiree/rehire. I implore the Board of Supervisors to carefully consider the safety of both officers and youth in the detention facilities before making this decision. OC in our institutions is NOT used as punishment or a weapon. It is a safe, effective tool to break up altercations between youth. without OC available, both youth and staff are far more likely to incur injury in those situations. For years, there has been an alarming trend for government "leaders" to strip away safe, effective tools that help law enforcement do the very important job of protecting the community and caring for the youth in detention facilities. These decisions are often made by bureaucrats that have never spent a shift, or even an hour, trying to understand the jobs entrusted to law enforcement officers.

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:
Submitted At: 8:02am 08-26-25

Oppose.

Juvenile hall staff supervise large groups of youth, some of which may be violent or in crisis. They are bigger in stature compared to some staff, especially female staff. OC spray is a tool for staff to protect themselves.

Using hands on restraints could cause more injuries to youth.

The threat of OC can deescalate a situation before it gets worse.

If multiple youth are fighting, staff are unable to restrain all at once. OC can stop group fights/riots quickly.

OC spray may reduce lawsuits involving injuries.

OC spray is a standard in many law enforcement departments as a less lethal option. It should be the same for consistency and staff preparedness.

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:
Submitted At: 7:53am 08-26-25

Removing OC would not only hurt the Youth you are supervising but would put the staff in danger since they would only be able to use physical force. If you care about the people that work for you and the Youth give them OC since it is non lethal and not physical option to use.

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:
Submitted At: 7:46am 08-26-25

I oppose. Taking away OC spray would cause a danger environment for both staff and youth. Many youth, now a days, up to 25 years old) physically overpower staff (younger female officers) and OC is the safest way to break up an altercation.

Jose Salgado

Location:
Submitted At: 7:44am 08-26-25

I oppose. This is dumb.

Jessica Gonzalez

Location:

Submitted At: 7:43am 08-26-25

I oppose.

Briana Pounds

Location:

Submitted At: 7:42am 08-26-25

Oppose

Bill K

Location:

Submitted At: 7:41am 08-26-25

When facing multiple assailants, OC spray is a less-than-lethal, defensive tool. It can temporarily incapacitate attackers, letting you escape and minimizing your risk of injury. Legally, it's often viewed more favorably than physical force. Engaging in a physical fight is high-risk. You're at a disadvantage and face severe injury or death. This can also escalate the situation, with attackers possibly using weapons. In summary, OC spray is a tactically superior choice for disengagement and escape, while physical force increases danger and negative outcomes.

ANONYMOUS ANONYMOUS

Location:

Submitted At: 7:38am 08-26-25

Vote NO! The officers have been dealing with very sophistic probationers. Unfortunately, with the laws that have passed we have adults in the juvenile institutions up to 26 years old. Think about your wife or daughter working to keep the public safe. The female staff are usually smaller stature, and this is a tool they can use. To take it away not could be a life-or-death situation. Staff assaults are real. Again, look at what is going on in the today in our community. There was an officer killed, and another officer lit on fire! They go to work every day to protect you! It is your time to protect them. Your mother, sister daughter and Officer! Again, PLEASE VOTE NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

S R

Location:

Submitted At: 7:26am 08-26-25

I oppose the removal of OC pepper spray from juvenile facilities. These facilities are no longer housing only juveniles, but also young adults up to the age of 25. Many of these individuals are violent offenders, and eliminating OC takes away a vital tool for maintaining staff safety. Officers are expected to manage dangerous situations every day, yet they also have families to return home to after their shifts.

The justice system provides multiple chances and diversion opportunities before youth are placed in custody. By the time they enter a facility, they have had ample opportunities to rehabilitate and change their behavior. Today's youth population is bigger, stronger, and more aggressive than in years past. These are not children—they are adults who should be housed in adult facilities. Current legislation in California is doing juvenile reform a disservice. Officers deserve the right to protect themselves and safely and quickly stop assaults between youth with OC.

Steve Wilson

Location: 92037, San Diego

Submitted At: 7:14am 08-26-25

Has Montgomery Steppe seen the videos or worked as a correction officer? No she has not. She's just focusing on her own opinion.

Amber R

Location:

Submitted At: 7:13am 08-26-25

As a smaller sized female staff at juvenile hall, aside from the training I received, having OC spray as a tool on my belt made me feel more capable of keeping myself, other staff and youth safe. There are juveniles in the institutions that are double/triple my size. With the removal of OC spray there is a high probability of staff and

youth injuries as there will be a need to go hands on. I urge you to keep OC spray in the facilities as it is an added option/tool for staff to ensure the safety of the youth and staff alike. Vote NO on agenda item 26.

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:

Submitted At: 4:54am 08-26-25

I strongly oppose the removal of OC spray within our juvenile institutions. As a prior officer at EMJDF, it is detrimental to have tools to mitigate the high level of violence. I urge all the are in favor to go into EMJDF and work with the grown adults (in uniform with no ranking on them) that the County already mistakenly classify as "youth" and tell me that the level of violence you see shouldn't have OC spray as a tool. We were having staff assaults on a daily basis with OC spray, imagine those rates without it. As has been urged for many, MANY years: Have some respect for those that put a uniform on everyday and walk into these institutions and support your people! The safety of our officers should be paramount and the safety of all others will follow. This CANNOT be passed or there will be no one left to work at these institutions. Officers feel unsafe, unsupported, and as though they don't matter. There are much bigger things to worry about within the institutions, like fentanyl

Britt S

Location: 92071, Santee

Submitted At: 2:40am 08-26-25

Taking away OC from the officers would be a huge loss of a tool which helps keep the staff and juveniles safe. OC acts as a deterrent and when fights breakout it can be used to end them safely and quickly. Counseling is always used first, but when the level of violence escalates officers need a backup tool.

Ryan P

Location: 92120, San Diego

Submitted At: 2:00am 08-26-25

I urge you to reconsider your proposal for removing OC spray from our detention facilities. Our facilities are already severely understaffed, and without OC, staff will have fewer safe tools to manage dangerous situations. Juveniles can remain on probation until the age of 25, meaning some individuals are physically grown adults housed in these settings. The presence of OC acts as a critical deterrent, often preventing violence before it starts. Eliminating it would likely increase assaults, escalating harm to both staff and youth. When OC is deployed, youth receive immediate medical attention, minimizing lasting effects. Without this option, staff would be forced into more physical interventions, raising the risk of serious injury for everyone. I ask you to prioritize safety and recognize that OC, when used responsibly, is one of the few effective tools we have to maintain order and protect lives in our facilities.

Moises M

Location:

Submitted At: 12:31am 08-26-25

OC spray is not a weapon—it's a safety tool. In San Diego Juvenile Facilities, its use prevents serious injuries by ending fights quickly and without excessive physical contact. Without it, officers—many of whom are women and smaller in stature—must physically intervene, placing themselves and the youth at risk.

The removal of OC spray will not stop altercations from occurring; it will only make them more dangerous. Keeping this tool available is essential for maintaining safety, reducing injuries, and preserving trust.

Please prioritize the well-being of both youth and staff and vote NO on agenda item 26.

Moises M

Location:

Submitted At: 12:31am 08-26-25

OC spray is not a weapon—it's a safety tool. In San Diego Juvenile Facilities, its use prevents serious injuries by ending fights quickly and without excessive physical contact. Without it, officers—many of whom are women and smaller in stature—must physically intervene, placing themselves and the youth at risk.

The removal of OC spray will not stop altercations from occurring; it will only make them more dangerous.

Keeping this tool available is essential for maintaining safety, reducing injuries, and preserving trust.

Please prioritize the well-being of both youth and staff and vote NO on agenda item 26.

Maria F

Location: 92110

Submitted At: 12:28am 08-26-25

I strongly oppose this initiative and the removal of OC spray in juvenile detention facilities. The information being presented in this proposal is very misleading and does not accurately represent San Diego County practices in juvenile hall. Removing de-escalation tools from institutional officers does not improve youth safety nor does it promote equity, justice, or inclusivity. OC spray and room confinements are not used punitively and are critical tools for addressing unsafe behaviors. The safety of detainees and officers working in juvenile detention facilities should never be compromised to push a political agenda full of misinformation. Please stop endangering the safety of probation officers and the population they serve and vote no on agenda item 26.

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:

Submitted At: 11:42pm 08-25-25

Taking away OC would be a detriment to the safety of youth and officers at EMJDF and YTC. OC is only a small part of the departments Use of Force Continuum. Over the years officers have received training in Safe Crisis Management and Motivational Interviewing for de-escalation techniques. CARE Teams and Gang Intervention Officers were implemented to prevent violent incidents. Mediations between youth are also done to prevent possible peer issues. OC almost has become a last option except under exigent circumstances where the act of violence is so extreme that it calls for the use of OC immediately and deliberately to those that fail to follow officer's directives. The removal of OC from institutions would be a tremendous mistake and could create a more hostile environment for vulnerable youth that are susceptible to bullying and being peer pressured into acts of violence. More focus should be on officer training and getting officers off mandatory overtime to avoid staff fatigue/burnout

Araceli G

Location: 92882, Corona

Submitted At: 11:34pm 08-25-25

The use of pepper spray is a form of lease physical restraint even during violent situations. This helps as a deterrent to hinder their continued violence towards others including staff. It also prevents staff from having to physically restraint a youth hurting themselves and the youth during the defensive technique

Saul Olivas

Location: 91978, Spring Valley

Submitted At: 10:49pm 08-25-25

Our youth are already dealing with violence, anxiety, and helplessness. I support anything and everything that raises youth voice and decision making, especially when it has to do with their own lives.

Timothy Sowards

Location: 92065, Ramona

Submitted At: 10:27pm 08-25-25

As a college professor and certified use-of-force expert, I strongly oppose removing OC spray from San Diego Juvenile Facilities. Despite de-escalation training, youth altercations still occur, and OC spray remains the safest, most effective way to stop them. Without it, staff must rely on physical force, increasing injury risk for both youth and officers. OC spray is not punitive; it's a protective tool that prevents escalation and maintains boundaries. Female officers make up two-thirds of the workforce and often face large, physically mature youth. OC spray is the only practical equalizer. Eliminating it would compromise safety and erode trust. I urge you not to approve agenda item 26.

Latrice D

Location:

Submitted At: 10:26pm 08-25-25

Agenda item 26 will endanger both staff and youth. Fights are inevitable, and OC spray is the safest way to stop them quickly without injuries. Without it, staff—many of them smaller female officers—must physically overpower larger youth, putting everyone at risk. Safety must come first. Please vote no on item 26.

I Vazquez

Location:

Submitted At: 10:25pm 08-25-25

Banning the use of OC spray would remove a crucial non-lethal self-defense option, especially for officers who are at a physical disadvantage than the “youth” that are being housed in juvenile facilities. As juvenile facilities now hold violent offenders up to 25 years old, the need for accessible and safe forms of protection has only grown more apparent. Officers deserve the ability to defend themselves without having to rely on potentially deadly force.

Chris R

Location:

Submitted At: 10:17pm 08-25-25

I worked in Juvenile Hall for 20 years. OC spray was always used as a last line of defense. OC spray is a tool to stop someone or groups of youth from seriously hurting staff or their target victims. The general public, lawmakers and criminal advocates do not take Officer safety into consideration which is demoralizing to the staff who are working in these tough environments to make a difference in their community. Don't take away OC. Give staff the resources and support to help them make positive changes in juvenile offenders lives while also protecting the youth and themselves from serious injury

Aaron Sampson

Location:

Submitted At: 10:05pm 08-25-25

The proposal to remove OC spray from San Diego Juvenile Facilities, while well-intentioned, overlooks the complex realities of maintaining safety and order in environments that house both minors and young adults. Young adults may have a higher propensity for violence, greater physical strength, and different psychological profiles than younger teens. OC spray, when used judiciously and in accordance with common sense protocols, can prevent injuries, minimize the need for physical force, and protect both youth and officers from harm. Rather than eliminating this vital tool, the focus should be on training, clear guidelines, and oversight to ensure its responsible use. The safety of everyone within juvenile facilities—youth, adults, officers, and staff—depends on a balanced approach that acknowledges both the limitations of de-escalation and the necessity of effective intervention options.

Sophia Perez

Location: CA

Submitted At: 9:38pm 08-25-25

Having OC at the youth detention facility is a must. Taking away this tool that officers have is a big mistake. As a small female

Officer this is considered my only tool that will help me in difficult situations. One of my responsibilities is breaking up fights and the safety of the minors and my partners. I am not able to break up a fight between two large males without getting hurt. OC is just a safety tool to help break up the fight or assault.

Please do not get rid of this important tool to ensure the safety of these youth and officers. Please do not approve agenda item 26.

Kendra Rivera

Location:

Submitted At: 9:29pm 08-25-25

The reality is that our officers face real and unpredictable threats on a daily basis.

It's important that we assess the number of officers currently on modified duty, as well as the number of vacant or unfilled positions on a daily basis.

I respectfully ask that those who support this ask the educators if they feel safe working inside the units and cottages where these incidents take place, without access to any protective tools?

If there is a serious proposal to eliminate OC spray, we must also consider the implications for staff intervention. Officers should not be expected to physically intervene in youth fights or assaults without proper tools or support. The risk of injury is simply too great.

Officer safety should not be optional. We must ensure that decisions are informed by on-the-ground realities and that we provide officers with the tools they need to protect themselves, their colleagues, and the youth in their care.

Anthonia Baldrige

Location: 93314, Bakersfield

Submitted At: 9:14pm 08-25-25

As an officer who works in the detention facilities, I do see the need for use of chemical agents. We are very female staff heavy out numbering males, having another tool to use when needed can reduce injury to staff and inmates.

Eddie F

Location: 91977, Spring Valley

Submitted At: 9:10pm 08-25-25

As a corrections officer at a private prison, OC spray has been a great non-lethal tool to stop fights with inmates and protect correctional staff from being seriously injured or assaulted. When inmates are sprayed they are escorted to the shower area to rinse off and the after effects are very minimal. DON'T take this great tool away from the Officers.

C D

Location:

Submitted At: 9:07pm 08-25-25

I oppose because as a female officer there is no way I can separate 2 male adult size children from fighting. It's the safest way to protect not only the youth but the officers around me.

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:

Submitted At: 9:06pm 08-25-25

If you have worked in any facility, you would know how bad this is. Removing one of the few tools officers have will not increase safety of youth or officers, it will have the opposite impact. Leaving officers with no option other than physical force means officers have to physically intervene/fight. The youth, who planned to fight or initiate the physical altercation have the upper hand to start. Where as the officers are tasked with the safety & control of the entire group. Officers don't get to have tunnel vision, focusing only on winning a fight... instead they observe the group, make calculated moves to maintain the safety of all youth, the safety of other officers, not jeopardize their own safety, & review a million what-if scenarios in the blink of an eye. OC is imperative and is by no means haphazardly deployed. It is less traumatizing to be sprayed with OC than to fight an adult officer who may or may not be a trained fighter & will use whatever they can as a weapon.

Johanna Zosimo

Location: 93010, Camarillo

Submitted At: 9:04pm 08-25-25

I strongly oppose the removal of OC spray in juvenile facilities.

Youth violence has been on the rise across the state, and in many cases, the "Residents" are older and physically larger than the starting correctional officers tasked with supervising them. Without OC spray, officers will be forced to rely on physical intervention, which significantly increases the likelihood of injuries to both staff and youth. This also exposes the County to costly litigation and liability.

OC spray is a temporary, humane, and highly effective tool for de-escalating dangerous situations. It allows staff

to stop violence quickly without resorting to prolonged physical force. For these reasons, OC spray must be preserved as a necessary last-resort safety measure in order to protect both staff and residents.

F Barron

Location:

Submitted At: 8:56pm 08-25-25

Removing OC spray from San Diego juvenile facilities would make it much more difficult for staff to de-escalate violent situations. OC spray is an important tool that allows staff to stop fights quickly and prevent serious injuries. Without it, staff would be forced to physically intervene in every altercation, putting themselves at a much higher risk of getting hurt. In most cases, OC spray is used as the safest and most effective way to bring dangerous situations under control. Please do not take away such a critical option for officers who are working every day to keep both the youth and staff safe.

Nicholas Cepeda

Location:

Submitted At: 8:48pm 08-25-25

The Probation Department is a unique group of Law Enforcement dedicated to truly reducing recidivism in our Juveniles and Adults. With that said, the Department along with the BSCC have implemented policy and procedures to ensure the tools (OC Spray) are being used properly. Officers receive ongoing training throughout the year regarding use of force. Furthermore, OC spray is used when reasonable and necessary (not for punishment). The use of physical force in any and all situations would lead to more assaults, propensity for violence, retraumatizing youth, and injury to both the youth and staff. Staffing ratios are already low, and liability to youth and staff injury will increase if OC is banned. We continue to take on more responsibility that was once the states. We house a much older population who are more sophisticated and violent. Despite the struggle we continue to empower and change the youth in our care through rehabilitation and a focus on reintegration.

S S

Location: 91978, Spring Valley

Submitted At: 8:38pm 08-25-25

Years of experience tell me that taking away tools from law enforcement seldom provide a safer environment. What will Officers be left with? Is that enough to stop violence in a violent population.

Remember DJJ sent back there population. The state of Ca allows for a 24 year old to be booked into a juvenile facility.

In a perfect world oc or other tools would not be needed. No instutions would be needed. That is not the world we live in.

Juveniles are capable of all the violent things adults are. No everyone in a juvenile facility is a juvenile.

Help those who have made rehabilitating juvenile offenders tools to provide a safe environment where rehabilitation is possible. Keep the Officers safe so there will be people to care for those in the juvenile justice system.

Daniel Torres

Location:

Submitted At: 8:35pm 08-25-25

OC spray has its place and is a great tool to help prevent further violence that is aimed from youth to youth or your to staff. Removing OC spray will lead to injuries for youth and staff. When fights are occurring these youth as stated by them "see red". No amount of deescalation/talking can stop their attack but hearing the word "OC clear" has stopped attacks. Talking/de-escalation can prevent violence but once it has started it is extremely difficult to talk down an attack. Fights including multiple youth cannot be "deescalated" only stopped with force from staff which can and will increase work related injuries or being injuries to the youth. These injuries can have a lifetime effect on staff or the youth while OC spray while it may suck in the following hours, will not have long lasting effects on any person.

James O

Location:

Submitted At: 8:31pm 08-25-25

I oppose the removal of OC spray from San Diego Juvenile Facilities. The removal of OC spray will place both the

youth and the officers at great risk. Fights between youth will occur regardless, and OC spray is the fastest and safest way to end the fights. Without OC spray, officers must use physical force to overpower a youth which will cause injuries not to just officers but to youth as well. OC spray is purely used as a safety tool to end fights quickly and safely.

With female officers outnumbering male officers 2-1 officer must break up fights involving 6'2" 250 pound 24-year-old male youth (ADULTS). OC spray is the only equalizer in this scenario. OC spray prevents a physical hands-on altercation between the youth and the officer.

Please do NOT approve agenda item 26

John Jacob

Location: 91932

Submitted At: 8:18pm 08-25-25

Let's see the medical injuries to staff and youth triple with the removal of OC. Good luck finding people to run the institutions when they're all on medical leave. Overtime will be out of control. Try solving the real problem like where the money went for real programming.

Melissa Gomoll

Location: 93003, Ventura

Submitted At: 8:05pm 08-25-25

To ensure safety of the youth and officers, please do NOT approve agenda item 26. I challenge you to do your own research on how OC is utilized in a JF setting. The warning to utilize it is usually enough to bring compliance. Having to go hands on between a group of youth that are actively fighting usually involves injuries that can be prevented with just an OC warning. Before you vote, I implore you to do your own research on the matter. The safety of youth and the officers are at stake here.

Matt Goodrich

Location:

Submitted At: 7:51pm 08-25-25

I am commenting to oppose item 26. Use or warning to use OC spray is a tool that can be used to safely de-escalate an altercation without physical altercation between staff and a youth. If you remove this tool, you will see an increase in physical restraints and altercations between staff and youth. This will lead to an increase in injuries to youth and staff. OC spray is decontaminated in a matter of minutes to hours without lengthy or permanent injury. Please consider the safety of youth and staff on this important topic and don't fall into politics or rhetoric. The practical application of OC spray in facilities is safer for everyone. Thank you.

Richard Figueroa

Location: 93306, Bakersfield

Submitted At: 7:35pm 08-25-25

As one who has been working inside juvenile detention facilities for 20 years; the use of chemical agents have been instrumental during high volatile situations. Its use occurs when officers deem it reasonable under the circumstances. Many youth find opportunities to engage in physical assaults resulting in significant bodily injuries to youth and staff. Many staff have been placed on limited duty due to their injuries at the hands of juveniles. By removing OC inside our facilities will ultimately increase injuries to youth and staff and create a hostile environment. Staffing turnover will get worse and our youths ability to gain treatment will be negatively impacted; therefore, I strongly oppose the removal of OC within our youth detention facilities.

Monique Frazier

Location:

Submitted At: 7:33pm 08-25-25

The decision to remove OC spray from San Diego's juvenile facilities poses significant risks to both the youth and the officers responsible for their supervision. I recall a time when I worked at a juvenile facility, and the entire unit erupted into a fight. In that moment, OC spray was the most effective and safest method to swiftly de-escalate the situation and prevent 20 to 30 youth from being injured. Without OC spray, officers may be forced to rely solely on physical force, which could lead to a greater likelihood of injury for everyone involved. OC spray has consistently

proven to be an essential tool for quickly and safely halting conflicts, thereby minimizing the risk of crises escalating. Its removal could endanger the safety of both youth and officers, creating a more hazardous environment. I urge you to reconsider this decision and refrain from approving agenda item 26.

Tomas Perez

Location: 92113, San Diego
Submitted At: 7:17pm 08-25-25

When incarcerated youth are treated humanely, and given proper support, rehabilitation/restoration is possible and everyone is safer. If you continue to dehumanize them—no one is safer, not the youth or the officers.

Former Officer

Location:
Submitted At: 7:17pm 08-25-25

I used to work at East Mesa and while it is called a juvenile facility nearly half the population was 18 or older when I left with some as old as 24 and weighing over 200 pounds. These were not small kids. I witnessed riot like fights including one where 16 young men were fighting while only three officers were in the unit. OC spray was never used lightly only when absolutely necessary to stop violence and prevent serious injury. Without it staff are forced into physical altercations which creates even more risk for everyone.

Taking OC away will lead to officers quitting and the department will fall back into the cycle of mandatory overtime and short staffing. If people truly care about youth in the justice system the focus should be on increasing funding for programs education and real rehabilitation not removing one of the only tools staff have to keep everyone safe.

Morris M

Location:
Submitted At: 7:05pm 08-25-25

The San Diego County Probation Department needs to be more transparent with the public. If the public knew what goes on in the facilities they would be horrified with these troubled youth, the continuous violence with no accountability for their continuous assault on each other and staff. The public needs to see these videos showing how violent these youth are to each other. I have worked in Juvenile Hall for decades and have never seen it more violent than now! For example, I have seen 5 gang members assault 1 youth. I had a situation where I tried to "break up" a fight. I had one youth on the ground to stop the fight and the other youth "broke free" from the officer and tried to kick my youth on the ground in the head. Thank god I had my "OC" and sprayed it towards the aggressive youth, which was a deterrent, causing the aggressive youth to back away so I could keep my youth on the ground safe!

J Spouse

Location:
Submitted At: 6:55pm 08-25-25

How will you be staffing your juvenile institutions when the youth take it over? It's already hard enough to control the violence and manipulation by youth. We agree people should be treated with dignity and respect, but what options will staff have when they get attacked? Think about it. These youth are in juvenile detention for a reason.

Kristopher Malabad

Location: 92171, San Diego
Submitted At: 6:47pm 08-25-25

As a constituent in Supervisor Montgomery Steppe's district, I oppose the proposal to phase out OC spray. As a sworn peace officer with experience working in these facilities, including during violent incidents - I worked with youth serving a custodial commitment and with those awaiting further proceedings. As a member of a local, historically disadvantaged community, I used a trauma-informed lens in my approach with youth.

Unfortunately, violence occurs despite attempts at counseling, housing known rivals separately, and using de-escalation and positive approaches. Reforms resulted in the transfer of violent prisoners from the state to the county, where our local probation officers are charged with care of both minors under 18 and offenders ranging

from age 18-25.

This proposal pretends that violence does not happen and can always be prevented or addressed with other means. The removal of OC spray will result in higher risk of serious injury to both youth and to county employees.

Erik Erik

Location:

Submitted At: 6:15pm 08-25-25

I am a high school teacher and coach here to express support of Vice-Chair Monica Montgomery Steppe's recommendations to improve safety and conditions in our juvenile detention facilities. I work with youth, used to work with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated folx and believe in transformative justice. I know how critical it is to treat young people with dignity, compassion, and care-not punishment.

Phasing out chemical agents like OC spray, reducing the use of physical violence, and eliminating room confinement are imperative to the safety of our youth. We need to humanize our youth, and address the harm and re-traumatizing that these violent practices and spaces create. They do not help rehabilitate our youth. We need trauma-informed, restorative approaches to working with youth for accountability. This is one step forward in protecting the future and wellbeing of young people navigating the juvenile justice system.

Alexis Bradley

Location: 92154, San Diego

Submitted At: 5:36pm 08-25-25

I believe having OC spray is essential when working in a juvenile detention facility. Many of the individuals housed here are not small children but young adults some over six feet tall and weighing more than 200 pounds. OC spray has proven to be an effective and necessary tool in safely breaking up racial riots, fights, and assaults.

As officers, we already provide stability by ensuring their Title 15 rights are upheld. In addition, when OC spray is deployed, we follow strict procedures, including the decontamination process and providing clean clothing to ensure their well-being.

Removing this tool from officers would significantly increase the risk of fights, assaults, and injuries to both staff and youth.

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:

Submitted At: 5:30pm 08-25-25

Employed as an officer for SD Probation and worked in the institutions. A youth in custody is never denied treatment, positive reinforcement and proper guidance to address their needs. That being said, they are all held accountable for their actions. OC spray is a tool utilized as means for safety and control. Like all institutions throughout the state, there will be critical incidents that deployment of OC Spray mitigates injury to both the youth and officer. Taking away this tool will give rise to injury to both youth and officer. To all those that show support haven't worked in an institutional setting, therefore are clueless to the daily operations and safety protocols in place to protect the youth.

Justin Burdine

Location:

Submitted At: 5:17pm 08-25-25

I strongly oppose the ban of Oleoresin Capsicum in the Juvenile Facilities. It is a useful tool that is used when all other de-escalation tools have failed to work. The other option being, the use of physical intervention. Physically restraining a youth is way more triggering than the use of O.C. Spray and the likely hood of injuries goes up exponentially with physical intervention. The advocacy groups attempting to take away this tool have no data or research for their claims. It just makes no sense to take away something that is not being misused or without providing a like tool. Hands down, bad idea.

Tabitha Heraty

Location:

Submitted At: 4:59pm 08-25-25

The purpose of OC/Pepper spray in the institution is to act as another option for detention staff when dealing with dangerous situations (i.e. altercations, riots, etc.) as they occur. Our institutions no longer work strictly with youth under the age of 18, now that we are also housing ages 18-25. Taking away this tool prevents staff from having an alternate method of gaining compliance, and will rely on them having to use physical force to stop a combative youth. Thus, putting themselves, and the youths, at greater risk of injury, and greater exposure for both dangerous situations and individuals. The youth housed/booked into youth facilities are high-level youthful offenders who have been deemed such a risk to public safety that releasing them would not provide enough protection to the community and/or victims. Why put our detention staff, and the youth, at risk and without tools to safely de-escalate?

A Munoz

Location:

Submitted At: 4:56pm 08-25-25

It is imperative San Diego maintain its use of OC within their juvenile detention facility, not just for the safety of the residents but also the staff.

Juvenile Detention facilities often have a high female officer employment rate. With these facilities now incarcerating individuals up to the age of 25 it puts these staff at even more risk of not being able to protect themselves or other residents being targeted.

Please allow these vulnerable groups access to safer measures while being housed and working within this facility.

Regino Torres

Location:

Submitted At: 4:52pm 08-25-25

San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

I strongly urge you not to follow Los Angeles County's example of attempting to eliminate the use of OC spray in juvenile facilities.

The removal of this tool has been shown to increase the likelihood of physical force incidents, which in turn heightens the risk of serious injuries to both staff and youth. Beyond the immediate safety concerns, this also exposes the County to greater liability, higher workers' compensation claims, and costly litigation.

Maintaining OC spray as a controlled safety option provides officers with a less injurious alternative to physical confrontation. It is a critical component of ensuring the well-being of youth, protecting staff, and maintaining safe operations in our facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Regino Torres

President

LA County Probation Supervisors

Stephanie Morales

Location:

Submitted At: 4:42pm 08-25-25

The removal of oleoresin capsicum (OC spray) from juvenile halls would lead to an unsafe environment for both youth and staff. Juvenile halls are predominantly male inmates, varying from different ages, height and weight. There have been many incidents where bigger youth attack smaller youth, in which the smaller youth cannot defend themselves, at times. Spraying OC on the aggressor, allows staff to contain the situation quicker and the victim to recover from the attack. Even with the right training, juvenile institutions are predominantly female staff and we often have to intervene in unpredictable physical altercations involving multiple youth. OC spray causes

temporarily discomfort, but it is the safest option.

Ko Lee

Location:

Submitted At: 4:31pm 08-25-25

Eliminating OC spray poses a serious risk to staff and youths. The State has stripped many effective tools that maintain order in the facilities. These changes caused an increase in injuries to both youth and staff. Juvenile facilities, including San Diego, house a mix of youth who are high-risk, committed serious offenses, or over age 18. These facilities are severely understaffed, and personnel are undercompensated for the challenging work they do. OC spray is often an immediate and effective tool to de-escalate violent incidents, including youth fights, assaults on staff, or attempts to escape. Taking away this tool is dangerous and could be a dereliction of duty by the BOS. The Board must remember that they serve not only the public but the dedicated employees who ensure these facilities run safely and effectively. AFSCME Local 2703, which represents Juvenile Correctional Officers in Merced County, opposes these changes and urges the San Diego Board of Supervisors to vote NO.

D Ryder

Location: 92117, San Diego

Submitted At: 4:27pm 08-25-25

I have worked in criminal justice and as a law enforcement officer for 33 years. I have worked in adult and juvenile detention facilities in San Diego and Riverside County. Over the years the persons being detained have become more volatile and violent. Assaults on staff and officers are becoming much more frequent occurrences. OC spray is an invaluable tool for officers in protecting officers and deescalation, where the alternative would be to possibly go hands on with the detainee. Removing OC will result in more assaults and more injuries. Also, as an attorney, I can state that it is a tort waiting to happen.

Alena C

Location:

Submitted At: 4:23pm 08-25-25

San Diego cannot ban OC because it is one of the few non-lethal self-defense options available, especially for women and petite individuals who may be physically overpowered. With juvenile facilities now housing individuals up to age 25, it's more important than ever that vulnerable groups retain access to safe, effective protection without being forced to resort to more dangerous means.

Justin R

Location:

Submitted At: 3:58pm 08-25-25

I strongly oppose removing OC spray from San Diego County juvenile facilities. I have served in law enforcement for 27 years, beginning in juvenile institutions, and I am a POST-certified Chemical Agent and Less Lethal Instructor. OC spray is not punitive; it is a last line of de-escalation before staff are forced into physical confrontation.

Juvenile facilities no longer house low-level offenders. They now hold individuals charged with violent crimes such as murder, armed assault, and rape, as well as Youth Detention Authority inmates up to age 25, many with gang ties. Violence and assaults remain a serious reality.

Removing OC spray will force officers to go hands-on, greatly increasing the risk of injury to both staff and youth, and exposing the County to costly litigation. OC spray is temporary, humane, and effective in stopping violence quickly. I urge you to preserve it as a necessary last-resort safety tool.

Hiatt Anderson

Location:

Submitted At: 3:50pm 08-25-25

Good afternoon, I strongly oppose abolishing the use of OC spray for San Diego county probation officers. Furthermore, I consider such a title as "Improving Youth Safety" as a complete misnomer as OC has safely and effectively put an end to countless youth on youth assaults and youth on staff assaults. This tool has prevented thousands of serious injuries when attempting to stop assaultive behavior. Banning the use of OC spray will not

only result in a significant increase of both youth and staff related injuries, but will likely result in a significant number of staff willing to perform their job due to significant increases risk of injury.

Natalia Lopez

Location: 92113, San Diego

Submitted At: 3:48pm 08-25-25

OC is another tool available to our officers. The safety of our officers and youths is paramount, and this tool is a critical component of that commitment. We've heard some concerns about its necessity, but it's important to recognize that this feedback is coming from people without on-the-job experience using this tool with our youth population. They should work directly with our youths to better understand the operational context and value of this tool, which would allow for more informed feedback.

Don Ochoa

Location: 91911, Chula Vista

Submitted At: 3:41pm 08-25-25

This is just another measure by those who have no background in LE to protect criminals. These are not little innocent children that are victims to society. A lot of these juveniles in detentions are criminal violent gang members. I know woke activist try and pretend like crime doesn't exist and no jails and no prisons blah blah. That's a fairy world. The truth is violence and crime exist regardless of the reason. Kids can and are criminals and can be dangerous. Those who oppose OC spray have never been in a detention setting let alone in a fight and have no idea how the use of OC spray is "de escalation" . There's a reason CA courts have deemed OC less lethal and a form of deescalation. This is just another woke measure to take tools away from LE and the criminal teens will see it.

Melissa Gamez

Location:

Submitted At: 3:30pm 08-25-25

As a member of Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs, I respectfully oppose the removal of OC pepper as it puts staff and youth at greater risk given the realities inside these environment for one being unpredictable behavior Juvenile facilities house individuals with complex behavioral, mental health, and trauma related challenges. Their actions can escalate suddenly and without warning. Removing OC spray takes away a proven de-escalation option, leaving staff with fewer tools to quickly and safely control dangerous situations. Second the age Increase Under Senate Bill 823, with the passage of SB 823, the age of youth in juvenile facilities has increased to 25. This creates a new dynamic, as staff are no longer solely dealing with minors but also with young adults who may be physically larger, stronger, and more capable of serious violence. Without OC spray, staff are left vulnerable in situations where physical restraint may be insufficient or unsafe.

Laura W

Location:

Submitted At: 3:24pm 08-25-25

Pepper spray is available to keep youth and staggering safe. When deployed, it aids officers in ending violent assaults and helps smaller officers gain compliance from youth who are involved in assaults. Taking away such a valuable tool would jeopardize the safety of staff and youth, not enhance it.

Noah YeeYick

Location:

Submitted At: 3:24pm 08-25-25

I support Vice-Chair Monica Montgomery Steppe's recommendations to improve safety and conditions in our juvenile detention facilities. We must treat young people with dignity, compassion, and care, not punishment.

I support:

- Creating the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice to focus on real solutions and accountability,
- Continuing the partnership with CJJJ to bring aligned core, research based principles and achieve more positive outcomes for youth, families, staff and communities
- Phasing out chemical agents like OC spray, which harm and retraumatize youth, and
- Reducing force and isolation in favor of trauma-informed and restorative approaches.

Young people in custody deserve a system that believes in their potential and is committed to their healing. Our County must invest in people, not in punishment.

Marisela Meza

Location:

Submitted At: 3:23pm 08-25-25

OC spray is an essential tool for maintaining a safe and controlled environment. Its mere presence acts as a deterrent and reinforces an officer's command presence. Simply having it available can prevent situations from escalating. Removing it increases the risk to both officers and the youths in their care, compromising overall safety and potentially leading to more dangerous outcomes.

Alice Jones

Location:

Submitted At: 3:20pm 08-25-25

It is a necessary tool for staff and youth safety. Probation unions and some staff argue that OC spray is an essential tool to prevent violence from escalating and to break up fights without resorting to physical force, which carries a higher risk of injury to both youth and staff. The perception that OC spray is an available deterrent can sometimes de-escalate a situation without being deployed. Physical force is a more harmful alternative. Proponents argue that in the absence of OC spray, staff may be forced to use physical restraints. This can lead to more serious injuries, such as broken bones and fractures, to both youth and staff. Staffing shortages necessitate its use. When detention centers are understaffed, officers may lack sufficient backup to intervene in a conflict with physical force alone. Some staff argue that low staffing levels make halls less safe and create a need for force-multiplying tools like OC spray.

Tina Franklin

Location:

Submitted At: 3:11pm 08-25-25

On behalf of the Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs, we urge you to reject Agenda Item 26. AOCDS represents over 2,900 sworn peace officers, including 700 Probation Detention & Field Officers. Our Deputy Probation Correctional Officers in juvenile facilities rely on OC spray as a vital safety tool for both staff and youth. With the detention population now including individuals up to age 25 under SB823, this tool is more critical than ever. Removing OC spray would endanger youth and officers, forcing staff to use physical force that risks injury to all involved. OC spray is the fastest and safest method to stop inevitable conflicts, especially for smaller statured and female officers facing larger, older youth. It is used solely to de-escalate and end fights quickly and safely. For the protection of your youth and your officers, we respectfully urge you not to approve Agenda Item 26. Sincerely, AOCDS President Juan Viramontes & Executive Director Paul Bartlett

Ivan Henriquez

Location: 90605, Whittier

Submitted At: 3:06pm 08-25-25

A decision to disregard the use of OC spray in a juvenile facility should be opposed because it removes an important tool for maintaining safety and order in an environment where staff are often outnumbered and confronted with unpredictable, volatile behavior. OC spray provides a non-lethal, quick, and effective method to de-escalate dangerous situations without resorting to physical force, which can result in greater injury to both youth and staff. By banning its use, staff may be forced into more hands-on confrontations that increase the risk of harm, prolong conflicts, and undermine overall facility security. Therefore, the availability of OC spray, when used responsibly and as a last resort, is essential to protecting both staff and residents while ensuring a safer rehabilitative environment.

Rapha R

Location: 92078, San Diego

Submitted At: 3:03pm 08-25-25

Hi,

I am in strong support of Vice-Chair Monica Montgomery Steppe's recommendations to improve safety and conditions in our juvenile detention facilities. As someone who believes in restorative justice, I know how critical it

is to treat young people with dignity, compassion, and care—not punishment.

I support:

- Creating the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice to focus on real solutions and accountability,
- Continuing the partnership with CJJA to bring aligned core, research based principles and achieve more positive outcomes for youth, families, staff and communities
- Phasing out chemical agents like OC spray, which harm and retraumatize youth, and
- Reducing force and isolation in favor of trauma-informed and restorative approaches.

Young people in custody deserve a system that believes in their potential and is committed to their healing. Thank you for your leadership.

Janet Lee

Location:

Submitted At: 3:00pm 08-25-25

When minors commit violent crimes, they go to juvenile detention; they don't end up there by accident. These crimes include things like murder, robbery, assault, weapons, and illegal gang activity. These youth are generally not coming from stable, loving homes. They enter the system broken and let down by every agency that came before. They solve conflicts through violence and engage in assaultive behavior towards other youth as well as staff. To make juvenile detention safer, you need to address the youth, not take away tools from officers. OC spray keeps youth from injuring each other. Staff do not use it as punishment. When an officer uses OC spray, let's not forget they are also exposed. OC spray does not injure; physical violence does. This proposal does not support public safety or county workers. Eliminating OC spray will make juvenile detention more dangerous unless something else is brought in to address the youth's violent behavior.

Alicia Salcedo

Location: 92154, San Diego

Submitted At: 2:45pm 08-25-25

As a former youth facility officer with almost two decades of direct experience and work alongside advocacy groups focused on positive youth development. I strongly oppose the removal of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray.

Working in these settings, there is a delicate balance between encouraging youth growth and maintaining safety. Youth may exhibit impulsive and violent behavior, which research and experience show must be managed quickly to prevent injury or escalation.

Removing OC spray without a proven alternative puts both staff and youth at greater risk. Parents also expect their children to be protected from peer violence. OC spray helps increase safety and is used only when absolutely necessary—non-violent youth are not subjected to it.

Removing OC spray without clear, evidence-based alternatives jeopardizes safety and undermines our shared goal of positive youth development.

Carefully weigh the risks before making changes that could endanger staff and youth.

Derek Cruz

Location: 91977, Spring Valley

Submitted At: 2:43pm 08-25-25

OC is safety measure that helps stop youth on youth assault as well as prevent youth and staff from great bodily injury in violent altercations inside facilities.

Marcus Munoz

Location: 91710, Chino

Submitted At: 2:36pm 08-25-25

I urge you to oppose the ban on OC spray in San Diego's juvenile facilities. This isn't about control—it's about safety. Fights between youth happen, even with training and compassion. OC spray ends violence quickly, without injury.

Without it, officers—many of whom are women—must physically restrain much larger youth, risking harm to everyone. That's not safer. It's more dangerous, more traumatic, and damages the trust we work so hard to build.

OC spray isn't a weapon—it's a tool that prevents worse outcomes. Taking it away puts both youth and staff in harm's way. Please, protect us all. Say no to this ban.

Kenna S

Location: 92117, San Diego
Submitted At: 2:21pm 08-25-25

Removing OC spray will put the youth in custody and staff at higher risk.

Ron Sanchez

Location: 92103, San Diego
Submitted At: 2:19pm 08-25-25

I support improving youth safety in juvenile detention facilities. The majority of youth in detention have experienced trauma, instability, or neglect and are in need of compassion.

Anna Bray

Location:
Submitted At: 2:17pm 08-25-25

Local facilities house detainees as old as 25yo. The minimum age of an officer is 21yo. These demographics put officers at a disadvantage to physically overpower the "youth". De-escalation tools are used constantly; OC spray is one of those tools. When 4-5 youth are assaulting 1 youth, what do officers do? Ask them to stop? Removing tools like OC will do the opposite of what is proposed. The violence will increase, and safety will be compromised for everyone inside that building: youth, officers, teachers, counselors, etc. Room confinement is a tool used when the individual has demonstrated to be a threat to themselves or others. When they assault another youth and staff and receive no consequences, the message is loud and clear. Violence is ok, your actions do not matter. Individuals will get released and continue to victimize the community. I strongly encourage you to find an alternative means to curtail the violence and use of OC, not to remove this tool entirely.

Francisco Ochoa

Location: 92557, Moreno Valley
Submitted At: 2:10pm 08-25-25

Removing OC spray will place both youth and officers at greater risk.

Fights in juvenile facilities are inevitable—without OC spray, officers will be forced to use physical force, leading to higher chances of injuries for both youth and staff.

Female officers make up two-thirds of San Diego's juvenile facility staff. Smaller statured officers—both male and female—often must intervene with large, strong youths. OC spray is the only safe equalizer.

OC spray prevents dangerous physical altercations and protects rapport between staff and youth.

Kristopher Acebo

Location: 93003, Ventura
Submitted At: 2:00pm 08-25-25

I served as a Corrections Officer for over five years and have continued to work overtime in that role for nearly two decades. When staff are forced to rely only on physical force to break up fights or riots, injuries to both clients and staff are inevitable and occur at a much higher rate. The removal of OC spray from San Diego Juvenile Facilities will put youth and officers in direct danger. Fights will happen regardless of training, and OC spray remains the fastest and safest way to stop them. Without it, staff are left with no option but to physically overpower a client, an unnecessary risk that guarantees harm to all involved. OC spray is not a punishment tool, it is a safety tool. Nothing undermines that trust more than being forced into hands-on combat when safer alternatives exist. For the safety of staff and youth alike, we urge you in the strongest terms: do not approve agenda item 26.

Claudia R

Location:

Submitted At: 1:56pm 08-25-25

OC Spray Use in Juvenile Facilities

Eliminating the use of OC spray in juvenile facilities would significantly compromise the safety of both staff and youth. Without this option, staff would be forced to rely more heavily on physical intervention to manage violent incidents, which would likely lead to an increase in injuries on all sides.

The San Diego County Probation Department maintains strict policies and comprehensive training regarding the appropriate use of OC spray. Officers are thoroughly trained on when its use is justified, and clear accountability measures are in place for any misuse. Every deployment of OC is followed by a review of facility CCTV footage to ensure compliance with department policy.

It's also important to emphasize that the effects of OC spray are temporary and non-lethal, making it a safer alternative to physical restraint in many volatile situations.

Brandon M

Location: 91911, Chula Vista

Submitted At: 1:48pm 08-25-25

From my experience working in a juvenile facility, OC spray is one of the most important tools we have to keep both staff and youth safe. It allows us to de-escalate dangerous situations quickly without having to resort to physical force, which often leads to injuries for everyone involved. Taking away OC spray would put officers in a position where they have no choice but to go hands on more often, increasing the risk of harm to staff and juveniles. Many of us feel strongly that without this option, the job becomes much more dangerous. As a result, many officers would likely seek employment with agencies that provide proper safety equipment, leading to staffing shortages and increased risk within the facility. At the end of the day, this is about protecting lives, both ours and the youth we supervise.

Sean Evans

Location: 90815, Long Beach

Submitted At: 1:43pm 08-25-25

To Whom It May Concern, I strongly support continued authorization of pepper spray for Probation Officers in juvenile custody settings. Juvenile facilities are volatile environments where officers must balance safety and rehabilitation. Pepper spray is a non-lethal, humane tool that helps manage aggressive behavior when de-escalation fails. It reduces the need for physical restraint, protecting both youth and staff from injury. Its presence can deter violence and promote order. With proper training, strict guidelines, and ethical oversight, pepper spray a vital option aligned with the mission of juvenile justice—ensuring safety while supporting rehabilitation.

Joseph Torres

Location: 95758, Elk Grove

Submitted At: 1:39pm 08-25-25

The removal of non lethal force options to a youth detention facility creates an unsafe environment. Officers following the laws applied to use of force should be upheld. Removing non lethal force options will lead to more youth and officers getting injured that will create more liability. More injuries leads to higher risk of greater physical injury causing a risk of law suits and larger worker's compensation claims.

Take a tour of your youth facilities and imagine trying to physically restrain them to prevent youth to youth physical fights, riots or large foghts, and assaults toward staff. The youth housed at these facilities are usually in strong, in good physical health, and are larger high school aged youth. Some facilities are housing youth up to the age of 25.

Removing the non lethal force options will create and unsafe youth environment and cost the county more money.

CAFOP President

Location:

Submitted At: 1:39pm 08-25-25

Please do not take away pepper spray away from the dedicated and hard-working members of probation who work in the detention facilities in San Diego County. Doing so will put the detention officers and the youths they protect in danger. Pepper Spray is a tool to prevent and/or to end fights safely and expeditiously. De-escalation techniques can be effective in certain situations, but many times it is too late or not effective. Currently, there is no safer alternative than pepper spray. It should be noted that some of the detention facilities house adults up to the age of 25 and I understand over 50 percent of the San Diego detention officers are female. Most females are smaller in stature putting them at a disadvantage to many of the youths and adults they protect. Please put safety of the officers and youth first. We respectfully request you do not approve Agenda Item 26. The California FOP has over 22,000 Members in California
Roger Hilton-California Fraternal Order of Police President

Richard L

Location:

Submitted At: 1:16pm 08-25-25

I've worked in a Juvenile Detention Facility for 24 years as line staff, Supervisor, and Use of Force Instructor, and I oppose the removal of OC spray. When used appropriately and in consideration of the totality of circumstances, OC spray is a vital safety tool that helps staff quickly de-escalate violent incidents, reducing the risk of physical harm to youth and staff. Its presence promotes accountability, supports safer working conditions, and complements behavior management strategies. The Board should also consider that juvenile facilities now house individuals up to age 24, many of whom are held for violent offenses due to shifts in criminal justice policies. Rather than eliminating OC spray, the Board should invest in enhanced training to ensure staff understand what is "reasonable and necessary" and improve documentation practices when reporting use of force incidents.

Travis L

Location: 95820, Sacramento

Submitted At: 12:52pm 08-25-25

As someone who works in a juvenile detention facility, I have seen the first hand effects of the use of OC to quickly stop violent situations that could be further escalated had it not been utilized. This is true not only for the safety of the officers, but for the safety of the residents. Why increase the risk of injury to all parties when OC is a proven and effective tool?

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:

Submitted At: 12:47pm 08-25-25

Including everything that has been mentioned for opposing this, the blatant continuous disregard for officer safety continues to baffle me. I am mind blown by the thinking behind this. Unfortunately this is very disappointing and if this takes place, I don't see many of us officers staying much longer after this. Please reconsider.

Chelsea C

Location: 91915

Submitted At: 12:45pm 08-25-25

This is such a horrible idea & shows the utter disregard & disrespect for officers and their safety. I implore Ms. Steppe to step into the units and stay a shift. Shadow the officers and see the hard work we do. The extensive counseling and de-escalation techniques. Come see what happens the minute we say "no" or attempt to hold these MEN accountable. Because part of the rehabilitation process involves responsibility right? . These men get more rights than kids in the community that are nonviolent and law abiding.

In the last 6 months there have been several staff assaults. With great bodily injury. Are you not concerned about that? Officers being threatened and somehow the "youth" have the officers home address. Officers dealing with anxiety and PTS from being assaulted.

A lot of these "advocacy" groups have no idea esp when a false picture of reality is being painted (ie turning off the PA system so they don't hear the backup calls)

Katherine PrestonWager

Location: 91945, Lemon Grove

Submitted At: 12:40pm 08-25-25

I strongly oppose the proposition to phase out the use of OC spray. I also encourage those who think this a positive suggestion to visit the facilities during an incident; fight involving 3+ and/or staff assault. I think your eyes will open to what the Probation Officers are honestly up against. Removing OC will cause more injuries to staff and those detained. Writing "youth" in the proposal or media is incredibly misleading. Due to recent legislation, YTC and EMJDF now house adults up to age 24 or 25. These are not youth and don't behave or think like youth. Not only are they very sophisticated in their tactics to harm each other and staff, so are the teens. OC spray is one of the only tactics to stop a fight, without physical harm to anyone. Officers can still foster a culture of "support and rehabilitation" while carrying OC spray. We cannot move the pendulum so far towards a social work environment when working with people who have committed horrible crimes and are violent.

Kevin Binsfield

Location: 91901, Alpine

Submitted At: 12:28pm 08-25-25

While I am for the idea of safe youth in juvenile hall - removing OC spray from the officers as a form of deterrence against physical fights is not a good idea. I am a for CDPO (Now just DPO) at East Mesa Juvenile Hall and was assaulted twice while there. Many of these youth fight physically against one another and have attacked staff. OC is one of the best deterrents at the officers disposal that is a temporary discomfort but most of the times will deter or stop a physical fight before a youth can be hurt. Seems like a good way to keep youth safe to me.

Thank you,

-Kevin Binsfield

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:

Submitted At: 12:27pm 08-25-25

I have been a Probation Officer in SD County for over 25 years. I worked at the Kearny Mesa Detention Facility before it became YTC. OC spray was brought into the facilities to help decrease injuries due to assaults on youth to each other and hands on intervention from staff. Removing this tool is a poor choice and places everyone in greater danger of injury. The youth are older and more sophisticated, and are only the serious offenders now. For example,

YTC cottages have 12 youth and 2 staff. If 3 or more kids fight each other, without OC to immediately intervene and stop the fight while waiting for responding staff, the youth face potential serious injuries. The staff in the facilities are already limited with the tools available so please don't take one away.

Rafael Navarrete

Location: 92114, San Diego

Submitted At: 12:22pm 08-25-25

The minors and young adults currently in our detention facilities deserve to be treated with dignity, compassion, and through a trauma-informed lens. There are youth, many of whom have faced significant adversity, who will soon reenter our communities. Thus, Probation has a responsibility to provide an environment that prioritizes safety and rehabilitation. However, OC plays a critical role in ensuring safety for both youth and staff in many high-risk situations. OC is not the default solution, but a last resort measure to stop violence. There are situations where rival gang members are housed in the same unit due to facility limitations. Tensions can rise, and when fights break out, especially those involving multiple youth on each side, officers are often outnumbered. In such cases, OC helps to disrupt the fight and prevent further harm until backup can arrive. Without it, the likelihood of serious harm or injury to both minors and staff increases significantly. Please reconsider.

R C

Location:

Submitted At: 12:18pm 08-25-25

Board of Supervisors, try working in these facilities without any tools at your disposal and see how long you would last managing these youth. By removing OC spray, you are exposing both officers and youth to a higher risk of assaults, injuries, and even fatalities. How many major lawsuits or serious incidents will it take before you recognize that removing OC spray from officers' tool belts is misguided? Must someone be seriously harmed or

even lose their life in your facilities before you acknowledge the critical need for effective de-escalation tools?

To protect the safety of both youth and staff, please do NOT approve agenda item 26.

K Cob

Location:

Submitted At: 12:18pm 08-25-25

OC Spray was brought into facilities to lesson the amount of hands on actions that officers HAVE to have to control violence. Violence is rising in our facilities. We HAVE to have this as an option. Without it, more staff or youth can and likely WILL be injured. Youth who are in custody often have obligations to their gangs which they have to follow through with or have anger issues where they erupt quickly. Should more officers go hands on, and more injuries occur, then more are placed on modified duty. More events get scrutinized. This results in staffing and recruitment or retention challenges. Due to confidentiality of juveniles, the public will never know what officers face in a facility, yet we entertain letting others make those decisions for us.

J H

Location: 92020, El Cajon

Submitted At: 12:16pm 08-25-25

Law Enforcement officers are trained in de-escalation and use several tools to help resolve potentially dangerous situations. Without the tool of OC spray, officers will have no alternatives to physical force. Just HAVING OC spray available for potential use helps with de-escalation, as youth and adults in custody know that officers carry it. They know OC spray can be used to break up fights, and it can be a deterrent. More importantly, OC spray is a quick and effective tool for ending fights. San Diego County Probation Department employs several petite officers, and OC is a life saver for these officers, as they are no match for the 250 lb young adults in custody. Fights will continue to occur between youth and adults in custody, and removing OC spray from officers' tool belts will put youth and officers at risk of injuries. Let's keep our youth and officers safe by voting NO on this agenda item.

Tanya F

Location:

Submitted At: 12:11pm 08-25-25

Officers must defend other juveniles and themselves. Removing OC could lead to increased physical force, which officers prefer to avoid. Many juvenile offenders - because of the left's rhetoric of trauma based history - are violent, to themselves and others, and believe they are justified in doing so. Many have committed unimaginable crimes for which long term detention is warranted and rehab and restorative justice would be ineffective. Raise your hand if you were ever confined to your room as punishment for making wrong choices and acting on those wrong choices. Room confinement is an effective tool for punishment and perhaps reflection on your actions.

Love that Supervisor Montgomery-Steppe is only concerned for certain minors and not for all children. She disregards the act of child sacrifice by abortion. And is in favor of boys-pretending-to-be-girls invading spaces and opportunities created for girls, only.

Alan Marquez

Location: 92154, San Diego

Submitted At: 12:09pm 08-25-25

It would be unsafe for staff and other youth

Brenda Brambila

Location: 92563, Murrieta

Submitted At: 11:59am 08-25-25

As an officer working in the facility I can express that everyday I walk into work I worry and know that the risk of an assault on staff or an assault between youth on youth is extremely high. These youth are very determined with violence a lot of the times. I promise you until you have been in these facilities experiencing these kids for a significant amount of time you will not understand that safety and security will be at higher risk if our OC is removed. We are trained over and over to verbally deescalate and we utilize all tools that we are given before resorting to a use of force. Please don't allow the missing context or the idea that these are just kids to be the

only information you use to make your decision.

Irene Reyes

Location: 91913, Chula Vista
Submitted At: 11:45am 08-25-25

I don't agree with removing OC. How do you expect your officers to be able to defend themselves. Removing OC would only increase the use of physical force and create even more incidents within the facilities. These youth aren't babies, they're detained for horrible reasons and should be treated how adults get treated in other facilities.

Wayne F

Location:
Submitted At: 11:42am 08-25-25

I'm wondering why there were no specific incidents or allegations that prompted the civil rights investigation, even though the agenda item states that several oversight organizations reported concerns of excessive use of force, including OC.

Removing OC from detention facilities is a mistake. The only alternative left to staff members would be physical force. Officers working in the community carry OC, so they have an alternative level of force besides their taser, baton, or physical force. Tasers and batons are not allowed in facilities, so once again, physical force would be the only option. More injuries have been incurred from physical force incidents than any incident involving the deployment of OC.

The agenda item cites Probation Officers failure to utilize de-escalation techniques as a reason for removal of OC from the facilities. By the time OC is deployed, detainees have far passed the threshold of de-escalation.

Taking OC out of juvenile institutions is a major mistake.

Paul Casner

Location: 92115
Submitted At: 11:36am 08-25-25

I have been with the Probation Department for 8 years all working in institutions including East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility, Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility, and Youth Transition Center.

Over the course of these 8 years I have seen and experience an increase of violence between the youths themselves and assaults on the officers assigned to these institutions causing great bodily harm to many.

Unlike our counterparts in San Diego County Sheriff's Department, we do not carry as many tools to stop violent incidents when they occur except our OC spray with is used only after multiple verbal commands and de-escalations skills used to desist, and the youths not obeying.

It is a use of force used that help stop a violent incident preventing further injuries to the youths involved and the officers.

If you remove the tool of OC this will increase the violent incidents at institutions causing more officers to get seriously injured straining a low staffing issue and morale

Jose Gutierrez

Location: 92102, San Diego
Submitted At: 11:35am 08-25-25

BOS,
I am an 18 year veteran with the SDC Probation Department. I was injured at work apparently 6 months ago. The department has spent at a minimum of 55 thousand dollars on overtime to cover my shifts. Not counting medical bills. I am waiting to get surgery so this amount will double. OC prevents injuries to both youth and staff. Not mention, when we spray it hits us too. Please reconsider, if this passes it will cost the county a lot of money.

Rick A

Location:

Submitted At: 11:28am 08-25-25

The removal of OC spray from San Diego Juvenile Facilities will place both the youth and the officers at great risk. Fights will occur between youth regardless of de-escalation training and OC spray is the fastest and safest way to end them. Absent OC spray, officers must use physical force to overpower a youth which will cause injuries to both the youth and the officer. OC spray is purely used as a safety tool to end fights quickly and safely.

Female officers in San Diego's Juvenile Facilities outnumber male officers 2-1 and are the heart and soul of the workforce. Smaller statured male and female officers must break up fights involving 6'2" 250 pound 24-year-old male youth. OC spray is the only equalizer in this scenario.

The quickest way to destroy rapport is to force an officer to physically overpower a youth. OC spray prevents a physical hands-on altercation between the youth and the officer.

To ensure safety of the youth and officers, please do NOT approve agenda item 26

Ivan Lowry

Location: 95595, Woodland

Submitted At: 11:27am 08-25-25

I am a Probation Officer and worked in the juvenile facilities for over 10 years. Over my years in the facilities, I have seen numerous injuries occur as a result of physical restraint. The injuries occurred to both youth and staff. In over 10 years and hundreds of restraints I have NEVER seen any injury as a result of OC spray. It stops the assault quickly and effectively and the effects are uncomfortable, not painful and last about an hour or less.

Physical restraints can and often do, result in injuries which can take days or even weeks to heal. OC spray is a safe and effective tool. Do not take this away from your officers.

Angelica Navarra

Location: 91913, Chula vista

Submitted At: 11:13am 08-25-25

I am a 5-foot-tall female Deputy Probation Officer at East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility, where I supervise "youth" ages 18–25 who are all bigger and stronger than me. Staff assaults are on the rise, and fights between detainees are violent and unpredictable. In those moments, individuals often enter "fight or flight" mode and black out, they cannot hear or respond to verbal commands, making de-escalation techniques ineffective. OC spray is not a weapon of punishment but a vital safety tool. It can stop fights instantly, prevent serious injuries, and sometimes de-escalate situations by its mere presence. Every officer, myself included, is required to experience OC spray in training so we understand its effects. Removing this tool would put both staff and detainees at far greater risk. OC spray is often the safest, least harmful option available, and eliminating it will jeopardize the safety of everyone inside our facilities.

Anthony Lopez

Location: 91911, Chula Vista

Submitted At: 11:07am 08-25-25

How about you do an "undercover job" to see what juvenile hall is all about! Kids (20 year old man who came down from CYA) are so well behaved that when you tell them to stop fighting they assume the cover position! You really expect for officers to go hands on to separate adult gang members fighting each other when you can barely run a facility with all the overtime texts bc of low staffing!

Anonymous Anonymous

Location: 91977, Spring valley

Submitted At: 11:07am 08-25-25

I'm a Deputy Probation Officer in San Diego. I strongly oppose the removal of oleoresin capsicum. Before working in institutions I had no idea of the dangers officers are faced with daily. We are working with rapist, murderers, and very violent individuals. I have witnessed multiple officer and youth assaults. Instead of taking away tools we should be looking at implementing more. OC is used to mitigate the violence which occurs on a regular basis. Not to mention the officer to youth ratio is 2 to 12. There would never be an idea to remove weapons from police officers, but probation officers should be locked up with "youth" whose ages range 12-24.

Please look into the number of officers who have been injured. Better yet spend a week inside institutions and

simply observe.

We should be looking to provide officers more resources. I advocate for youth because I know the backgrounds they come from, but officer safety is just as important as the theirs.

Traci Daugherty

Location: 92071, Santee
Submitted At: 11:00am 08-25-25

Taking tools away from officers will NOT help the situation we have in Juvenile Facilities. There are grown men incarcerated in these Facilities and many of the people supporting this issue DON'T understand.

There are 6' 'youth' who will intentionally fight others over little/no reason.

These YOUTH dont respect the staff working and attack staff too! OC assist officers by offering a distraction window of time to gather control of situations HELPING the more vulnerable youth. I have been in these institutions and I have seen the strong grown 'youths' and what they can do to the more vulnerable they attack regardless of the OC.

Staff have been crippled by politics/new practices. I have seen weapons constructed by 'youth.' Giving these youth more treats and encouragement by rewards is not enough to change their life long learned behavior. I stand by the officers who risk injury day in and day out to keep the peace in these institutions. Their tools should not be removed.

PDA SMC

Location: 94063, Redwood City
Submitted At: 10:55am 08-25-25

Removing OC spray from San Diego Juvenile Facilities will cause more use of force incidents and greater risk of physical injury to both youth and officers. Regardless of de-escalation training, fights still happen and OC spray is the fastest and safest way to end them. Without OC spray, officers must use physical force to overpower a youth which can cause injury to all. OC spray is used as a safety tool to assist in quickly ending threats to safety.

Female officers in San Diego's Juvenile Facilities outnumber male officers 2-1 and are statistically less stronger than males. When a fight involved two large adult males and the only staff on duty are smaller females, OC spray can assist greatly in equalizing the threat and regaining control of the situation.

OC spray can prevent hands-on altercations between the youth an officers. Please do NOT approve agenda item 26 to ensure safety of youth and officers in the facility.

Probation and Detention Association
San Mateo County

Diana LeoneRuiz

Location: 91901, Alpine
Submitted At: 10:50am 08-25-25

I have been a probation officer for 29 years, and 20 years have been with San Diego County. Eliminating use of OC spray in juvenile facilities would put officers and youth at risk on a daily basis. The youth in juvenile facilities today are older, and more sophisticated given the population now consists of YDA-STYF youth. There are more juvenile murders and violent youth than ever before. The youth being housed today treat the facility with a prison mentality and officer's abilities to handle difficult youth continue to be diminished. Officers are being attacked and injured in addition to other youth. The use of spray also gives officers the ability to stop assaults on other youth and officers without having to go hands on with the youths involved. Taking this tool away from officers would absolutely be a detriment to the probation department and facilities that house those in custody. Please do not vote to take away the use of this tool.

Doreen Govari

Location:
Submitted At: 10:47am 08-25-25

My name is Doreen, Senior Program Associate at the Vera Institute of Justice. We support Agenda Item 26, to phase out the use of OC spray, reduce use of force, and eliminate room confinement.

Our Freedom and Justice report (p.44) includes firsthand testimony from a youth who described their experience with OC spray:

"I got pepper sprayed so many times in my mouth. And in my hair, it was crazy. Man, months after I got pepper sprayed, I would get in the shower and I'd still feel it, the water activates it. So every time you showered for months after you got pepper sprayed, you burned. . . it was just terrible."

Chemical agents like pepper spray can cause lasting physical and psychological harm, particularly to young people who are still developing. There are more humane, trauma-informed approaches to behavior management. Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, Marin, and Sacramento counties have already eliminated such harmful practices. San Diego County should follow suit.

N E

Location: 92116, San Diego

Submitted At: 10:43am 08-25-25

While I am a supporter of CJ reform, of holding law enforcement accountable, and believe in rehabilitation, the proposal to remove OC from juvenile hall is one I am strongly opposed to. The disbanding of the CA Dept of Juvenile Justice means many of the youth in juvenile hall are in their early 20s. They are not children, they are grown men. These young men are assaulting each other & staff, and while de-escalation tactics can absolutely be helpful, they aren't always effective. OC spray, while optically unpleasant, is very effective at quickly mitigating violent incidents. Without the use of OC spray, I predict the number of injuries to staff & youth will increase leading to a hemorrhage of County funds because of litigation, worker's comp claims, & overtime pay. I urge the Board to gain a better understanding of our juvenile facilities, and our officers & their experiences in those facilities, before making such a monumental decision in the daily operations of a dangerous profession.

Alan Gabaldon

Location: 92071, Santee

Submitted At: 10:35am 08-25-25

The whole point of the OC spray are one of the many points that can create a significant disadvantage and a violent encounter by distracting or incapacitating attacker reducing the amount of harm the individual could cause.

Anonymous Anonymous

Location:

Submitted At: 10:28am 08-25-25

The use of OC spray is a law enforcement tool used to deescalate during violent most often, gang related incidents such as fights. I oppose the removal of OC spray also because officer assaults by youths are in the rising. We need to be able to protect ourselves and the youths in custody.

Abraham Arce

Location: 91911, Chula Vista

Submitted At: 10:07am 08-25-25

This would be detrimental to both the wellbeing of the staff and the youth they serve. More injuries and less deterrents.

N D

Location: 91910, Chula Vista

Submitted At: 9:49am 08-25-25

Strongly oppose. The "youth" you speak of are on average 19-24 year olds. They are in the facility for very serious felonies- murder, rape, robbery. None of this truancy or curfew or shoplifting BS.

We have youth that assault each other (resulting in hospitalization) and officers (broken noses, concussions, etc.). The use of OC spray helps mitigate injuries for officers and the youth.

They are getting birthday cakes and ice cream and carne asada fries and all kinds of food as incentives. No real programming. Their programming involves them eating funnel cakes, ribs and buffalo fries. The school is a joke. They allow anyone to graduate and they can't even read beyond a grade school level. They can opt out if they

want to.

But OC is the concern? You want rehabilitation. Come work a week of shifts and see what is really going on with these poor "beleaguered" youth. Better yet let me ask would you want a murderer or rapist to live next to you- or in your home?

VICTOR HERNANDEZ

Location: 91950, National City
Submitted At: 9:26am 08-25-25

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

I strongly oppose Supervisor Montgomery Steppe's proposal to phase out oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray in juvenile detention facilities. While I support improving conditions, banning OC spray endangers staff and youth safety. As a resident, I've followed juvenile justice reform discussions, including the state's civil rights investigation. [10] OC spray is a non-lethal tool to de-escalate dangerous situations, preventing injuries where physical intervention risks harm. In facilities with youth who may act aggressively, often due to trauma, staff need safe options to maintain order. Banning OC spray could force riskier physical confrontations. With proper training and oversight, OC spray is effective and safe. Enhance protocols, don't remove this tool. Please reject this proposal and focus on balanced reforms for safety and rehabilitation.

D M

Location: 92154, San Diego
Submitted At: 9:25am 08-25-25

We need it to do our job

Hello There

Location: 92123, San Diego
Submitted At: 9:20am 08-25-25

This is the worst ideas ever. The youth in custody are in there for a reason. It is almost impossible to get a youth in custody. The ones that are currently in custody are to most violent. A good handful of youth are the ages 18-25 therefore are adults.

Erin PrestonWager

Location: 91945-4428, Lemon Grove
Submitted At: 9:07am 08-25-25

The focus on keeping the youth safe and not recognizing their violent behavior is a miss. Taking the OC out of the institutions will increase the officers and others having to go "hands -on" which will increase injuries to the staff as well as the youth

I encourage the folks who want to do away with OC spray to work a week in the institutions so you can really see with your own eyes how the youth are not perfect little angels as you may think.

I was a PO for 23 years with almost half of my career in the institutions. The "youth" population currently are 20 something years olds and not the sweet 13/14 year olds of the last. They are sophisticated, dangerous, and savvy. Just to be in JH means they've committed felony crimes. OC spray allows for a lower level of force instead of physical intervention. Doing away with that takes away a tool that really has no adverse affects.

I encourage this to be opposed and hope you listen to us who know the youth and have been inside.

Alicia Robertson

Location: 92114, San Diego
Submitted At: 8:28am 08-25-25

Strongly support

Deidre McLeod

Location: 92128, San Diego

Submitted At: 4:11pm 08-24-25

As a resident of District 2, I urge Supervisor Anderson to fully support Vice Chair Montgomery Steppe's recommendations to improve safety and conditions in our juvenile detention facilities. Youth advocates and the County's own Juvenile Justice Commission have long asked this Board to be more proactive in addressing the horrific treatment of children by the Probation Department - treatment that is so bad it is currently being investigated by the State's Attorney General. We must phase out the use of pepper spray, address the overuse of force and room confinement, require deescalation and support research based policies that will achieve more positive outcomes for both kids and our community. It is past time to take these steps. Protect children in the County's care from further trauma and harm and vote YES to create this Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice.

John Pierce

Location:

Submitted At: 4:30pm 08-23-25

The removal of OC spray will put both the youth and the officers tasked with protecting the youth in much greater risk. If the officers loose this tool then they must rely on other choices to handle violent situations, all the way to hands on techniques. This will increase the likelihood of either the officers or the youth being injured significantly. This is not a rehabilitation philosophy issue but rather a pure and dimple safety one. The youth will continue to get the outstanding treatment and support to become better adults and will be safer if the officers keep OC spray. tools.

SANDRA BRILLHART

Location: 91932, Imperial Beach

Submitted At: 4:03pm 08-23-25

This is not how to rehabilitate juvenile inmates.

Brent Dittman

Location:

Submitted At: 10:36pm 08-22-25

Please do not support this idea. The removal of oleoresin capsicum (oc), which is an organic based deterrent, opens up avenues to lawsuits. The OC creates a deterrent to negetive behavior and eliminates the use of going hands on. Injuries to both staff and youth will rise due to the need to use other restraints. The simple threat of having OC makes one second guess the negative choices that will result in consequences. Remove that threat and you place everyone in danger.

OC spray allows protection for the person about to be assaulted, staff and youth. Knowing the consequences of getting pepper sprayed are far better than knowing that an assault will occur without repercussions.

Frank Purdy

Location: 92040, Lakeside

Submitted At: 10:22pm 08-22-25

People who want the removal of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray have never worked in a Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) and the effectiveness of multiple simultaneous fights. It begs the notion of, "let's defund the police". Fights inside a JDF occur in an instant. OC spray is an effective tool that takes the fight out combatants and a chance for officers to regain control. Removal of OC spray will result in an increase physical injury by officers and juveniles and could result in loss of work, physical therapy, lawsuit and or permanent injury. Juveniles that commit egregious crimes consequence incarceration. Support the officers that are willing to be locked up with juvenile delinquents. SD Union reported; "Juvenile crime in CA is rising – and rising by a lot. Last year, the number of juveniles arrested for all types of offenses reached 32,874, which was a staggering increase of 70% from just a few years ago in 2021, and since 2019 juvenile homicides rose 82%

Caleb Rainey

Location: 92113, San Diego

Submitted At: 5:53pm 08-22-25

Hello, my name is Caleb Rainey and I want to express my enthusiastic support for Vice-Chair Monica Montgomery Steppe's recommendation to improve the safety and conditions in our juvenile detention facilities. Young people deserve to be treated with dignity and care not harsh punishments. They are still children and full of

possibilities. Treating them poorly only assures they never reach their full potential.

I support creating the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice and continuing the partnership with CJJA to develop and implement evidence-based strategies in order to achieve better outcomes for the youth in our juvenile detention facilities, their families, and ultimately San Diego County. We must end the use of chemical agents like OC spray and drastically reduce the use of force and isolation. Instead, the County should support trauma-informed and restorative approaches. This is what is best for these young people and San Diego County.

Benjamin Massinga

Location: 92115, SAN DIEGO
Submitted At: 4:12pm 08-22-25

I support the improvement of Juvenile Facilities

Amarita King

Location: 94122, San Francisco
Submitted At: 2:52pm 08-22-25

As a youth, I was on juvenile probation, a juvenile hall counselor for ten years & now an Adult Probation Officer, I am gravely concerned about the prohibition of OC spray. Please know that youth in juvenile facilities have experienced trauma. The humane response is to create as much stability as possible while detained. Well-trained staff carrying OC spray enhances safety for the full youth population, the youth that are at risk for being assaulted by youth, staff, and even assaultive youth, from further escalating youth on youth conflict; youth on staff assaults. OC spray is overwhelmingly utilized as a deterrent, infrequently deployed. Whereas, assaults, threats of assaults cause real and long-lasting, sometimes lifetime physical, emotion harm on youth who are victimized in detention, all youth witnessing assaults, & staff (sworn & nurses, teachers, etc.). Fiscally, prohibiting OC spray will result in county liability from injured, maimed or killed youth & staff litigation.

Jose Ramirez

Location:
Submitted At: 2:21pm 08-22-25

I strongly oppose Agenda Item 26. Removing OC spray from juvenile facilities puts both youth and staff at greater risk. Fights will still happen, and OC spray is the safest, quickest way to stop them without physical force. Female officers outnumber males 2-to-1 and often must break up fights involving much larger individuals. OC spray is the only tool that allows them to do this safely. Forcing staff to physically restrain youth increases injuries and damages the rapport we work hard to build. OC spray protects everyone involved. Please do not approve Agenda Item 26.

Greg Stuber

Location:
Submitted At: 1:52pm 08-22-25

The removal of OC spray from San Diego Juvenile Facilities will place both the youth and the officers at great risk. Fights will occur between youth regardless of de-escalation training and OC spray is the fastest and safest way to end them. Absent OC spray, officers must use physical force to overpower a youth which will cause injuries to both the youth and the officer. OC spray is purely used as a safety tool to end fights quickly and safely.

Female officers in San Diego's Juvenile Facilities outnumber male officers 2-1 and are the heart and soul of the workforce. Smaller statured male and female officers must break up fights involving 6'2" 250 pound 24-year-old male youth. OC spray is the only equalizer in this scenario.

The quickest way to destroy rapport is to force an officer to physically overpower a youth. OC spray prevents a physical hands-on altercation between the youth and the officer.

To ensure safety of the youth and officers, please do NOT approve agenda item 26

Lisa Garcia

Location:
Submitted At: 1:41pm 08-22-25

Joel Anderson & Monica Montgomery Steppe, Locking kids up is serious, but safety inside those facilities is non-negotiable. If we're calling these places 'rehabilitation,' then they need to actually heal, not harm. Please give families and advocates a seat at the table and keep the public updated with real data — not just headlines.

Jeremy KurtzHarris

Location: 92105, San Diego

Submitted At: 10:26pm 08-21-25

As someone who regularly works with youth in San Diego and strongly believes in restorative justice, I know how critical it is to treat young people with dignity, compassion, and care—not punishment. I urge support for creating the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice and continuing the partnership with CJJA to bring research-based principles that lead to better outcomes for youth and communities. I also support phasing out harmful chemical agents like OC spray, and reducing force and isolation in favor of trauma-informed and restorative approaches. This is a meaningful step forward in protecting the wellbeing and future of young people navigating the juvenile justice system.

Ariana Federico

Location: 92114, San Diego

Submitted At: 10:49am 08-21-25

Hi,

I am in strong support of Vice-Chair Monica Montgomery Steppe's recommendations to improve safety and conditions in our juvenile detention facilities. As someone who believes in restorative justice, I know how critical it is to treat young people with dignity, compassion, and care—not punishment.

I support:

- Creating the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice to focus on real solutions and accountability,
- Continuing the partnership with CJJA to bring aligned core, research based principles and achieve more positive outcomes for youth, families, staff and communities
- Phasing out chemical agents like OC spray, which harm and retraumatize youth, and
- Reducing force and isolation in favor of trauma-informed and restorative approaches.

Young people in custody deserve a system that believes in their potential and is committed to their healing. Thank you for your leadership.

-Ariana