DA Schubert Announces Launch of FirstOf-Its-Kind "Youth & Community Connect" App



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

— Semper Juştitia ———

The first-of-its-kind "Youth & Community Connect" (YCC) app has officially launched! This community collaborative youth resource app is hosted by the District Attorney's Office, in partnership with Always Knocking, Inc., La Familia Counseling Center, Inc. and Brother to Brother.

The app is also endorsed by Blue Shield of California, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Sacramento Area, Sac Connect, Asian Resources, Inc., City of Refuge, Chicks in Crisis, the City of Sacramento's Office of Violence Prevention and the Summer @ City Hall (S@CH) program (see more about the S@CH program and student produced Public Service Announcement) among others.

This is the first app specifically dedicated to youth and their families, linking them directly to resources and services provided by community and faith-based organizations, schools as well as city, county and other government agencies that provide youth services within Sacramento County. The app is free to join and free to use. Features include:

- Four easy ways organizations can connect with the community: by organization name, type of resource, criminal justice specific programs and by zip code for services closest to users.
- Each organization will receive a detailed page listing

including a description of the organization and contact information.

- Information is easy to find with programs and services categorized by specific needs and linked directly to the organization's website.
- Provides a direct pathway to youth criminal justice programs.

Law enforcement agencies including the Sacramento Sheriff's Office, Sacramento Police Department and Sacramento Probation Department will have the app placed on their work-issued phones.

TO GET THE APP: go to <u>sacyouthconnect.org</u>. TO REGISTER ORGANIZATIONS: Organizations within Sacramento County can continue to register to be included in the app, go to <u>agency.sacyouthconnect.org</u> and select register. Participating nonprofit organizations must be a 501(c)(3) and have insurance.

"This new app will make it easier for youth and their families to access resources and services available to them in Sacramento County," states DA Anne Marie Schubert. "I believe if we connect with our youth through outreach, education and intervention, we create a stronger and healthier community for everyone."

Founder and Executive Director of Always Knocking, Inc. Greg King states, "This app is strongly needed in our communities. It will serve as a directory for many needed services that are available throughout our communities."

La Familia Counseling Center, Inc. Executive Director Rachel Rios says, "Sacramento has some amazing agencies and services available to young people but if they don't know about them, how can they access them? This app is a much needed tool that will help our community navigate and connect easily to the services they need."

Co-Founder and CEO of Brother to Brother Mervin Brookins adds, "This app is not only an absolute must-have for anyone working with youth, every parent with a youth in their household should have it. Resources at your fingertips!"

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