



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Justice, Care and Opportunities Department Celebrates Graduation of Inaugural Cohort of Innovative Fire Camp Program**

**MALIBU** – The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) celebrated the graduation of its first cohort of participants from the Los Angeles County Training Center (LACTC) Fire Camp at the LA County Malibu Library today.

The event honored 10 graduates who completed the program and each received certificates recognizing their achievements and commitment.

JCOD worked closely with County partners to transform Camp Gonzales, a former juvenile detention center, into an innovative residential training facility. LACTC Fire Camp participants receive hands-on training in fire services and job readiness. The program also provides on-site room and board, life skills training, a monthly stipend and continuous support services for participants.

“Today’s graduates embody hope and resilience. They have overcome unique challenges to build a future filled with purpose,” said JCOD Director Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.). “We are deeply proud of each graduate and remain committed to supporting them as they pursue a new path forward, serving their communities with strength and courage.”

“Los Angeles County is investing in better futures for our young people by investing in workforce training opportunities in high growth fields, including the fire service,” said

LA County Board Chair Lindsey P. Horvath. "Today's graduates embody why care first programs produce better outcomes over incarceration. I congratulate the inaugural graduating class of the Los Angeles County Training Center and recommit to the life-changing work the County's Justice, Care and Opportunities Department is leading."

Graduates of the program are equipped with the skills and certifications needed for careers in fire service and will continue to receive support, including career counseling, job placement assistance, housing resources and, if needed, record expungement services.

The LACTC Fire Camp Program is entirely voluntary, prioritizing applicants impacted by the justice system, foster care system and veterans.

For more information about LACTC Fire Camp, including information about applying, please click [here](#).

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