

Los Angeles County
Probation Department
Central Juvenile Hall
1605 Eastlake Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90033

February 18, 2004

Mr. Spiro Demetriadi
Gracie Academy

Dear Spiro,

First, I would like to thank you for listening to the concerns I had with regard to my position and the position of my fellow officers at Central Juvenile Hall. The information of "how to make a safer working environment" that you gave me was extremely valuable.

In the past, the Los Angeles County Probation Department has faced many adverse issues concerning "Use of Force". Staff when breaking-up fights, if they do not know proper techniques to safely secure minors who are combative, develop into incidents that may become investigations for excessive force or even child abuse allegations. Some officers have suffered injuries resulting into the staff not being able to work. When incidents such as these occur the facility suffers by having to hire behind the injured staff and our facility is suffering because of budget problems.

I, as well as my Director, Mr. Danny Aceves, Assistant Superintendent, feel that the techniques taught at the Gracie Academy will help alleviate the problems mentioned above. Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Training will teach myself and my fellow officers to apply proper restating when minors become violent, combative and out of control. The training will also lessen the possibility of injury to the officers, as well as the minors, which the end result will be not having staff shortages due to injuries and budget issues that arise with it.

Because of the above-mentioned issues, Supervising Detention Services Officer Williams and myself chose to enroll in the GRAPLE Fundamentals Class on January 15th and 16th, 2004. We are looking forward to attending the GRAPLE Certification Course in March 2014 to learn proper and safe techniques, enabling us to create a safer and more confident working environment. Your certification program will allow me to teach and share the Gracie Techniques with my fellow officers.

Respectfully,



Robert Rivera
Detention Services Officer
S.E.R.T. Team Leader