

**STRICKEN AS OF END OF YEAR**

Intro. Res. No. 1715-2011

Laid on Table 8/2/2011

Introduced by Presiding Officer, on request of the County Executive

**RESOLUTION NO. -2011, CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT  
OF COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PROBATION, (GERALD J. COOK)**

**WHEREAS**, the Director of the County Department of Probation is appointed by the County Executive, subject to approval of the County Legislature, under Sections 256 (5) and 257 (6) (a) of the NEW YORK EXECUTIVE LAW; and

**WHEREAS**, Gerald J. Cook, currently residing at Huntington, New York has been serving as Acting Director of the County Department of Probation; and

**WHEREAS**, Steve Levy, the County Executive, has appointed Gerald J. Cook as Director of Probation; now, therefore be it

**1<sup>st</sup>** **RESOLVED**, that the appointment of Gerald J. Cook as Director of Probation of the Suffolk County Department of Probation, is hereby approved, pursuant to Sections 256 (5) and 257 (6) (a) of the NEW YORK EXECUTIVE LAW, to serve at the pleasure of the County Executive of Suffolk County, effective immediately; and be it further

**2<sup>nd</sup>** **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Sections 617.5 (c) (20) and (27) of Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations (6 NYCRR), as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration and management, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this law.

DATED:

APPROVED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date:

**Gerard J. Cook**  
**Huntington, NY 11743**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Nassau County Probation Department** Mineola, NY 1970 to present

**PROBATION OFFICER**

**Juvenile Investigations** 1970-72. Family Division, Westbury, NY.

Prepared Investigations and Reports on individuals before the Nassau County Family Court as the result of Juvenile Delinquency or Person In Need of Supervision petitions, Custody/Visitation/Guardianship issues, Family Offense and Neglect petitions. Duties included conducting full investigation and analysis of the presenting problem, with recommendation to the court regarding disposition. Scope of the investigation included gathering data on past legal history, medical and psychiatric history, impact upon the victim, and any relevant family circumstances. Investigations on juveniles necessitated planning for appropriate resolution, which often included placement at a residential facility, and supervision of the child during the investigation process. Familiarization with, and comprehensive knowledge of, all available community and residential resources was required.

**Juvenile Supervision** 1972-75 Family Division, Westbury, NY

Supervised juveniles placed on Probation for periods of up to two years by the Nassau County Family Court. Duties included frequent contact with child and family in office and at the home. Regular contact with school officials, therapists and other interested parties was maintained in order to ensure compliance with the Conditions of Probation set forth by the Court and to enable the child to pursue a law abiding and goal-oriented lifestyle.

**PROBATION OFFICER II**

**Adult Intake** 1975-76 Nassau County Family Court, Westbury, NY

Interviewed and counseled individuals seeking the intervention of the Family Court in Family Offense, Custody/Visitation/Guardianship, and Support matters. Duties included intervention wherever possible in order to attempt adjustment without court action. Familiarity with, and referral to, appropriate community agencies and therapeutic facilities was required as was comprehensive knowledge of the Family Court Act. Frequent contact with Childrens Protective Services and with advocacy groups for victims of domestic violence was pursued. Preparation of petitions for formal court action was performed when adjustment was unwarranted or not possible, with testimony given in court a frequent occurrence.

**Narcotics Unit** 1976-79 Criminal Division, Mineola, NY

Intensive supervision of adult offenders, residing in a high crime area, who were sentenced to Probation through the Criminal Courts and had a significant involvement with, or addiction to, drugs. Probationers were seen on a weekly basis for counseling, urinalysis, and monitoring of adjustment on Probation with the goal of establishing and continuing a drug and crime free lifestyle. Residential visits were made biweekly at a minimum. Home searches were conducted and arrests were made for Violations of Probation. Regular contacts with families, community and residential drug program staff, therapists, etc. were established, as were working relationships with NC Police Officers of the Narcotics Squad. Comprehensive knowledge of drugs of abuse was required.

**Drug Abuse/DWI Unit** 1979-84 Criminal Division, Mineola, NY

Intensive supervision of individuals sentenced to Probation through the Criminal Courts having significant involvement with, or addiction to, drugs, including alcohol. Duties much the same as above, with caseload expanded to include individuals with DWI convictions and alcohol abuse problems. Knowledge of, and contacts with, programs and individuals in the field of alcoholism treatment was an additional requirement.

**Criminal Supervision** 1984-90 Criminal Division, Mineola, NY

Supervision of offenders sentenced to Probation through the Criminal Courts, residing in a high crime area, as the result of a large variety of offenses.

Duties included frequent contacts with the probationer and family members in office and at home and regular contact with therapists, substance abuse counselors, police, employers, employment counselors, and all other interested parties, with the goals of offender rehabilitation and community protection. As above, home searches were conducted, as were arrests for Violation of Probation. Proficiency with firearms was mandated.

## **SUPERVISOR I**

**Criminal Supervision** 1990-2001 Criminal Division, Mineola, NY

Supervised Probation Officers in performing in the previously described capacity in a unit comprised of eight officers geographically assigned to a large area of Nassau County. Duties included periodic conferences and review of all cases supervised and review and revision of all paperwork submitted to the court. From 1998, supervised two units simultaneously, with area of responsibility extended to one thousand probationers.

## **ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

**Criminal Supervision** and **Intensive Supervision Program** 2001-2005, Mineola, NY

In charge of all Criminal Supervision and Intensive Supervision units in Criminal Division. Revised policies and procedures in order to provide more effective supervision in a time of extensive departmental retirements resulting in greatly reduced staff. Applied for and received waiver from NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives to expand caseload size in Intensive Supervision in order to accommodate Assisted Outpatient Treatment cases with potentially dangerous mental health conditions. Restructured the entire Criminal supervision command three times in four years in order to achieve effective supervision and comply with state mandates. Established structure and protocol for Electronically Assisted Reporting unit to provide for probationers eligible for minimal supervision. Wrote protocols and procedures for supervision for departmental manual. Taught classes in supervision of probationers to Probation Officer Trainees. Established procedures for supervision of gang-involved probationers, and for warrantless searches of residences of gang members. Personally conducted such searches, along with police and members of Probation Warrant Unit. Served as member of inter-departmental Task Force Against Gangs committee. Established liaisons with police and correctional center to provide information sharing of gang intelligence. Established close working relationships with CSEA President and departmental rep in order to forestall potential difficulties and grievances. Only departmental administrator to receive award from County Executive for Performance Appraisal score.

## **ASSISTANT PROBATION DIRECTOR**

**Chief of Family Division** 2005 to 7/06, Westbury, NY

Chief Administrative Officer of the Family Division. Responsible for all staff and functions. Revised geographic areas of supervising officers in order to provide more effective supervision of juveniles. Instituted computer entry of previously handwritten supervision reports in order to provide for collection of data on contacts. Instituted application of Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument computer system in order to provide objective risk assessment and guidelines for level of supervision and to produce computer generated Investigation and Reports on juveniles. Created computer templates for forms to facilitate filing of, e.g. Early Discharge requests, Violations of Probation, etc. Refocused stenographic staff toward data entry and other roles. Expanded membership of Placement Review Committee, which explores possible alternatives for all juveniles for whom residential placement is a possibility. Attended regular inter-departmental meetings of several committees concerned with issues of juveniles before the courts. Adjunct Member of Nassau County Youth Board. Established regular meetings with supervisors of Family Division. Revised and expanded PINS Diversion Unit in response to a change in the Family Court Act which mandated diversion for potential PINS respondents, working closely with representatives from Dept. of Social Services to establish cooperative procedures toward this end. Revised Juvenile Intake procedures regarding potential PINS petitioners and respondents. Established procedures for interdepartmental Gang Unit, which supervises both adult and juvenile gang members. Instituted training for Family Division Probation Officers in giving testimony in court, in conjunction with the office of the Deputy County Attorney. Wrote Family Division protocols and procedures for departmental manual.

## **DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROBATION**

7/06 to 1/07

Acted generally for, and in place of, the Director of Probation, performing related duties as required. From 1/07 to 10/07 became **ACTING DIRECTOR OF PROBATION**, accomplishments listed on separate sheets.

## **DIRECTOR OF PROBATION**

Appointed 10/07.

In charge of agency with staff of 250 which supervises over eight thousand Probationers, working within a budget of \$20 million. Current challenges include: Working with staff of the County Executive, the County Office of Management and Budget, and the County Legislature to maintain functioning and integrity of the department in the face of fiscal and staffing constraints; Working in collaboration with local police authorities and the office of the District Attorney to maintain and enhance several joint ventures, including our successful Nightwatch off-hours residence search program, our Operation Ceasefire gang violence prevention efforts, and our Recidivist Alcohol Program; Moving toward essentially paperless record keeping and a computer Case Management system to be integrated into a larger county Integrated Criminal Justice System; Supervising the relocation of the department Administrative and Criminal Division into new quarters in December 2007; Working with the judiciary in the establishment of specialized courts for DWI, Sex Offenders, Probationers with Mental Health issues, and a Juvenile Drug Court; Maintaining and encouraging the enthusiasm, pride, and dedication of a staff of diligent and committed professionals in a time of increasing law enforcement and budgetary challenges.

## **EDUCATION**

**Adelphi University**     B.A., Biology, 1967

**C.W. Post College/Long Island University**     M.S., Biology 1969