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San Mateo County Probation Chief Announces Retirement

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – San Mateo County Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert D. Foiles announced today that Chief Probation Officer Loren Buddress is retiring after nearly 18 years of combined total service to San Mateo County.

Buddress will step down effective Jan. 2, 2009. He was appointed Chief Probation Officer in April 2000.

“The judges of the Superior Court wish Loren all the best in his retirement,” Judge Foiles said. “Loren served as an adult probation officer for six years early in his career and then returned to San Mateo County to become Chief. He has many proud accomplishments here.”

In a statement announcing his retirement to the Superior Court and Board of Supervisors, Buddress said he has had a very special opportunity.

“For decades our County has had the wisdom to support juvenile and adult treatment programs that have proven to reduce crime, delinquency, recidivism, and community victimization,” Buddress said. “The citizens of our County are extraordinarily lucky to have your leadership and support of programs that make San Mateo County a positive, healthy, green, and safe place to live and raise families.”

During his tenure, San Mateo County built the innovative Youth Services Center to replace an outdated juvenile hall. The Youth Services Center aims to improve the lives of youth and families by providing support services and the skills necessary to succeed in society.

Throughout his career, Buddress has been a strong supporter of evidence-based treatment programs that have proven to reduce crime, delinquency, recidivism and community victimization. He assisted in bringing these practices to the Probation Department here and the state-wide probation system.

Because of his strong interest in treatment and rehabilitation, the then-State Senate Pro Tem Don Perata appointed Buddress to the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board, responsible for monitoring the rehabilitation efforts of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s prison and parole programs.

He also has been re-elected, since 2002, by his 13 Bay Region Probation Chiefs to be their representative on the statewide Chief Probation Officers of California Executive Committee, where he also served as the state-wide Chair of their Legislative Committee.

Buddress has a bachelor's and master's degree in sociology. After spending his early career working for San Mateo County in Probation and other capacities, he entered the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services system where he worked for 21 years, the last 11 years as the Chief Probation Officer for the Federal Courts in the Northern District of California in San Francisco. He then returned to San Mateo County as Chief Probation Officer, overseeing a \$72 million annual budget and 462 employees.

The San Mateo County Superior Court appoints the County's Chief Probation Officer. Judge Foiles said a search will commence for a new Chief. No timeline has yet been determined.

“Working here as Chief for almost nine years has been an honor,” Buddress said. “It has also been a unique opportunity to serve the Board, the Court, our County, and the community.”

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