

San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co.)
Chronicle
(Cir. D. 312,118)
(Cir. Sat.. 312,408)

MAR 25 2011

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Warm welcome for new probation chief

Re: Chip Johnson's column on chief David Muhammad ("Probation chief a case study in redemption," March 15). I'd like to thank you for your thoughtful profile of the new Alameda County chief of probation. David's presence breathes new life into an organization that greatly affects the life experiences and future prospects of the most at-risk youths in the county.

As the superintendent of Alameda County schools with oversight of the educational programs within the probation department, I welcome him as a leader who knows and understands the complexities of our modern juvenile justice system and



David Muhammad, once a client of the Alameda County Probation Department, now runs the place.

who stands boldly for the types of community-based reforms that help nudge young men and women in the right direction.

Growing up in challenging environments and making early mistakes should not equate to a life sentence for our young people in juvenile hall. Muhammad's story is one of redemption and hope. I look forward to working in partnership with him to remind our community and the broader society of what is possible for our children when we stand together to provide guidance, education and support.

Sheila Jordan, superintendent of Alameda County schools, Hayward