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September 18, 1975  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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974-3528

Establishment of a District Attorney's Youth Council which eventually is expected to represent every high school in Los Angeles County was announced today by Acting District Attorney John E. Howard.

Howard said the council initially will include two student delegates from each of the 46 high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District, with expansion to other districts as soon as is feasible.

Formation of the group is being coordinated by Donald G. Norris and John C. Burton, UCLA seniors assigned to the District Attorney's Bureau of Community Affairs.

"Joe Busch saw the creation of a Youth Council as a way young people and the criminal justice system could communicate with each other," Howard said. "We're not talking about some honorary youth group to hand out plaques. This will be a working council, which will meet regularly, both in regional gatherings and less frequent county-wide sessions, to address itself to the problems of youth in a large urban area today."

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Norris and Burton said the district's high schools have been placed in five geographic categories--West Valley, East Valley, Westside, Central and South. Each group will meet every five weeks.

"It is my hope the council will be meeting by mid-October and will be at full strength by the end of the fall semester," Howard said. "If we are successful, other districts in the county will be invited to participate."

Two delegates from each school will be chosen by student councils and advisors. At least one must be a junior, Burton and Norris explained, to insure continuity on the council in the next school year.

"We should emphasize that students who are interested should go through their advisors or counselors at school," Norris said. "We'll be working with the administrations, and they'll be providing us with the best applicants available."

Burton called creation of the council "an attempt to really do something about juvenile crime."

"Everyone knows that the juvenile crime problem has multiplied in recent years. Perhaps by explaining some of the functions of the criminal justice system to these student delegates, and having them go back to address social science and government classes, we can further some understanding of the law."

Howard said the Consumer and Environmental Protection Division of the District Attorney's Office has indicated an interest in working with the new group.

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