

Contact: **Mateo Reyes**  
Phone: 510-272-6695  
Email: [mateo.reyes@acgov.org](mailto:mateo.reyes@acgov.org)

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: 510-272-6695  
Fax: 510-271-5151

**Alameda County**  
**Supervisor Keith Carson, Fifth District**

**For Immediate Release**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **The Terminator Tour: Victims of the Cyborg**

In his typically brash manner reading his lines like *Arnold Schwarzenegger*, the Governor would have us believe it is the poor and programs that serve them that are the cause of the State budget crisis.

He would also have us believe that the latest budget plan – a complete surrender to his demands – is a compromise.

Now is the time to put aside the theatrics and take a good honest look at the people who will be impacted by the proposed budget cuts. That is the goal of the Terminator Tour...

Our first stop was West Oakland where we spoke to a young woman who is an example of what good social programs can do -- how they can change a person's life and make our communities better.

It is also an example of what's at risk now that the Governor is getting his way.

We interviewed a young woman who goes by the name "T." She first got involved with one of Alameda County's youth programs three years ago. At the time she was a jaded 16-year-old who walked the cold brutal streets of the city during the day and into the night, looking into the vacuous eyes of soulless men who appeared to have more control over her destiny than she did. And back then, T did not even know who she was.

We're not talking about the ponderous metaphysical question most young people ask. T quite literally did not know who she was, where she came from, or much of anything about her parents. She did not even know where she was born. T spent her childhood in-and-out of the foster care system. When she turned sixteen she was sent to a group home but soon went AWOL, forced by circumstances beyond her control to live out on the street. T refused to even think about the future, existing -- surviving -- from day to day in a world where nobody really seemed to care about what happened to her. And T didn't care, either; she didn't care if she lived or if she died.

That was all about to change. When a County counselor approached her on the street and told her about programs that could help her turn her life around, T shrugged off the notion that anyone would do anything for her without strings attached. Yet the counselor persisted.

Thanks to the Scotlan Youth and Family Center in West Oakland, T got a second chance. And a third. She worked hard, earned her GED and later her high school diploma. Now she is working full-time helping young people who are in the same spot she was three years ago.

What will happen to T and young people like her now that Schwarzenegger is getting his way? To hear T's compelling story, visit **KeithCarson.org**. And stay tuned as The Terminator Tour continues...

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