

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**JANUARY 19, 2010**

**Amendment to 64-C  
Assistance to the People of Haiti and Emergency Preparedness at Home**

We must recognize, acknowledge, and commend what has already been done for the people of Haiti at the national and local level. President Obama swiftly mobilized our forces and resources to assist the people of Haiti. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano also announced that the Obama administration would temporarily grant legal status to the tens of thousands Haitian immigrants who were living in the U.S. illegally before the tragedy hit, and has also granted humanitarian parole for orphans who are eligible for adoption in the United States.

At the County level, our 72-member California Task Force 2, at the request from the U.S. Agency for International Development, is currently in Haiti assisting with the rescue and recovery efforts. Even after six days out from the earthquake, to date, the Los Angeles County’s Urban Search and Rescue Team has participated in nine successful rescues. These local hometown heroes have gained international notoriety and recognition, and they are to be commended for their bravery and hard work. Their families should be recognized for their sacrifices as well.

**-MORE-**

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

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In addition, a team of 11 volunteer faculty and staff members from the Keck School of Medicine, the L.A.-County-USC Medical Center, and the Children's Hospital Los Angeles, arrived in Haiti on Sunday morning to provide emergency medical services.

We must also examine what further efforts the County can undertake, to not only assist the residents of Haiti, but to also send and reinforce the message of domestic emergency preparedness should a disaster strike again in Los Angeles.

**THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Commend the members of the Los Angeles County Urban Search and Rescue Team deployed in Haiti and the members of the volunteer medical team, as well as their families;

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

Prepare a five-signature letter to President Obama thanking the President for his leadership and swift, decisive action during this time of crisis to aid the people of Haiti;

Post on the County's website information on how the residents of the County can provide assistance to the people of Haiti, similar to what is presented on the website of the Office of the President of the United States;

Prepare a report to the Board, due within 10 days, on other ways in which County employees may contribute to the rescue and recovery efforts, including options on how the Office of Charitable Giving can work with our employees and agency partners, and to also address the requests by County medical personnel wishing to travel to Haiti to provide their medical services which are in high demand; and

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Work with the Office of Emergency Management on a campaign to remind County residents to be prepared for a major disaster which could strike Los Angeles County at any time, and to include campaign proposals in the same report.

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