



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS CALLS FOR NEW SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT \$7.9 MILLION PROBATION EXPENDITURE**

**LOS ANGELES** –Supervisor Ridley-Thomas will introduce a motion at this week’s Board of Supervisor’s meeting to ensure that the expected transfer of \$7.9 million in funding to the Probation Department meets the terms of the County’s reform agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice.

On July 30, the Justice Department wrote to the County stating it was not satisfied with the Probation Department’s implementation of DOJ-ordered reforms. Supervisor’s Ridley-Thomas’s motion calls for extra accountability to go along with the additional funding.

“The Department of Justice recently expressed dissatisfaction with the County’s progress in implementing the Memorandum of Agreement for Probation Camps earlier this year. This follows serious lapses in accountability with regard to the Department’s use of \$79 million for the DOJ Settlement on the Halls,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

“I am therefore asking the Board to direct the County Chief Executive, the Director of Health Services, and the Director of Mental Health to work with the Chief Probation Officer to develop plans to develop new safeguards and precautions to track expenditures, placement of personnel, and other critical activities so that the County remains in full compliance with all obligations concerning these funds.”

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MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

August 17, 2010

Accountability of Funding for Probation Department

The Board of Supervisors is considering a request to move \$7.9 million in funding for nine months from the Provisional Financing Uses to an account in the Probation Department to partially implement the County's Action Plan at the County's Probation camps, pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Justice (DOJ) approved on October 31, 2008.

Certain safeguards and precautions should be developed to ensure that these funds are spent in a manner designed to comply with the requirements set forth in the MOA with the DOJ. This is especially true in light of recent reports from the Auditor-Controller which indicated that the Probation Department could not fully account for its use of \$79 million set aside between 2005 to 2008 for the DOJ Settlement on the Halls and other program enhancements. Additionally, the Probation Department was unable to completely account for each employee hired attendant to these appropriations of funds.

- M O R E -

MOTION

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

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

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It is important that all of the personnel and the services for which these funds are designated are hired and the services implemented. Management oversight is critical to ensure that any new personnel are performing the functions as required in the MOA with the DOJ. Monitoring and assessment of the programs implemented must also be conducted to ensure that the programs and services put in place are accomplishing the goals and objectives of the added personnel and services.

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

Direct the Chief Executive Officer, working in consultation with the Chief Probation Officer, the Director of Health Services and the Director of Mental Health, prepare a report addressing the following items:

1. Prepare a timetable for the hiring of the staff by the Department of Mental health, Department of Health Services and Probation Department.
2. Prepare a plan for tracking expenditures, the personnel hired, where they are to be assigned within the Probation camp system or other placement, and how to avoid the problems identified in the Auditor-Controller's reports on the Probation Department's use of \$79 Million for the DOJ Settlement on the Halls and program enhancements.

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3. Develop a method for monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of the programs and personnel implemented.

This report is due within 30 days and should be reviewed by County Counsel and presented to the Board of Supervisors in closed session.

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