



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **STATEMENT BY SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS REGARDING TODAY'S COUNTY BUDGET HEARINGS**

“Despite the difficulties we face, Los Angeles County is better positioned than the State and most other local governments in California to meet our fiscal responsibilities. We expect to meet our goals with minimal layoffs and will do so as County services remain substantially intact.

Even in view of significant problems identified by the CEO, the Board of Supervisors' fiscal leadership and budgeting discipline has again brought us a balanced budget for the third straight year. Furthermore, several constructive and innovative ideas were presented to the Board today which in my view show a willingness among many key stakeholders to work with us to maintain vital County operations and to avoid reductions which will hamper our ability to meet our responsibilities to constituents.

I urge the CEO to continue the advocacy regarding hospital provider fees that occurred during the Board's recent trip to Washington, D.C., and to engage our colleagues in the State Legislature. I also encourage our labor partners to respond to our call for action in these vital areas.

I will continue to be an outspoken and aggressive advocate for the County's provision of crucial services impacting the health and safety of children and families.”

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