



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS URGES BOARD  
TO RATIFY AGREEMENT ADOPTED BY  
UC REGENTS TO OPEN NEW MLK HOSPITAL**

**LOS ANGELES** – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today urged the Board to ratify an agreement adopted by the University of California Board of Regents to provide medical services at the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital.

Under the agreement, which the Regents approved Nov. 19, the 120-bed hospital would operate under an independent governing board. The Supervisors are scheduled to vote on the pact next Tuesday – one year to day that Supervisor Ridley-Thomas took office with opening the hospital his top priority.

The motion Supervisor Ridley-Thomas introduced today directs county officials to secure the legislative, regulatory and other programmatic support needed to execute, fund and implement the project. The County's CEO is expected to report back to the Supervisors next week on recommendations for implementation of the agreement, including the criteria and timeline for choosing a board of directors to oversee the hospital.

"Restoring in-patient hospital services at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center is a top priority of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas stated in his motion.

The Supervisor has called for developing the hospital campus as part of a master plan proposed by the non-profit Urban Land Institute to create an urban community health “Center of Excellence” that incorporates surrounding land owned by government entities.

At the Board’s direction, the County’s Chief Executive Officer was authorized to enter discussions with the UC Office of the President on the terms of an agreement that could lead to opening the hospital in a manner that would ensure delivery of quality patient care.

On Aug. 18, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the CEO to proceed with the negotiations by formally submitting the proposal to the University.

The agreement the Regents approved last week calls for the UC to partner with the County of Los Angeles to establish a new MLK hospital, along the lines of the proposal authorized by the Supervisors on Aug. 12. One new element in the proposal adopted by the Regents is a \$100 million Letter of Credit required by U.C. to minimize its financial liability.

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