

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND KATHRYN BARGER      DECEMBER 6, 2016**

**Declaring a Homeless Emergency in the County of Los Angeles**

The County of Los Angeles (County) is facing a grave public emergency, the pervasive and deepening homeless crisis, which currently endangers the health and safety of tens of thousands of residents, including veterans, women, children, LGBTQ youth, persons with disabilities and seniors. The tremendous scale of homelessness in the County threatens the economic stability of the region by burdening emergency medical services and the social services infrastructure.

This past winter, both the County and the City of Los Angeles declared local states of emergency as it relates to the lack of shelter for homeless persons within the County and the City.

Further, the Board of Supervisors (Board) has unanimously voted to seek a statewide declaration of emergency for the State's homeless crisis. The County's petition to convince the Governor to declare a state of emergency on homelessness has garnered over 27,000 signatures. The State Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution urging the Governor to declare a state of emergency for homelessness. The City and County of San Francisco, the City of Los Angeles, and the City of Santa Rosa have also passed similar resolutions urging the Governor to declare a state of

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MOTION

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DECEMBER 6, 2016  
PAGE 2**

emergency for homelessness. Thirty-two members of Congress have signed a joint letter urging the Governor to augment annual funding to address the homeless crisis and Congress members Hahn, Napolitano, Sanchez, and Lowenthal have all also urged the Governor to declare a state of emergency for homelessness. The Governor has refused, however, to declare such an emergency, or to augment annual funding, and therefore, local governments, like this Board, must take immediate action to address the homeless crisis in their own jurisdictions.

To address this urgent homeless crisis, the State Constitution and California Revenue Taxation Code authorizes the Board to place a special sales tax on the ballot during an odd-year election cycle.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,** adopt the attached resolution declaring an emergency due to the homeless crisis.

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YV/DW