

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

APRIL 11, 2017

LOS ANGELES JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATOR

Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) that provides career technical and academic training for young people ages 16 through 24. The Job Corps program is authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA, H.R.803). The Los Angeles Job Corps Center has been operated continuously by the YWCA Greater Los Angeles (YWCA-GLA) since 1965. Every five years, DOL issues a competitive solicitation for the contract. As the original operator, YWCA-GLA has successfully procured this contract nine times over the last five decades.

In January 2016, YWCA-GLA submitted its tenth response to DOL’s solicitation for the Job Corps contract which was to be awarded by September 30, 2016. In September 2016, DOL notified YWCA-GLA that the procurement process was behind schedule and that no award would be made until 2017. DOL, instead, issued a six-month contract extension to YWCA-GLA to continue operating the Los Angeles Job Corps Center until April 30, 2017.

On March 31, 2017, YWCA-GLA was notified by DOL that the Job Corps contract that it had held for 52 years was not going to be renewed. DOL further informed them that, effective the following day, a new contractor would assume responsibility for the Job Corps Center and that the transition period must be completed by April 30, 2017.

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This new contractor, Management and Training Corporation (MTC), is a Utah-based for-profit corporation that serves more than 12,000 young adults annually through its Job Corps centers. However, MTC also manages 24 detention and correctional facilities that house more than 73,000 inmates. MTC does not operate any facilities nor have any offices in Los Angeles County.

For the past 122 years, YWCA-GLA has provided a range of other services, including sexual assault/rape crisis counseling, high quality child care and education, after-school enrichment, digital training and certification, financial literacy, and programming for older adults. Through Job Corps, it serves more than 1,100 young people annually, with a 95% completion and job placement rate. Approximately 40% of its participants are foster youth or young adults who have recently exited foster care. A growing number are formerly incarcerated youth and formerly homeless youth. Given that a large number of Job Corps participants have been involved in one or more County systems, it is appropriate for the County to be confident that the Los Angeles Job Corps operator be familiar with not only the County, but also with the population served. Furthermore, the County is committed to supporting organizations and programs that provide educational, employment, and diversion opportunities to system-involved youth and should be deeply concerned with any potential operator that benefits financially from the prison industrial complex.

The Board learned yesterday that MTC has been on-site since Tuesday, April 4th to begin the transition process. There is a need to take immediate action to register the County's concern with DOL before the transition process goes any further.

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BASED UPON THE FOREGOING FACTS, AND PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2(b)(2), I MOVE THAT THE BOARD DETERMINE THAT:

1. There is a need to take immediate action to send a five-signature letter to DOL due to the April 1st start date of the new contract; and

2. The need to take this action came to the attention of the Board after the posting of the supplemental agenda for today's meeting;

I FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS send a five-signature letter to the United States Department of Labor Acting Secretary objecting to the replacement of the Los Angeles Job Corps Center operator and requesting an additional extension to the current contract while a thorough review is undertaken of the solicitation process and the selected operator.

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