

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**APRIL 18, 2017**

**PROCLAIM APRIL 17-21, 2017 AS MEDIATION WEEK**

The California State Legislature adopted the Dispute Resolution Programs Act (DRPA) of 1986 which provided for the local establishment and funding of informal dispute resolution programs. The DRPA created a state-wide system of locally funded programs which provide dispute resolution services (primarily conciliation and mediation) to county residents. These services assist in resolving problems informally and function as alternatives to more formal court proceedings. Counties that choose to offer these services to their residents are authorized to allocate up to \$8 from filing fees in superior, municipal, and justice court actions to generate new revenues for these local programs.

On December 23, 1986, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors approved participation in the DRPA to provide residents, businesses, and organizations with alternatives to the formal court system for resolving disputes. The County's Dispute Resolution Program (DRP) has become a valuable service to the public and the courts. Over the past three years, trained volunteer mediators helped nearly 60,000 people resolve their conflicts, without the additional investment of time and money that often accompany an antagonistic and costly formal court process. The Los Angeles Superior Court estimates that mediation saves tens of millions of dollars in court costs each year.

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** proclaim April 17-21, 2017 as Mediation Week throughout Los Angeles County and encourage County residents, businesses, and organizations, when feasible, to utilize the process of mediation to resolve disputes.

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(EW)