

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND JANICE HAHN September 12, 2017

Establishing Board Priorities

On July 7, 2015, the Board adopted recommendations to make changes to the Los Angeles County (County) governance structure to ensure effective service delivery, efficient utilization of limited resources, and timely implementation of Board policy directives. Since then, the Board of Supervisors (Board) has established an expansive policy-oriented agenda aimed at resolving some of the most challenging and long-standing issues confronting the health, safety and, well-being of County residents. To address such challenges, the Board identified priorities requiring sustained focus and enhanced collaboration among County departments and the private sector. As part of the amended governance structure, the Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to establish and launch ad hoc initiatives to address the Board’s priorities.

During 2015 and 2016, the Board established five priorities. Following the change in governance structure in early 2015, the Board initially identified three major priorities. First, the Board identified Child Protection as a Board priority to enhance the County’s child safety network by adopting and implementing the 65 recommendations of the County’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection, including the establishment of the Office of Child Protection in January 2015. Second, the Board identified Health Integration as a Board Priority to streamline and integrate access for those needing varying, high-quality, and comprehensive health services through the integration of the

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Departments of Health Services (DHS), Mental Health, and Public Health (DPH) into a single Health Agency. The Health Agency was subsequently established by the Board in August 2015. Third, the Board identified the Sheriff's Department/Justice Reform as a Board Priority to expand diversion of low-level criminal offenders from County jails with linkages to mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, implement a jail health services structure, and develop new efforts to reduce jail violence. In September 2015, following a comprehensive diversion plan prepared by the District Attorney's Office, the Board established the Office of Diversion and Reentry within DHS.

In 2015, as the need for immediate action regarding the homeless crisis further emerged, the Board established Homelessness as the Board's fourth priority. The Board tasked a newly-appointed County Homeless Initiative Director to develop a comprehensive, multi-faceted plan to respond to and reduce the incidence of homelessness among the County's vulnerable populations. On February 9, 2016, the Board adopted the Homeless Initiative recommendations to combat homelessness in the County.

On June 27, 2016, as a result of recent environmental health issues affecting residents living near such sites as the Exide and Quemetco battery recycling plants, Aliso Canyon, and the Fruitland Fire in Maywood, the Board identified the fifth priority, Environmental Health Oversight and Monitoring. Recently, on June 10, 2017, DPH organized efforts to outreach and provide information to residents within the affected area caused by the contamination of the Exide recycling plant in Vernon. These efforts resulted in the deployment of over 1,500 County employees and community volunteers which engaged with 21,000 homes in a six-hour period.

The County has many resources and an even greater number of needs. While the County is unable to maintain a large number of Board Priorities, there is a need to strategically focus on implementation of a select number of Board Priorities. Moreover, to successfully implement a process to vet and establish Board Priorities, criteria must be identified to select the emerging Board priorities that are most pressing. The implementation of a Board Priorities Protocol would ensure selection of a limited

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number of priorities, ongoing management of institutionalized Board Priorities, and implementation of a process to vet proposals for new Emerging Board Priorities.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors (Board) to report back in writing during the consideration of the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Supplemental Budget with a new Board Priority Protocol that would establish a process to manage institutionalized Board Priorities, review proposals for new Emerging Board Priorities, and be developed and overseen by the Executive Office.

WE FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Executive Officer to report back in writing during the consideration of the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Supplemental Budget with a protocol that considers the number of institutionalized Board Priorities at any given time, in order to successfully focus the County's limited resources on the most pressing needs. The protocol should consider:

1. When it is appropriate for the responsibility and management of institutionalized Board Priorities to be transferred to the appropriate department in order to support the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) effort to effectively develop, design, and launch any newly adopted Board Priority.
2. Identifying and defining key criteria to vet an Emerging Board Priority, in order to determine whether the complex challenge or issue faced by County residents and/or institutions should be considered by the Board for adoption.
3. Evaluating whether an Emerging Board Priority addresses a challenge or issue facing the County, considering but not limited to the following criteria:
 - a) Need for Regional Approach
 - b) Lack of Existing Broad Institutionalized Effort
 - c) Need for Sustained Focus
 - d) Collaboration and Partnerships Required
 - e) Moral Imperative to Act
 - f) County Possesses Ability to Influence
 - g) Optimal Timing
 - h) Sense of Urgency

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4. The process for which a Board Office's proposal for creating a new Emerging Board Priority will be vetted before consideration by the entire Board for adoption. The proposed process should allow for internal stakeholders and others to provide input as necessary.
5. Whether it is appropriate to transfer responsibility and management of any of the Board's existing Board Priorities to an appropriate Department in order to support the CEO's effort to effectively develop, design, and launch any newly adopted Board Priority.
6. Whether any proposal for a new Emerging Board Priority should be considered by the Board for adoption.

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