

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**November 7, 2017**

**Protecting First Responders From Hepatitis A Infection in Their Fight Against the Homeless Crisis**

Hepatitis A is a contagious, serious, and potentially debilitating disease. However, its spread can be abated through proper hygiene and by vaccination. At a recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors (Board), the Director of the Department of Public Health reported that homeless individuals are among those at highest risk for contracting and spreading the disease. First-responders throughout the County of Los Angeles (County) who reach out and respond to homeless individuals in their efforts to connect them with housing and services may place themselves at risk of contracting the disease.

It has been reported that there are a limited number of vaccines available throughout the County to vaccinate first-responders, including law enforcement and fire personnel, social and community-based workers and counselors, and public health staff, among others. These vital partners in the fight to end homelessness, as well as their families and loved ones, must be protected to the fullest extent possible. Those impacted include those not just within the County workforce, but at various jurisdictions within the County, such as police and fire personnel from city departments.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Instruct the Director of the Los Angeles County (County) Department of Public Health to come before the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on November 7, 2017, to provide

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

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BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

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

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information on the hepatitis A vaccine supply in the County, and to make recommendations regarding measures to prevent the spread of hepatitis A to first-responders within the County, including the role of vaccination of these individuals.

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