

DECEMBER 9, 2014

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND HILDA SOLIS

Establishment of a Citizens' Oversight Commission for the Sheriff's Department

For well over a year, the Board of Supervisors (Board) has had the opportunity to establish a Sheriff's Department Oversight Commission. While the California State constitution prescribes the scope of the authority of the Board of Supervisors (Board) over the elected Sheriff, and in turn, the Sheriff's scope of authority over departmental personnel and operations, it is well settled that the Board has the authority to establish an independent advisory oversight commission to review, study, report and make recommendations on the operation of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD). Newly elected Sheriff Jim McDonnell has publicly supported the creation of an oversight commission.

A moral imperative to ensure constitutional policing in the County's communities and jails exists. When coupled with the need for far reaching structural reforms and accountability mechanisms necessary to restore public trust and confidence in a department beset by allegations of excessive force and significant litigation costs,

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MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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establishment of a permanent oversight entity without delay is well justified. Such an entity can play a vital role in promoting transparency, restoring public trust and validating reform efforts.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- Approve the creation of a civilian oversight commission for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department;
- Establish a work group to be convened by County Counsel that shall include the Sheriff (or his designee), the Inspector General (or his designee) and one appointee of each Supervisor, to report back in writing in 90 days with recommendations to the Board regarding the oversight commission's mission, authority, size, structure, relationship to the Office of the Sheriff and to the Office of the Inspector General and appointment options; and
- Direct County Counsel to report back in writing in 90 days with proposed ordinance language for Title 3 of the Los Angeles County Code for each proposed structure.

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(VH)