

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

November 1, 2016

Dr. David Murphy Skid Row Sobering center

On March 22, 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a sobering center on Skid Row as an alternative to incarceration and hospitalization for homeless people struggling with chronic alcoholism. The sobering center is set to open on December 1, 2016. It will stabilize this population without over-criminalizing them or sending them to the hospital when they more appropriately require an intervention to deal with severe and repeated instances of incarceration. The 24-hour/7-day sobering center will provide an alternative destination for both the police and fire departments to bring individuals and will serve as a safe haven for them to sober up while being linked to services. Individuals will also be linked to long-term treatment and housing while in the sobering center.

Dr. David L. Murphy dedicated his life to helping those members of society who were the sickest, most marginalized, and disadvantaged, similar to what the sobering center aims to accomplish. Beginning with his own moment of clarity and decision to

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MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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become sober in 1975, Dr. Murphy founded Exodus Recovery, now a leading provider of integrated mental health, co-occurring and substance use disorder treatment programs in the state of California. In the late 1970s, he founded the California Physicians Diversion Program to offer treatment to impaired physicians instead of enacting more punitive measures. So frequently did Dr. Murphy provide his own home to a person struggling with addiction and mental illness that he implemented a network of crisis houses that still thrives to this day, now numbering over 110 beds. Dr. Murphy was a true hero in the fight to reduce homelessness and to provide the homeless with quality services. Up until the day he passed in March 2014, Dr. Murphy continued to conduct his life's work.

The sobering center concept embodies everything that Dr. Murphy represented, believed in and strived for throughout his life. He helped thousands of people and dedicating this sobering center to his memory will allow his message of experience, strength and hope to continue into future generations.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Name the sobering center located in Skid Row the "Dr. David Murphy Sobering Center" to honor the work, life and memory of Dr. Murphy.

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(YV/EA)