

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

September 29, 2020

Implementing the Office of Violence Prevention’s Strategic Plan and Creating a Coordinated Community-Based Crisis Response System

In 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the motion “Addressing the Epidemic of Gun Violence in Our Communities” (Kuehl/Ridley-Thomas, March 13, 2018) to create an integrated Countywide Violence Prevention Initiative. In 2019, the Board passed a follow-up motion “Supporting Efforts for the Prevention of Violence in Our Communities - Establishing the Office of Violence Prevention” (Kuehl/Ridley-Thomas, February 19, 2019) to officially establish the Los Angeles County (County) Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) which is now housed within the Department of Public Health. Earlier this month, the OVP, in collaboration with many community-based organizations, County departments and other stakeholders, published its first Strategic Plan outlining the background, data, vision, and mission of the County’s violence prevention work. This Strategic Plan is not only relevant, but overdue. It is imperative that the Board now position the strategies and mission of the OVP for action and implementation.

Daily, hundreds of residents of the County continue to be impacted by recurring and historical trauma from violence within their own households and in their communities. More disturbingly, some are subject to violence from local law enforcement, as in the cases of Dijon Kizzee and Josie Huang. Furthermore, there is a growing public demand for an equitable response to violence prevention and interventions that address the

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systematic biases and inequities that cause disproportionate health, economic and socio-cultural impacts. While there is a spectrum of County services available for both violence prevention and intervention, there is no existing infrastructure to facilitate a community-led response to incidences of violence or crisis, such as homicides, shootings, and sexual assault. The County must better integrate resources in order to develop a coordinated community-based response system that can: 1) proactively build capacity and infrastructure in highly-impacted areas to prevent violence; and 2) mobilize and implement this infrastructure to respond to and interrupt incidences of violence, while fostering engagement, evaluation, and community- and system-level change as necessary.

This work is particularly salient as the County responds to calls for system-wide change to create a more equitable, anti-racist and just government. A robust violence prevention strategy must work with not only the Departments of Health, Mental Health, and Sheriff's, but also with the Office of Diversion and Reentry, Office of Immigrant Affairs, Workforce Development and Economic Development Boards, Office of Education, Human Relations Commission, and all other affected County departments, commissions and offices, to collaboratively bring to the forefront the range of services available for communities to lead healthy, trauma-free lives. Additionally, this work cannot be accomplished without capacity building and empowerment of the communities most impacted by such violence. The OVP, through its Trauma Prevention Initiative program, has laid down the groundwork through the establishment of community-led groups such as the Westmont West Athens Community Action for Peace.

There is also an economic imperative to do this. Estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that the cost of medical care and lost wages due to homicides, assaults, suicides and suicide attempts was over \$2.9 billion in 2014. These figures do not include costs for law enforcement, judicial processing, incarceration, and other services associated with homicides and suicides. Applying these averages to violent

crimes in the County in 2017 yields an overall estimate of \$5.3 billion, or a cost of \$526 for each County resident. Given the economic fragility of the County, State and nation, it is prudent to invest more in prevention to avoid the resulting costs of acts of violence and their related consequences.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct the Director of the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), in collaboration with the Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Directors of other associated and impacted Los Angeles County (County) departments, to report back in writing in 60 days with an Implementation Plan for the OVP's Strategic Plan, which would also include, without limitation, the creation of a coordinated, community-based Crisis Response and Violence Intervention Program (CRVIP), which would bring together hospital-based violence prevention, the Psychiatric Mobile Response Team and the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) ongoing work in Alternatives to Law Enforcement Crisis Response, Street Intervention and Safe Passage, and the Family Assistance Program. The CRVIP should include the development of a community-led program responsive to the needs and assets of individual and unique communities impacted by trauma, including:
 - Youth-led development, training and other community empowerment models;
 - Violence interruption strategies to deescalate and deter cycles of violence;
 - Collaboration and referral systems to ensure appropriate linkages to County services such as job training, health and behavioral health services, homelessness services, and reentry services; and

- Engagement with community-based organizations, and recommendations on contracting models to ensure funding, accountability and responsiveness to community needs.
2. As part of the Implementation Plan, instruct the Acting CEO in conjunction with the Director of the OVP to recommend a budget to implement the Strategic Plan, as well as maintain sustained operations of the OVP. This recommendation should identify philanthropic and other grant funding, as well as collaborative staffing and funding opportunities across County departments (e.g., Office of Diversion and Reentry, DMH, Probation Department, Department of Public Works, etc.) to cost-effectively support the OVP's Strategic Plan.

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CATEGORIES: (Please check those that apply)

- 1. Child Welfare
- 2. Community and Youth Empowerment
- 3. County Services
- 4. Economic Justice
- 5. Economic and Workforce Development
- 6. Education
- 7. Environment
- 8. Fiscal
- 9. Governance
- 10. Health
- 11. Homelessness
- 12. Immigration
- 13. Public Safety
- 14. Social Justice and Human Rights
- 15. Technology and Data
- 16. Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy
- 17. Legislation
- 18. Parks and Open Space
- 19. Planning/Land Use
- 20. Transportation
- 21. Veterans