

County of Los Angeles

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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November 21, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Philip L. Browning, Director 

SUBJECT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: MOTION ON DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY, PROSECUTE AND PREVENT FOOD STAMP TRAFFICKING IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY (BOARD ORDER #61-A-DECEMBER 12, 2006)

This is to provide an update to our letter to your Board on August 22, 2007, in response to the above motion directing DPSS, in consultation with the District Attorney (DA) and the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, to report on the development of a comprehensive program to identify, prosecute and prevent Food Stamp trafficking in Los Angeles County.

- The District Attorney Recipient Welfare Fraud Unit signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to obtain EBT cards to be used in the investigation of Food Stamp trafficking.
- As a result of one of these investigations, the District Attorney projects serving search warrants on a local market in early December 2007.
- Following completion of these investigations, DPSS and the DA will meet to assess funding needs and sources for continued investigation of referrals from the OIG/FNS.
- DPSS developed posters advising applicants and participants of the consequences and penalties for fraud, including selling their Food Stamp benefits and how to report suspected Food Stamp trafficking by both vendors and recipients. The posters will be distributed to DPSS district offices by the first week in December for display in the district lobby.

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We are hopeful that the collaborative efforts outlined above will result in a reduction of Food Stamp trafficking in Los Angeles County. We will provide your Board with an update following completion and assessment of the DA Investigation Unit's Food Stamp Trafficking pilot.

PLB:LL:mh

c: Chief Executive Officer
Deputy CEO
District Attorney
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors