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January 10, 2014

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND DEVELOPING A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE THROUGH THE L.A. COMPACT (ITEM 15, AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 26, 2013)

On November 26, 2013, a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to consult with the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Community and Senior Services (CSS), Probation, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce to determine the most appropriate individuals to represent the County on the L.A. Compact Steering Committee, and its various workgroups and committees, and report back in 45 days. Additionally, the CEO was directed to transmit a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce stating the Board's support for the L.A. Compact.

An amendment was made by Supervisor Antonovich to request that the L.A. Compact:

1) Include vocational education (including technical training, apprenticeships, etc.) as a primary goal of its efforts.
2) Engage school districts throughout the County.
3) Engage other chambers of commerce throughout the County.
4) Engage other economic development organizations including:
   a. Santa Clarita Economic Development Corporation
   b. Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance

c. San Gabriel Valley Economic Alliance
d. South Bay Workforce Investment Board
e. Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Board; and

5) Review alternative options to financing education that have been successful in other jurisdictions outside of California.

The L.A. Compact is a collaborative of 18 major institutions across Los Angeles working to create systemic change that better prepares students for higher education and sustainable careers. It is modeled after a similar effort that began in Boston in 1982 that demonstrated success by:

- Increasing college enrollment rate from 50 percent in 1985 to 78 percent in 2007;
- Adding privately funded financial aid counselors to local high schools;
- Prioritizing admissions and scholarships to Boston high school students attending local colleges and universities; and
- Developing alternative education programs that reportedly significantly reduced high school dropout rate.

The primary goals of the L.A. Compact are that:

1) All students graduate from high school;
2) All students have access to and are prepared for success in college; and
3) All students have access to pathways to sustainable jobs and careers.

To achieve these goals, the L.A. Compact created a Steering Committee and seven workgroups aimed at developing joint strategies and initiatives to address shared interests across these goal areas. In consultation with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, four L.A. Compact workgroups were identified that would benefit from additional County department and County-affiliated agency representation:

1) **Los Angeles Regional STEM Hub** – Seeks to expand student access to high-quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and provide pathways for STEM workforce and skills development across Los Angeles County school districts.

2) **Joint Advocacy** – Advocates for legislative educational policy and finance reform at the State and Federal levels.

3) **Grade Level Reading Collaborative** – Works to improve the number of low-income students reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade and ensure

that early red flags (i.e. low test scores, high absentee rates) are met with appropriate and timely responses.

4) **Steering Committee** – Serves as the coordinating body of the L.A. Compact and its seven workgroups by guiding strategic priorities, fund development, and accountability measurements.

This office further consulted with DCFS, Probation, LACOE, CSS, and the County's WIB to determine the most appropriate representatives for these workgroups, which have been identified as follows:

WORKGROUP	NAME	TITLE	DEPT
L.A. Regional Stem Hub	Maritza Dubie-Uribe	Manager, Youth Workforce Division	CSS
	Barbara Banck	Manager, WIA In-School Youth Program	CSS
	Raynette Sanchez	Director of Curriculum	LACOE
Joint Advocacy	Richard Verches	Exec Director, LA County WIB	CSS
	Jesus Corral	Senior Director of Education	Probation
	Denise Lytle	Gov't Relations Analyst	DCFS
	Raynette Sanchez	Director of Curriculum	LACOE
Grade Level Reading Collaborative	Jennifer Hottenroth	Director, Education & Mentoring Unit	DCFS
	Raynette Sanchez	Director of Curriculum	LACOE
Steering Committee	Carrie Miller*	Manager, Service Integration Branch	CEO

*This is a temporary assignment until the Director of the Education Coordinating Council position is filled.

Further, a five-signature letter to the LA Chamber of Commerce stating the Board's support for the L.A. Compact has been distributed to your offices.

In response to the Board Motion amendment, the L.A. Compact Steering Committee is actively seeking opportunities to engage other chambers of commerce and economic development organizations. They sought out LACOE's inclusion in the Compact to help facilitate engagement with the other 80 Los Angeles County school districts. The L.A. Compact has also made vocational education a focal point by including it in its primary goal #3 to have "*All students have access to pathways to sustainable jobs and careers.*" In addition, two of its workgroups, the Workforce Systems and Opportunity Youth Collaboratives, are working to help youth earn trade certificates, post-secondary credentials and Associate degrees leading to sustainable career paths.

Additionally, the L.A. Compact strongly supported the recent overhaul of California's K-12 education funding system to move to weighted-student funding formulas that align with best practices observed in other states and cities, including: Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Clark County Nevada, Denver, Hartford, Hawaii, Houston, New York, Oakland, and San Francisco. The L.A. Compact is committed to searching for ways to further improve education financing, and will continue to research new models to do so in jurisdictions both within and outside of California.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Antonia Jiménez at (213) 974-7365, or via e-mail at ajimenez@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:AJ
CDM:MP:eb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chamber of Commerce
Children and Family Services
Community and Senior Services
Office of Education
Probation
Workforce Investment Board

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