

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL**

**MAY 10, 2016**

**Responding to the Public’s Call to Address the Homelessness Crisis**

On February 23, 2016, the Board of Supervisors (Board) (MRT/MA) instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to explore options that would provide ongoing revenue dedicated specifically to addressing the homeless crisis in Los Angeles County (County). The Board also directed the CEO to conduct polling and research activities to inform the Board as to the optimum timing of when to submit the various revenue options, if authorized, for voter approval and how the options should be crafted to ensure efficacy, transparency, accountability and the highest likelihood of passage.

On March 9, 2016, the CEO provided the Board with a report on the various revenue options for consideration, including a parcel tax, redirection of Measure B revenue, a marijuana tax, a transaction and use tax, and a tax on personal income over \$1 million per year.

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MOTION

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On April 22, 2016, the CEO released the polling results. When likely voters were asked an open-ended question about the most important problems facing the County, the homeless crisis was the second most cited problem (behind economy and jobs). The polling results also showed that 76 percent of likely voters would strongly support a November 2016 ballot initiative to impose a one-half percent tax on income above \$1 million. Further, 68 percent of voters would support a one-half percent transaction and use tax. Finally, the poll found that the presence of such homeless measures on the November 2016 ballot would have no negative impacts on the potential transportation or parks measures, or on a statewide revenue initiative, all of which were also broadly supported by voters.

On May 4, 2016, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) released the results of the annual Homeless Count for Los Angeles County, which included data from the Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena and Glendale Continuum of Care jurisdictions. The 2016 Homeless Count results showed that the overall number of homeless persons in Los Angeles County increased by 6% to 46,874 persons. The number of unsheltered homeless persons living on the street, in encampments, tents and vehicles increased by 11%. However, the number of homeless veterans in the County decreased by 30% and the number of persons in families with children decreased by 18%. These results demonstrate that much more work remains to be done to address homeless persons living on the streets, who may have chronic health and mental health issues and

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may benefit from affordable housing coupled with intensive home- and community-based supportive services. The LAHSA data also clearly demonstrate the efficacy of increased, coordinated and targeted investments for homeless veterans and homeless families. Without these increased and targeted investments, the tremendous progress in reducing the numbers of homeless veterans and homeless families would not have occurred.

In order to preserve the personal income tax funding option for the November 2016 ballot, an amendment to State law is necessary to authorize counties to seek voter approval to impose a local income tax to combat homelessness, and such an amendment must be secured immediately.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** direct the Chief Executive Officer and the County's Sacramento Legislative Representatives to pursue a change in State law to grant counties the authority to seek voter approval of a tax on personal income above \$1 million/year to combat homelessness.

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(YV/DW)