

**MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS AND SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**November 1, 2016**

**Continuing the County’s Commitment to My Brother’s Keeper**

The *My Brother’s Keeper Community Challenge* (MBK Challenge) was launched by President Obama in February 2014. The MBK Challenge called upon cities, counties and tribal governments to develop plans that would close existing educational and opportunity gaps for boys and young men of color through a cradle-to-college-and-career approach.

On April 14, 2015, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) accepted the MBK Challenge, and soon thereafter convened a Local Action Summit (Summit) to launch this work. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) then worked with internal and external partners to develop action-oriented recommendations with targeted outcomes to help eliminate opportunity gaps and barriers facing youth, including boys and men of color, in the County.

The County, with leadership from the CEO embarked on a strategy to develop recommendations that were informed by research, best practices and community input. Specifically, the County:

1. Conferred with key leaders of universities, community colleges, foundations, youth organizations, private enterprise, and other regional stakeholders, including national leaders on MBK such as The California Endowment and PolicyLink;
2. Researched and incorporated national best practices and convened the five local cities that also accepted the MBK Challenge (Compton, Culver City, Hawthorne, Long Beach and Los Angeles) to discuss these best practices and lessons learned;
3. Held an MBK Summit where community and other stakeholders gathered to develop a set of strategies to address the disparate outcomes of boys and men of color.

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4. Collaborated with 18 County departments and non-County partners to: (a) organize the MBK Summit; (b) develop environmental scans of County programs, resources and legislation impacting boys and men of color; (c) collect/review population-based data; (d) develop draft recommendations to engage Summit participants; and (e) review/refine recommendations that resulted from the Summit and became part of the final MBK Report to the Board.

The CEO's resulting *My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge Report* (Report) to the Board consisted of 19 highly vetted recommendations and strategies that address the MBK goals and collectively serve as the foundation for developing and implementing a County MBK Action Plan subsequent to Board action.

The County is not alone in its MBK endeavor. Similar efforts are occurring at local and national levels on this important issue, backed by significant financial investments. Additionally, 16 Federal agencies have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to improve collaboration across the Federal government in support of efforts by local communities to build better outcomes through place-based initiatives that align with the MBK population, such as the Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) program, Promise Neighborhoods and Promise Zones to name a few.

To fast track implementation and ensure early progress on behalf of boys and men of color, key recommendations on MBK were developed as part of Phase I. The Phase I recommendations are:

1. Convert the existing CEO MBK collaborative into the County's coordinating body comprised of representatives from various County departments, MBK cities and select external partners to ensure the success of MBK efforts; and explore an MBK regional approach in which the County partners with local MBK cities and seeks opportunities to expand MBK projects to other cities within the County.
2. Adopt the Life Course Framework developed by Arnold Chandler as a model for the County.
3. Host regional symposiums for school districts to develop shared strategies and priorities around MBK data, issues, and outcomes.
4. Host an MBK Youth Summit in early 2017 and convene an annual MBK Action Summit.
5. Explore the creation of a Countywide mentoring program.
6. Explore increasing the availability of co-located County services at libraries and parks.
7. Eliminate barriers and streamline the County's hiring process for youth and increase the number of County internship opportunities.

8. Explore the development of a plan to survey, compile and assess the use of diversion programs by prosecuting agencies, probation and law enforcement agencies Countywide; expand and standardize diversion eligibility guidelines countywide; and, complete an assessment of disproportionality at all contact points in the juvenile justice system and identify opportunities to reduce disproportionality.

Progress has been made on many of these Phase I strategies. To maximize the collective impact of these recommendations, the CEO, in conjunction with representatives from different departments and external partners, should continue to work together to identify areas of alignment with other complementary County and non-County efforts.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Accept the recommendations and strategies contained in the Chief Executive Office's *My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge Report*, and
2. Instruct the CEO to:
  - a. Continue to work with different County departments and external partners to implement the strategies in Phase I to improve opportunities and outcomes for boys and young men of color; and,
  - b. Report back verbally and in writing within 180 days with an update on the progress made in planning and implementation efforts.

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