

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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June 13, 2017

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

81 June 13, 2017

LORI GLASGOW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

APPOINTMENT, SALARY, AND RELOCATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER - CORONER (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Recommendation to appoint, set the salary, and approve relocation expenses for Dr. Jonathan Lucas, to serve as the Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner for the County of Los Angeles.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

- 1. Appoint Dr. Jonathan Lucas to the position of Chief Medical Examiner Coroner at an annual salary of \$350,000, effective July 10, 2017.
- 2. Approve reimbursement of up to \$25,000 for reasonable actual relocation costs for Dr. Lucas, and reimbursement for temporary housing costs.
- 3. Instruct the Director of Personnel to execute an at-will employment contract, which is approved as to form by County Counsel.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to appoint a Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner for the County of Los Angeles; to set the salary for the position for Dr. Jonathan Lucas; and to authorize the payment of reasonable actual relocation costs for Dr. Lucas to the Los Angeles County area and temporary housing rental costs.

Dr. Lucas will perform the statutory functions to protect the public health and legal requirements of Los Angeles County relating to Forensic Pathology. He will be responsible for guiding the continuous transformation of the Department to a more responsive and cost-efficient organization that is a model of innovation and effective use of technology throughout California and on a national level.

In addition to performing the duties of a forensic pathologist, Dr. Lucas will be responsible for the overall administrative and operational effectiveness of the Department. He will work closely with a range of stakeholders which include law enforcement, courts, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and other justice agencies, foreign consulates, the news media, and funeral directors.

Dr. Lucas has over 16 years of forensic pathology experience, including executive management experience in the public sector. Most recently, Dr. Lucas has served as the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner in the County of San Diego's Medical Examiner's Office, where he was responsible for acting as the principal assistant to the Chief Medical Examiner, and managed the activities of the Pathology Division. Dr. Lucas personally performed over 4,000 forensic autopsies and supervised over 500 forensic autopsies. He also held the position of Deputy Medical Examiner II with San Diego County. Prior to his service in San Diego, Dr. Lucas served as a City Medical Examiner II for New York City's Office of Chief Medical Examiner where he performed 548 forensic autopsies.

Dr. Lucas received his M.D. from the University of Nevada School of Medicine and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of California, Riverside.

Given Dr. Lucas' experience, it is recommended that the Board of Supervisors appoint Dr. Lucas as Chief Medical Examiner – Coroner, effective July 10, 2017, with an annual salary of \$350,000, and authorize the payment of actual relocation expenses for Dr. Lucas to the Los Angeles County area, and temporary housing costs.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of these recommendations will further the County of Los Angeles' Strategy III.3, Pursue Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability to continually assess our efficiency and effectiveness, maximize and leverage resources, and hold ourselves accountable.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The cost of the recommended annual salary will be absorbed within the Department of the Medical Examiner – Coroner's current budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The recommended salary will provide appropriate compensation to Dr. Lucas to perform the duties of Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner.

Sochi a. Hamai

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Implementation of these recommendations will provide leadership for the Department of the Medical Examiner - Coroner.

Respectfully submitted,

SACHI A. HAMAI

Chief Executive Officer

SAH:JJ:MM:MTK

NV:TL:mst

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors County Counsel Auditor-Controller

Human Resources

Medical Examiner - Coroner