



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Health Services
Director of Personnel

At its meeting held May 18, 2004, the Board took the following action:

85-B

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“The Los Angeles Times recently reported about how a former employee of King/Drew Medical Center was able to obtain access to patient information because he retained his County identification badge, despite having left the facility’s employment several years earlier. This breach of the protocol that requires employees to turn in their badges upon leaving County service has significant safety implications for both patients and staff at our County facilities. The Director of Health Services needs to take whatever steps necessary to make sure that former employees do not have improper access to patients or confidential patient information.”

Therefore, Supervisor Burke made a motion that the Board instruct the Director of Health Services to work in concert with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Personnel to evaluate potential system improvements in the management of employee identification cards, such as the regular reissuance of badges to employees (e.g., annually or biannually) and the clear identification of replacement badges; and report back to the Board within 30 days with findings and recommendations.

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“I support the motion that the Department of Health Services needs to take necessary steps to make sure that former employees do not have improper access to patients or confidential patient information. However, the Board’s concern should not be limited to just one department.”

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85-B (Continued)

Therefore, Supervisor Knabe made a suggestion that Supervisor Burke's motion be amended to instruct the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Personnel, in consultation with County Counsel and affected Department Heads, to report back to the Board in 30 days with the following:

1. Findings, recommendations and actions taken for employee identification system improvements needed Countywide for positions involving trust or authority relationships with the public such as County employees whose job it is to enter residents' homes and/or businesses or to obtain or access confidential information; and
2. Whether current law provides criminal penalties for wrongful possession or use of an employee identification badge for all such public trust and public authority positions.

Supervisor Burke accepted Supervisor Knabe's amendment. Supervisor Burke's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, was unanimously carried.

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County Counsel