

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

May 1, 2018

Developing a Path for Instituting a Probation Oversight Commission

The Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) has remained steadfast in its commitment to provide all County constituents with the highest quality supports and services possible. The Board’s objective is to uphold the delegated responsibility for protecting the health, safety, well-being, and environmental needs of residents throughout the County. One of the biggest challenges centers on bringing the County’s Probation Department (Department) under full compliance with operational and fiscal standards. It is well documented that the Department has struggled for years to fulfill its mandate of rehabilitating and reintegrating the youth and adults it serves.

As a result, on February 16, 2016, the Board unanimously passed a Ridley-Thomas – Kuehl motion titled “Exploring Best Practice Models in Probation.” This motion focused on assessing the Department’s structure and operations with the goal of making recommendations for improvements. That process led to hiring a consultant group, Resource Development Associates (RDA), which retained local and national

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SOLIS _____

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BARGER _____

KUEHL _____

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experts in justice reform. RDA completed their work, compiled findings, and submitted to the Board a final report with recommendations, titled “The Los Angeles County Probation Governance Study” (Governance Study), on February 2, 2018.

In addition, on October 17, 2017, the approved Ridley-Thomas – Hahn motion “Exploring Protocols and Structures to Actualize Ongoing Probation Reform and Accountability” further directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to lead a workgroup of key stakeholders, with the requirement of developing protocols to synthesize all existing recommendations for Department reform through an independent structure (including consideration for the seven primary recommendations issued by RDA in their Governance Study). The Board also requested a report that would include: providing legal analysis regarding the charter responsibilities of the existing Probation Commission (Commission) to determine if and how the Commission could be modified for the purpose of oversight; the feasibility of establishing an investigatory role for the County’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) external to the Department; streamlining all existing Department oversight efforts to avoid duplication of other entities’ charter obligations; and assessing staffing and funding needs required to fully effectuate and sustain ongoing Department reforms.

On April 9, 2018, in response to the Board’s directive, the CEO delivered a report outlining a plan to establish an independent commission. This commission is intended to oversee ongoing reform efforts within the Probation Department, as well as to provide counsel and direction, with regards to emerging youth and adult supervision policies

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and practices. These recommendations would further the County's ability to develop mechanisms for accountability and transparency.

The County has the components necessary to transform the Department. The County has accumulated a wealth of well-researched reports, audits and recommendations; now is the moment to realize sustainable reformation. The integration of all moving pieces is required to ensure that true culture change in the Department can be achieved. Innovative transformation must be instituted immediately in order to fulfill the County's responsibility to its charges.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- 1) Accept the recommendations provided by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the "Report Back on Options for An Independent Entity Focused on Probation Department Reform and Public Accountability" (herein Probation Oversight Commission (POC) Report Back), submitted to the Board of Supervisors (Board) on April 9, 2018.
- 2) Direct the CEO, in consultation with County Counsel, the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, and the Chief Probation Officer, along with other Directors of Departments/entities deemed appropriate and necessary by the CEO, to establish the Reform and Implementation Team (Team) as described in the CEO's April 9, 2018 report.
- 3) Direct the CEO to work with the Reform and Implementation Team to:
 - a) Develop a staffing and funding plan for the permanent POC and the Office of Inspector General to include appointment guidelines for proposed

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appointees to the permanent POC;

- b) Provide quarterly in-person updates, or as determined to be necessary by the Board, (starting the first full quarter after the Executive Director is hired) the Team's deliverables outlined in the CEO's April 9, 2018 report.
- c) Ensure that work is conducted transparently and consistent with the themes of public accountability discussed in the CEO's April 9, 2018 report.

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