

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
KATHRYN BARGER

May 1, 2018

On January 16, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in conjunction with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, to assess the services provided by Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) providers, to compare rates of reimbursement paid to nurses and doctors with advanced forensic training for sexual assault forensic examinations, to report back on the number of exams performed for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff), and to evaluate funding opportunities to help identify ongoing support for the vital service and unfunded mandate.

For nearly a decade there had been no increase in the reimbursement rate offered to nurses and doctors who perform these exams. Moreover, there was no built-in mechanism to ensure that rising costs of service delivery would be mirrored in reimbursement rates. These forensic medical professionals are a dedicated group who offer personal attention and compassion to crime victims in times of need. Providing these professionals with compensation commensurate with their level of expertise will help to ensure that they can afford to continue to provide this specialized service. Good

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MOTION

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RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
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BARGER	_____
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exams and expert witnesses help to build good cases; and with good cases, the criminal justice system gets better results and victims and accused assailants are more likely to receive better outcomes as well.

The CEO acknowledged in its response to the January 16, 2018 motion that the reimbursement rates are outdated and recommended they be adjusted appropriately.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer and the County Sheriff to:

1. Increase the reimbursement rate for all sexual assault forensic examinations of victims and suspects from \$730 to \$1,020 per exam;
2. Adjust the reimbursement rate annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI);
3. Increase the reimbursement rate for incomplete examinations from \$200 to \$300 per exam; and
4. Annually adjust the reimbursement rate for incomplete examinations, using the same principles outlined in Directive 2 above.

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JH:dg