

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

May 15, 2018

**Proclaiming May 13-19, 2018 National Prevention Week**

National Prevention Week (NPW) is a health observance held annually during the third week in May to increase public awareness of, and action around, substance abuse and mental health issues. This event is held during an important time for schools, communities, and health service providers to refocus on the investments and benefits of prevention. On an average day in June or July, more than 4,800 youths used marijuana for the first time, whereas the daily average ranged from about 3,000 to 4,000 in other months. The end of the school year is a key period of social transition, a risk factor for youth substance use, and an opportunity to develop or strengthen the community, school and family bonds.

Every day, the County invests in prevention strategies by supporting a network of community-based organizations with a mission to reduce underage and binge drinking, marijuana availability among youth, prescription and over-the-counter medication misuse, and to establish community conditions and norms that lead to healthier lives and safer communities.

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MOTION

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RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

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The County aims to increase awareness of the emerging risk of marijuana vaping and edibles, which are targeted to appeal to youth and be concealed from adults. Both forms are significantly more potent than traditional smoking methods.

Especially this week, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health invites schools, colleges, universities, communities, organizations, along with public officials and County employees to come together to raise awareness about the risks of underage drinking, marijuana, and other drug use to equip youth with the best information to make healthy and safe decisions about alcohol and drug use (i.e., school assemblies and social media chats), and take action to reduce the impact of mental and substance use disorders in Los Angeles County communities.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim May 13-19, 2018 as National Prevention Week in the County of Los Angeles.

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JH:jb