

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

AUGUST 14, 2018

**ADVANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**

Los Angeles County plays a critical role in creating conditions favorable to business development and retention. Government policies can make the difference between an investor deciding on Los Angeles County or another attractive market. The County must constantly take inventory of the policies, programs, and incentives in place for businesses. Regulations, taxes, and fees have an impact on the ability to start, maintain, or grow a business, as does the extended permitting process.

On September 26, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion that directed the Economy and Efficiency Commission to report back with recommendations on how to strengthen business retention and expansion efforts in Los Angeles County. The report from the Commission, *Advancing Economic Development Strategies in Los Angeles County*, outlines four overarching strategies that will help attract, retain, and grow business in the County.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office, working with relevant departments, to conduct feasibility analyses and develop timelines for implementation of the following four strategies as outlined in the Economy and Efficiency Commission’s report issued on August 14, 2018 and report back in 60 days.

1. *Grow the Biosciences Sector.* The Commission recommends (a) investment in the startup phases of companies in this sector through a privately managed bioscience fund; (b) collaboration with local universities and colleges to build a talent pool for this growing sector; (c) studying successful entrepreneurship communities and replicate patterns to spur growth across the County; and (d) creating “think tanks” made up of private-public sector leaders to help solve problems related to growth sectors,

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2. *Integrate Internal Systems and Add Smart Technology.* The Commission recommends integrating the EPIC-LA, Small Business Concierge Service, Vendor-Self-Service System, and Small Business Registration/Certification processes under a single platform as well as building in machine learning algorithms to better respond to business needs,
3. *Develop a Robust Pipeline of Skilled Workers.* The Commission recommends that the County invest in a regional training system that unites universities and employers to develop essential skilled tech workforce that can respond nimbly to innovations in growth industries, and,
4. *Use Technology-Enabled Services to Improve the Land Entitlement Process.* The Commission recommends (a) developing a Business Concierge Service, similar to the one-stop small business concierge service, to help large businesses; and (b) building a centralized database system of all fee schedules, with capabilities that would allow customers to estimate the costs of services, view accounts, and pay online.

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