

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

September 3, 2019

Proclaiming September 2019 as National Preparedness Month

The County of Los Angeles (County) is susceptible to various risks and hazards such as earthquakes, wildland fires, floods, debris and mudflows, active shooter attacks, pandemic illnesses, and extreme weather conditions. The 2018 Woolsey Fire and July 2019 Ridgecrest earthquake and aftershocks felt in our County are important recent reminders that disaster preparedness is critical and needed in order to safeguard lives, property, the environment, and the economy.

The sheer size of our County means that individuals and households need to be prepared in order to act and remain safe after a disaster strikes. Unfortunately, national studies have found that United States residents lack the knowledge, tools, and resources to be resilient and remain self-sufficient after a disaster or emergency.

For the past 10 years, the County of Los Angeles has been steadily cultivating a culture of disaster preparedness locally by implementing disaster preparedness outreach, education, trainings and offering free materials to the public in multiple languages. Various County departments and partner agencies have dedicated resources to promote

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disaster preparedness year-round and increase their outreach and programming each Fall season. This is in support of the County of Los Angeles' Prepareathon, a campaign annually coordinated by the Chief Executive Office's Office of Emergency Management in partnership with the United States Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The County should continue emphasizing the need for individuals, families, and communities to actively take the time to learn lifesaving skills, practice disaster readiness steps like assembling a safety kit, developing an evacuation plan, and other disaster preparedness actions that will help keep them safe.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of September 2019 as "National Preparedness Month" in the County of Los Angeles, to raise public awareness of the need to learn and practice disaster preparedness activities, recognize the efforts of County departments and partner agencies who work to promote disaster preparedness, and encourage all County residents to focus their efforts on disaster readiness before the next disaster strikes.

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