

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND JANICE HAHN

October 27, 2020

Promoting the Health and Safety of Patients, Visitors and Employees on the County of Los Angeles' Medical Campuses

On October 6, 2020, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputy (Deputy) from the South Los Angeles Station shot and seriously injured a psychiatric patient on the surgery ward at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Campus (Harbor-UCLA). The Deputy was on-site to provide security for another hospitalized patient who was in an adjacent room.

This is the second use of lethal force at Harbor-UCLA within the past five years. On December 19, 2015, a patient with mental illness was fatally shot by a Los Angeles police officer inside the Harbor-UCLA emergency room.

The health and safety of patients, visitors and employees on the County of Los Angeles' (County) medical campuses must be paramount in order to provide effective medical care. While efforts have been made by the Department of Health Services to educate deputies who are assigned to the medical campuses and train them on de-escalation strategies, it is unclear whether deputies who are assigned to provide personal security for patients on the campus undergo similar training.

The recent incident that occurred at Harbor-UCLA requires a fair and thorough investigation by the Office of the Inspector General to ensure justice is served and prevent this type of event from occurring in the future. Moreover, this incident necessitates an inquiry regarding the role of armed law enforcement within the County's medical facilities.

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MOTION

SOLIS _____

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WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Inspector General to take all actions necessary to conduct a thorough and fair investigation of the shooting of a patient by Sheriff's Department personnel on October 6, 2020 at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Campus;
2. Direct the Acting Chief Executive Officer and the Director of the Department of Health Services to complete a review of best practices related to the provision of security services on medical campuses, including services provided by both law enforcement entities and contracted security firms and, in consultation with medical campus stakeholders, report back to the Board of Supervisors (Board) in writing within 60 days with recommendations on the optimal strategy for promoting community safety on Los Angeles County medical campuses; and
3. Direct County Counsel to report back in writing in 60 days on the Board's authority to impose restrictions and/or training requirements with respect to the presence of armed law enforcement officers that are assigned to protect individuals on medical campuses, or are temporarily assigned to medical campuses.

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(KK/DBV)