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**Expansion and Standardization of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)  
Data Collection in Los Angeles County**

The Board of Supervisors (Board) has demonstrated a strong commitment to data transparency. Widening the breadth of data elements that are being captured by our systems is one way to gain a clearer picture of current disparities. Other key objectives of this evolving work are enhanced public trust and community engagement, creating policies that lead to improved outcomes, and moving toward greater accountability.

Efforts to increase data collection and dissemination include: the County’s Open Data Portal which launched in 2015; the Creation of a Criminal Justice Data Sharing Initiative in Los Angeles County (Supervisors Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas, August 4, 2020); Including Juvenile Data in Los Angeles County’s Criminal Justice Data Sharing Initiative (Supervisors Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas, November 24, 2020); and Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner Collection of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data (Supervisors Barger and Kuehl, September 3, 2019). Data analytics and care coordination are two areas that benefit from the expansion and

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standardization of pertinent information collected by County departments. When we know who we are serving, we are better able to meet their needs, as well as identify patterns that help us meaningfully address inequities.

We have witnessed the massive burden that the pandemic has overwhelmingly placed on people of color—who are more likely to become seriously ill from COVID-19 than white individuals. Social determinants of health—such as economic stability, social and community context, health care, neighborhood and built environment—do not exist apart from structural racism and other forms of profoundly embedded practices within our society that perpetuate longstanding inequities.

Marginalized communities experience the material impacts of these realities on a daily basis. These groups are not mutually exclusive and data collection is especially critical for capturing the realities of those who exist in overlapping marginalized groups, thereby experiencing compounding oppression. LGBTQ+ people have been historically overlooked in the realm of data collection, pushing them further into the periphery. The AIDS epidemic was a prime example of this community being ignored and rendered invisible by the government during one of the most devastating public health crises in modern times. The progress that has been made in terms of visibility, policy, and resources for queer and trans folks in the intervening years has been significant, but at times, it has also been inadequate. At the state level, SB 932 went into effect on September 26th, mandating the collection of SOGI data for COVID-19 patients. This is an important step on the path toward the standardization of this practice and an acknowledgement that the LGBTQ+ community matters, but it does not go far enough.

The County has dedicated considerable efforts to righting the damaging trend of leaving out SOGI information in data collection, affirming the value of obtaining this data along with other relevant data that is routinely collected, such as race and ethnicity. The

Chief Information Office's (CIO) Information Management Committee has led this work, raising awareness about the spectrum of gender identities and sexual orientations and developing a central repository containing over 21 million records. The CIO has helped establish the foundation for increased standardization across departments. It is time for the County to take the next step in ensuring that SOGI data is being systematically collected and that all residents are being represented.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office in coordination with the Chief Information Office and Information Management Committee report back to the Board in 90 days with the following:

1. A status report on the progress made on creating standardized questions to be asked in SOGI data collection that are in compliance with state mandates on recording and reporting. This update should include input from statewide LGBTQ+ advocates including, but not limited to, Equality California, the Los Angeles LGBT Center, TransLatin@ Coalition, and Gender Justice LA;
2. Recommendations for establishing a Countywide policy that would require departments and agencies of the County to collect SOGI data where appropriate in instances where they are also collecting data on race/ethnicity and other social determinants of health; and
3. Recommendations for, and cost analysis on, strategies that can be implemented to make meaningful progress toward collection and reporting of SOGI data in Los Angeles County. These recommendations to be created in consultation with the Information Technology Governance Bodies.