

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 5, 2021

**Accelerating Efforts to Ensure Free Phone Calls and At-Cost Commissary Items in Los Angeles County Jails and Probation Facilities**

On May 18, 2021, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion<sup>1</sup> directing the Internal Services Department (ISD), in collaboration with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), Chief Executive Office (CEO), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and other relevant Departments to submit a report on the fiscal impact of making telephone calls from LA County jails and the Probation Department's (Probation) camps and halls at no cost to people in custody, other no-cost options, and other related items.

On August 18, 2021, the working group submitted their report in response to this motion<sup>2</sup>. Due to the complex and dynamic nature and operational impact, further information is necessary to ensure that the Board proceeds with the most appropriate option to assist those in custody and their loved ones.

<sup>1</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/158401.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/158469.pdf>

MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Request that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, in collaboration with the CEO, ISD, OIG, and other relevant Departments to submit a report back in 30 days on the following:
  - a. The total number of calls by those in custody for the last three complete fiscal years;
  - b. The total number of calls by those in custody for the last three complete fiscal years, disaggregated by facility; and
  - c. The total paid by those in custody for the calls referenced in (a) and (b) above for the last three complete fiscal years, disaggregated by facility.
  
2. Direct the CEO to, and request that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, in collaboration with ISD, OIG, and other relevant Departments, submit a report back in 90 days on funding estimates to upgrade the wired and/or wireless infrastructure of Los Angeles County jails to support the implementation of voice over internet protocol (VOIP) telephone calls and other potential technology options, like application calling services through tablets, iPads, desktop computers, and laptops; and video conferencing services platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, WebEx, Skype, etc.
  - a. The report back should include costs, logistics, timeline, potential funding sources, and other information and details that would provide a plan on

how the Board would implement each of the three recommendations per the August 18, 2021 report back.

3. Direct the CEO and the Chief Probation Officer, in collaboration with ISD, OIG, and other relevant Departments, to submit a report back in 90 days on funding estimates to upgrade the wired and/or wireless infrastructure of Probation camps and halls, if warranted, to support the implementation of voice over internet protocol (VOIP) telephone calls and other potential technology options, like application calling services through tablets, iPads, desktop computers, and laptops; and video conferencing services platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, WebEx, Skype, etc.
  - a. The report back should include costs, logistics, timeline, potential funding sources, and other information and details that would provide a plan on how the Board would implement recommendations.
4. Request that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and direct the CEO, County Counsel, and Chief Probation Officer to report back in 90 days on recommendations for contractual and/or solicitation next steps for short-term and long-term options to ensure free in-custody telephone calls for those in custody in Los Angeles County jails and maintain free phone calls in the Probation Department's camps and halls. The options should include contract provisions to be negotiated and timelines for implementation.
  - a. This directive incorporates and supersedes directive #3 from the Board's May 18, 2021 motion. The workgroup from directive #3 should continue their work and incorporate it into the report required in this directive.

5. Direct CEO, OIG, and other relevant Departments, working with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, to report back in 60 days on identifying funding sources, other than the Inmate Welfare Fund, to supplement the costs of programming and services in the jails for people who are incarcerated, as it relates to revenue from phone calls and commissary items.

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