



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Joanne Sturges, Acting Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Acting Director of Health Services

At its meeting held April 4, 2006, the Board took the following action:

87-C

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Molina:

“In the course of constructing the Gold Line Eastside Extension, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) uncovered over 150 grave sites on the Los Angeles County crematorium property. Of the grave sites, 108 of the graves had skeletal remains; the remaining burial plots contained artifacts and decayed coffins. While overseeing the excavation of the site, MTA’s archeologist discovered that Chinese grave markers had been used to line the driveway leading to the crematorium.

“As the crematorium is owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, it is imperative that the County take immediate steps to relocate the grave markers to a more dignified and appropriate location. The crematorium records are incomplete and are spread throughout several County departments and archives.”

Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Molina, and on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisors Molina and Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Acting Director of Health Services to:
 - Investigate why and when grave markers were removed from their original locations at the Los Angeles County crematorium property and report back to the Board within 30 days;
 - Remove the grave markers lining the crematorium driveway after the markers have been properly cataloged and documented prior to removal, with such work to be overseen by a professional archeologist;

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- Research and compile all burial and cremation records relating to the County crematorium and cemetery site so that individuals searching for deceased family members have one historical record to review;
 - Work with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Resident Advisory Committee and the appropriate Chinese historical and cultural organizations to ensure that the markers are relocated to an appropriate location, and once completed, to share the historical records from the County's facility with the appropriate historical organizations for their use and records; and
2. Authorized the Acting Director of Health Services to hire the necessary consultants to conduct the work as outlined above.

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Each Supervisor

Chief Administrative Officer

County Counsel