

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KNABE AND YAROSLAVSKY

January 29, 2013

The Board of Supervisors created the Los Angeles County Office of Small Business (OSB) in 1997 to: provide a one-stop location for local small business to obtain information on County contracting and procurement opportunities; ensure that small businesses can compete for County business on a level playing field; and work with other agencies to stimulate local small business development and growth.

Shortly after its creation, OSB sought the assistance of an Advisory Board, comprised largely of small business owners, to help develop a mission statement and provide guidance for the County’s program; and In May 2001, the Board of Supervisors restructured the Office of Small Business Advisory Board into the Los Angeles County Small Business Commission. The Commission provides ongoing advice and support to the Board of Supervisors to help small business grow and do business with and in Los Angeles County.

It is Board policy that the County should assist the interests of local small businesses to the maximum extent possible to ensure that they receive a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts or subcontracts for purchase of goods or services for the County.

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In December 2012, the Commission wrote each Board member to acknowledge the active and supportive role played by County departments in the small business program. The Commission went on to recommend that more be done in the areas of: 1) establishing a utilization goal for purchasing and contracting dollars with local small businesses; 2) providing regular reports reflecting the overall and individual department results in achieving the goal; 3) reviewing the existing local small business program and activities to determine its effectiveness; 4) consideration of raising departmental delegated purchasing authority for local small business awards; and 5) establishing a Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise Preference Program.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of the Internal Services Department to work with County Counsel and other County departments, as necessary, to investigate and report back to the Board within 90 days with recommendations in response to the Small Business Commission's priorities in order to enhance the County's local small business programs.

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