

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS**

April 12, 2016

Standardizing and Quantifying Countywide Prop 47 Cost Savings

On November 5, 2014, California voters approved into law The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act (“Proposition 47”), which reduces the classification of certain non-violent and non-serious drug possession and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. This proposition was intended to redirect resources away from incarceration towards supportive evidence-based alternatives, like mental health and substance abuse treatment and victims’ services, which break the cycle of expensive incarceration. As a result, on the same day, the Board of Supervisors (Board) requested reports back from several Los Angeles County Departments on Prop 47 policy implications related to jail population management and evidence-based approaches to reducing recidivism (MRT). A year later, on December 1, 2015, the Board directed the creation of several taskforces to assess the number of eligible residents under Prop 47 and identification/ outreach methods, develop a strategy to bolster access for wraparound service and programmatic support and opportunities for Prop 47 eligible

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residents, and through community input, develop recommendations for applying for State funding related to projected cost savings (HS/MRT). Furthermore, this motion requested the Auditor-Controller to analyze any past and potential future cost savings and methodologies County Departments are using for this analysis.

The April 5th, 2016, report back from the Auditor-Controller (A-C) to the Board related to fiscal impacts of Prop 47 estimated for three of eight Los Angeles County Departments providing Prop 47 services, there were net cost savings of approximately \$9.2 million for fiscal year 2015-16 (these estimates include savings of \$14.8 million and cost increases of \$5.6 million). Of concern, however, was that the A-C found that none of the eight identified departments had established mechanisms to adequately track the workload and cost impact of Prop 47 on their respective departments, including cost savings. The A-C also made recommendations for improving data collection, which, if not implemented, will pose challenges for the County to effectively assess Prop 47's ongoing impact, and the ability to maximize the potential benefits in keeping with the spirit and statutory language of Prop 47.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS direct the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Auditor-Controller's Office, to:

- 1) Work with representatives from eight Los Angeles County (County) departments (Sheriff, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Department of Health Services, Department of Public Health and Department of Mental Health), in consultation with

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the Information Systems Advisory Body, to develop and immediately implement a continuum of workload and outcome tracking methods and metrics for mandatory utilization by all relevant County departments identified in the Auditor-Controller's report ("Proposition 47 – Analysis of Cost Savings and Service Improvements," April 5, 2016, herein referred to as Auditor-Controller's report) that considers including, at a minimum but not limited to, the "Recommended Proposition 47 Data Tracking" indicators identified in Attachment II of the Auditor-Controller's report, and a methodology and rationale for using these indicators, in order to provide linkage between Prop 47-related workload changes and cost-savings and cost-increases attributed to Proposition 47, as well as identifying co-occurring influences on workload and outcomes, such as the relative composition of cases (e.g., severity of felony filings, changes in inmate service needs, etc.)

- 2) Direct the CEO to retain outside expertise to work with the eight departments listed above, along with the Auditor Controller and Information Systems Advisory Body, to identify and develop the best indicators, metrics and methodology, as discussed in the previous directive, to determine cost savings and cost avoidance;
- 3) Provide an analysis on existing barriers to data collection and cost impact (cost savings and/or cost increase), with recommended

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immediate and long-term solutions to overcoming these barriers, for those departments that do not currently have the infrastructure or capacity to implement the first directive;

- 4) Direct the Auditor-Controller to provide an oral report to the Board at the April 12, 2016 Board Meeting on the Auditor-Controller's report.
- 5) Require impacted County departments (the eight listed previously) to submit for CEO compilation quarterly reports on cost changes to inform effective Proposition 47 implementation. Cost savings are not to be reallocated to other projects or shortfalls without approval or consideration by the Board of Supervisors; and
- 6) Report back to the Board in writing within 45 days with the proposed metrics, barriers, and solutions to implementation as identified in previous directives, to include a plan for timely roll-out to the County departments and implementation timeline to ensure that data tracking and cost savings analysis is effectively implemented and utilized by the County well before any potential sunset date (currently November 2017) for Proposition 47.

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(DJJ/MN)