

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

October 2, 2012

Establishment of Citizens' Law Enforcement Commission and Office of the Inspector General

Each day, our law enforcement personnel are faced with decisions affecting the safety and security of our communities. Their interaction with the members of the communities, children, and with each individual who has ties and business in the County of Los Angeles (County), is modeled and reinforced through the training and professional code of conduct established by the Sheriff. It is well known that Sheriff's Deputies enter this dangerous and challenging career to do good, save lives, and protect our society's ideals of law and justice.

The current attention on the allegations of use of force by Sheriff's Deputies, investigations of abuse, and the County's Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence, have highlighted how training, culture, and the adherence to department policies and procedures are critical in shaping how Sheriff's Deputies react to situations on the streets and within the jails. It is now more important than ever to ensure that the Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Sheriff establish and maintain a long-term commitment

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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to rebuild trust in the justice system and sustain positive relationships between the communities and law enforcement.

The Board established independent watchdogs for the Sheriff's Department almost twenty years ago. In 1993, the Board appointed Special Counsel Merrick Bobb to monitor implementation of the Kolts Commission recommendations. In 2000, the Board established the Office of Independent Review (OIR) with the task of monitoring the Sheriff's Department's disciplinary investigations. Both Special Counsel Merrick Bobb and OIR have made valuable contributions to maintaining the integrity of the Sheriff's Department by conducting and reviewing investigations and making recommendations for reform. However, with insights brought to light recently by the work of the County's Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence, there is need to redouble all of the efforts to ensure ongoing, continuous oversight of the Sheriff's Department and use different oversight tools. The Sheriff's Department must be accountable to reform, and demonstrate to the public that Sheriff's Deputies are committed to the Sheriff's Department's "Core Values." Consolidation of the special counsel, jail monitor, ombudsman, OIR, and the Sheriff's Internal Affairs Bureau is a far more robust way to ensure that public safety is achieved in a fair and equitable manner. The County needs greater transparency in the public safety arena. This requires oversight independent from the Sheriff's Department and a direct reporting relationship to the Board to ensure fiscal, moral and ethical accountability.

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I THEREFORE MOVE THAT, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer to evaluate the feasibility of creating a permanent and independent Citizens' Law Enforcement Commission (the Commission) with the authority and mandate to review, investigate, and implement recommendations on the Sheriff's Department policy and operations, as well as creating an Office of the Inspector General to assist in safeguarding the integrity of the Sheriff's Department; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the feasibility study contain:

a) an implementation plan, including the number and composition of the Commission, staffing plan, costs, funding sources, and mechanism(s) for the Commission to implement reforms, and to present the study for review and approval by the Board of Supervisors by December 4, 2012; and

b) within its implementation plan, the creation of an Office of the Inspector General, including a staffing plan, costs, funding sources and mechanism to act as the eyes and ears of the public, as well as to oversee internal affairs investigations and discipline, and review medical care delivery.

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