

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

September 26, 2017

Los Angeles County Business Retention and Expansion

Los Angeles County (County) is a premier market for business. Over 244,000 businesses call the County home. These businesses provide goods and services to a population of more than ten million. The County is an international crossroads, as it attracts millions of visitors annually, and is host to over 100 consulates, a reflection of the great diversity of people and cultures who call the County home. With more than \$400 billion in two-way trade coming through the Customs District 27, the County is connected internationally with trading partners big and small. With the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, in addition to LAX, businesses effectuate commerce because of the ability to move products efficiently to markets locally and internationally. Business owners enjoy access to a highly educated workforce, due in large part to the nearly five-dozen universities located in the County. Other intangible factors contribute to the draw of Los Angeles County, including: ideal weather, access to endless recreation and entertainment opportunities, good schools, safe cities, and an overall

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high quality of life; all traits modern investors seek to site businesses in the County.

Los Angeles County plays a critical role in creating conditions favorable to business development and retention. Government policies can make the difference between an investor deciding on Los Angeles County or another attractive market. The County must constantly take inventory of the policies, programs, and incentives in place for businesses. Regulations, taxes, and fees have an impact on the ability to start, maintain, or grow a business, as does the extended permitting process. In order to ensure the County is utilizing Best Management Practices, departments should be examining other comparable metropolitan areas and take a critical look at systems currently in place to assess whether County goals for economic development are being achieved. Finally, all policies put forward should address what it means for the cost of doing business in the County.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Economy and Efficiency Commission, in consultation with the Small Business Commission and other relevant stakeholders as appropriate to report back in 180 days with recommendations on how to strengthen business retention and expansion efforts in Los Angeles County.

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