AGN NO._____

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND HILDA L. SOLIS **September 24, 2019**

Implementing Body-Worn Cameras in Los Angeles County

Body-worn cameras have become a widely used tool across the country to improve accountability and transparency of law enforcement. Los Angeles County (County) has been exploring adopting body-worn cameras since the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence recommended, in 2012, that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) use cameras to address problematic use of force. In 2015, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) echoed this recommendation. However, due to concern around changing technology and projected cost, adoption stalled.

In response to the delays, in July 2018, the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) approved a report recommending that the County move forward with implementing a body-worn camera program for all Department deputies and their supervisors in accordance with a variety of recommended policies. The COC noted, however, that the projected costs needed further vetting, and that policy decisions would have a significant impact on the program. Aligned with the COC's recommendation, in August 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously approved a Ridley-Thomas – Solis motion to hire an expert consultant to make recommendations on proposed policies, procedures, deployment plans, staffing levels, and operational impacts, as well as direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to provide an updated and detailed cost analysis for implementation.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) was hired as the independent consultant, and after several months of stakeholder interviews and policy

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review, released their report on June 12, 2019. IACP reviewed relevant reports, pertinent literature, and practices in other police agencies that have implemented body-worn camera programs. In its report, the IACP made a series of recommendations for implementation, a majority of which are consistent with or complementary to the recommendations made previously by the COC and OIG. The COC, OIG and IACP have all noted that effective body-worn camera programs include careful consideration of these key elements: when sworn personnel are allowed to turn their equipment on or off; if and when sworn personnel should be allowed to review footage before writing their first report of an incident; what video footage will be released to the public, and on what timeline; the use of facial recognition technology; and the consequences for violating or failing to comply with policy. Unfortunately, IACP did not have the Department's final body-worn camera policies to review, due to union negotiations, so their assessment was based instead on in-depth conversations with Department project leadership.

The County has set aside nearly $35 million for the implementation of body-worn cameras, and as a follow up to the IACP report, the CEO performed an analysis of the projected costs. The results of this analysis were issued in a report dated August 30, 2019, and largely validated the updated projected costs for implementation.

The County is one of the few large jurisdictions yet to implement this technology. As noted by the COC, the benefits of thoughtful implementation can include the ability to assess complaints about deputy misconduct, improved citizen and officer conduct, and improved trust in law enforcement. Consistent with 21st century constitutional policing, the County is overdue to implement body-worn cameras. Steps should be taken now to bring this to fruition.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Begin phased implementation of a body-worn camera program in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department), with access to footage to extend to the District Attorney, Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender, and instruct the Inspector General (IG), in consultation with the Sheriff, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, District Attorney, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), County Counsel, and Civilian Oversight

Commission (COC), to report back to the Board of Supervisors (Board) in writing in 90 days, and every 60 days after that, on the progress of implementing the following directives:

1. Authorize the Sheriff, in collaboration with Internal Services Department and CEO, to implement the technology infrastructure upgrades at patrol stations and other locations as needed for body-worn cameras utilizing one-time funding;
2. Request the Sheriff to provide the Board, IG, and COC with the final body-worn camera policy prior to issuing the Request for Proposal for the body-worn camera devices and digital evidence management system. The updated policy should address, at a minimum, the elements raised in the preamble of this motion;
3. ~~Upon~~ Under Purchasing Agent authority or upon Board authorization for the Sheriff to award the body-worn camera device and digital evidence management system contract, direct the IG, in collaboration with the COC, to report back to the Board in writing with bi-annual reports assessing the implementation and effectiveness of the County's body-worn camera program, including discussion of strengths, challenges, and metrics for success. Authorize the CEO, in consultation with the IG and COC, to hire a consultant to assist with these evaluations if deemed necessary; and
4. Authorize the Sheriff to hire 33 staff, as recommended in the International Association of Chiefs of Police and CEO reports, to operationalize a body-worn camera program.

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