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Los Angeles County Together: In Service of Our Neighbors

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency in California as a result of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. In tandem with the statewide emergency, the County issued a “Safer at Home” Order requiring all residents to stay at home or their place of residence, unless performing certain essential activities. While helping to flatten the COVID-19 curve, the Order has also placed significant strain on healthcare systems, public services, and small businesses. According to a study conducted by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, Southern California may see 2.8 million fewer jobs in May 2020 as compared to the same period last year. In light of public health orders to shut down non-essential businesses and staggering unemployment, there has been an increase in demand for volunteers to help our communities during both the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recovery period.

Complying with the Safer at Home Order is one of the greatest acts of service an Angeleno can take right now. However, this order has led to a gap in connecting the most

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vulnerable with vital goods and services. L.A. Works, LA's largest nonprofit volunteer action center, is currently mobilizing thousands of in-person and virtual volunteers to fill this gap. L.A. Works makes it easy for those looking to support others in a safe way to find the opportunity that fits their schedule and comfort level. Through L.A. Works' online platform, volunteers can help distribute food to the hungry, make wellness calls to check on the well-being of seniors, create masks for our healthcare workers through a "million mask" challenge, safely volunteer at COVID-19 testing sites, or virtually tutor underprivileged and vulnerable students. L.A. Works collaborates directly with other nonprofits and organizations to identify and create meaningful and impactful volunteer projects, and then recruits and mobilizes volunteers to address these needs. Through a partnership with L.A. Works, Los Angeles County can connect our communities to meaningful service opportunities and encourage our residents to support each other through this crisis.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Emergency Management to explore a partnership with L.A. Works and return recommendations within 7 days to establish an online platform for the following:

1. A centralized resource for all Los Angeles County residents to access volunteer opportunities related to COVID-19, including opportunities available through nonprofits, community-based organizations, and County Departments;
2. A volunteer list accessible to qualifying organizations, County Departments and nonprofits seeking volunteers with specific skillsets;

3. Streamlining of donation intake for items such as personal protective equipment, food, clothes and monetary donations to assist in COVID19 related response efforts; and
4. Other supplemental resources such as a smartphone application and marketing strategies.

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