

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

August 8, 2023

Phoenix House 5K Walk for Overdose Awareness Fee Waiver

Phoenix House California is a nonprofit agency dedicated to healing individuals, families, and communities challenged by substance use disorders and related mental health conditions. Phoenix House California began operating in Santa Ana in 1979 and later expanded to Venice and the northeast San Fernando Valley, serving more than 44,000 people annually through residential and outpatient treatment, recovery support, in-custody substance use disorder and mental health services, as well as school-based prevention and mental health programs.

In 2021, methamphetamine and fentanyl were the most common drug types listed as a cause of death in accidental drug overdoses in Los Angeles County (County), accounting for 56% and 55%, respectively; fentanyl has become the most deadly, responsible for 5,961 of 7,175 overdose deaths Statewide. According to the County Department of Public Health – Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, accidental fentanyl overdose deaths increased 1,280% from 109 in 2016 to 1,504 in 2021 and fentanyl overdose hospitalizations increased 98% from 102 to 202 cases. The Second Supervisorial District reported 674 deaths from fentanyl overdoses, with 288 of those between the ages of 26-39, highlighting the need for greater overdose education and prevention efforts.

On September 23, 2023, Phoenix House California will host its “5K Walk for
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Overdose Awareness” at Dockweiler State Beach. This event will offer vital, life-saving information and resources to County residents as part of the national Overdose Awareness effort. Participants will receive free Naloxone kits (life-saving medication designed to reverse an overdose from opioids), as well as overdose prevention information and materials. Those who tragically lost their lives to overdose will be remembered during the event.

This walk provides the County with an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to working together to build safe, healthy, and resilient communities. By supporting this walk and working to implement evidence-based approaches to reduce overdose risks and lower barriers to treatment and support, together, we can give more people the tools needed to take the initiative to seek treatment and recover from addiction.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct the Director of the Department of Beaches and Harbors to waive (a) the administrative fee of \$250 and (b) the parking fee of \$13 each for 275 attendees, (c) costs of \$326.10 to provide traffic direction, and (d) the gross receipts, which will not exceed 15% of the total event budget of \$15,000 or \$2,250 (excluding the cost of liability insurance), for the “5K Walk for Overdose Awareness” at Dockweiler Beach on September 23, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

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