

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

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AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Interim Transportation Plan for People Who Are Incarcerated in the Los Angeles

County Jails

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) transports more than 1,500 incarcerated individuals a day, to and from court, medical appointments, and state prisons. Since 2018, LASD had not received new buses, resulting in 5 to 11 operational buses, out of 64 needed in the LA Basin; 6 out of 9 operating in the North County and 6 out of 9 operating for State prison transfers, which totals to 23 out of 82 buses that are operable – less than half of what LASD needs to fulfill its transportation duties and responsibilities.¹ It also costs between \$1.2-\$1.6 million annually to maintain these aging buses.

According to the Los Angeles Superior Court’s Criminal Division (Court), at one point, 33% of all who needed to appear in court, were unable to due to the lack of

¹ LASD says it needs at least 50 operable buses.

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working and functioning buses. Fortunately, despite the bus shortage, those who were listed on the “Imperatives” list were able to appear. The Court also noted that some of the 33% of individuals could be released the day they appear in court or shortly thereafter – a missed opportunity for the County to depopulate the jails.

In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) approved LASD to purchase 20 buses² to replace the aging and high-maintenance buses to transport people who are incarcerated back and forth to court, state prisons, and other appointments.

Despite the Board’s approval, according to the vendor, it will take between 12-18 months for the order to be fulfilled and for the buses to undergo security renovations suitable for the transportation of incarcerated individuals.

Aside from transportation to and from court, buses and vans are also used to transport individuals to their medical appointments, e.g. dialysis treatment, and to state prison, once sentenced; or from state prison to the county jails for court appearances.

With the summer approaching, the anticipated need for additional transportation responsibilities, and to ensure incarcerated individuals are not overstaying in the County jails, the County needs to develop an interim transportation plan instituted until the new buses arrive.

I WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors request the LA Sheriff’s Department and direct the Chief Executive Office and the Internal Services Department to develop an interim feasibility and implementation plan, including funding, to address the shortage of buses and other forms of transportation. The report back, in

² 14 were purchased through LASD’s Automation Special Fund and 6 were purchased using AB 109 funds.

writing, in 45 days, should review options such as using assets from neighboring counties and requesting the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in the interim, to be responsible for the pick-up and transportation to and from their state prisons to the County jails.

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