

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

August 6, 2024

Enacting Bubble Zones for Sensitive Sites in Unincorporated Los Angeles County

On January 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the motion, [Emergency Response, Notifications, and Protections for Sensitive Sites](#) (Horvath), requesting the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel to report back on the feasibility of enacting a “bubble zone” ordinance countywide, modeled after the state of Colorado’s “bubble zone” law to protect individuals entering or exiting a hospital, medical clinic, or healthcare facility, and the feasibility of expanding the application of a “bubble zone” to include sensitive sites such as places of worship, public facilities (e.g., schools, libraries, etc.), community centers, and other locations where identity-based gatherings are conducted, or services administered.

The County of Los Angeles (County) recognizes that access to healthcare facilities for the purpose of obtaining medical counseling and services, access to educational facilities for the purpose of obtaining education and/or instruction, and access to places of worship for the purpose of exercising one’s religion and/or religious practices are imperative for the health and welfare of the citizens of this County; that the exercise of a person's right to protest must be balanced against another person's right to access and

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obtain health care services, access education, and exercise their freedom to worship in a safe and unobstructed manner; and that preventing the willful obstruction of a person's access to healthcare, education, and worship is a matter of Countywide concern. It is therefore appropriate for the Board to enact an ordinance applicable in unincorporated Los Angeles County that creates safe and unimpeded access to healthcare facilities, education facilities, and places of worship.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Instruct County Counsel to draft an ordinance modeled after the state of Colorado's "bubble zone" law to protect individuals entering or exiting a hospital, medical clinic, other healthcare facility, educational facility, or place of worship, thereby making it a misdemeanor crime for a person to do any of the following:
 - a. Knowingly obstruct, detain, hinder, impede, or block another person's entry to or exit from a healthcare facility, educational facility, or place of worship.
 - b. Knowingly approach another person within eight feet of such person, unless such person consents, for the purpose of passing a leaflet or handbill to, displaying a sign to, or engaging in oral protest, education, or counseling with such other person in the public way or sidewalk area within a radius of one hundred feet from any entrance door to a healthcare facility, educational facility, or place of worship.
2. Request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department inform and train its law enforcement personnel on the new ordinance upon enactment.

3. Instruct the Chief Executive Office - Countywide Communications, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, to perform the following outreach:
 - a. Conduct a forum to educate the 88 cities within the County of Los Angeles of the new ordinance and encourage the cities to adopt a similar ordinance; and
 - b. Create a toolkit consisting of fact sheets, a draft ordinance, and outreach materials for use by cities and to inform community sensitive sites of the new ordinance.

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