

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

September 10, 2024

Phoenix House California 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 provides services to residents with the most financial need, including the uninsured and those eligible for Medi-Cal benefits. Notably, their outreach has been profoundly impactful for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and their communities, as well as those impacted by homelessness and the justice system. Phoenix House California was founded in 1979 and has expanded throughout the Southern California region, highlighting the importance of continued support for those experiencing substance use and mental health disorders throughout our shared communities.

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; and fentanyl has become the most deadly, responsible for 5,961 of 7,175 overdose deaths Statewide. According to the County’s 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. Although fatal drug related overdoses in the County have finally begun to plateau for the first time in 10

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years as of 2023¹, fentanyl overdose incidents remain a primary cause of drug related deaths in our communities. We must continue supporting Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), such as Phoenix House California, as a key strategy in our efforts to end the ongoing drug overdose epidemic in the County.

On Saturday, September 7, 2024, Phoenix House California hosted its “5k Walk for Overdose Awareness” at Dockweiler State Beach in Playa del Rey. This event offered vital, life-saving information and resources to County residents as part of a national overdose awareness effort. Participants received free Naloxone kits (emergency medications used to reverse opioid related drug overdoses), as well as overdose prevention information and materials. Remembrances were also held during the walk for those who have tragically lost their lives due to overdose. Supporting this walk provides the County with an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to working with partner CBOs, like Phoenix House California, to build safe, healthy, and resilient communities.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Director of the Department of Beaches and Harbors to retroactively waive: (a) the permit fee of \$250, (b) the parking fee of \$13 each for 275 attendees, and (c) the gross receipts in the amount of \$412.50 (excluding the cost of liability insurance), for the Phoenix House California “5k Walk for Overdose Awareness” that was held on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at Dockweiler State Beach in Playa del Rey.

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(FL/ZM)

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¹ <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/CALACOUNTY/bulletins/3a9acd7>