

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN**

AGN. NO.  
March 18, 2025

**Increasing Public Awareness on California Good Samaritan Laws and Naloxone Access**

On November 5, 2024, California voters passed Proposition 36 (Prop 36), which increased penalties for several drug and theft crimes, cut funding for behavioral health treatment, and will likely drive up local and state incarceration rates. While this law will have many implications that are beyond the control of Los Angeles County (County), there are steps the County can take to reduce unnecessary arrests and overdoses and increase the wellbeing of vulnerable residents.

One way is through increasing public awareness around Assembly Bill (AB) 472<sup>1</sup> or the California’s 911 Good Samaritan Law, which encourages people to seek medical care for an overdose victim while protecting them from arrest, charge, and/or prosecution for low-level drug violations. The intent was to create an environment in which individuals who are overdosing can get the vital medical intervention needed to reduce the risk of significant harm or death.

While this law has been in effect since 2013, more can be done to increase public awareness as well as law enforcement compliance. With the new changes in the law, our community providers who are frontline, along with County staff, with the proper support

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<sup>1</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201120120AB472](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120AB472)

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and resources, can provide reassurances to community and patients to continue to move forward on the progress made on harm reduction, use of opioid antagonists, and keeping clients safe. These efforts continue to show that it saves lives and can create successful pathways to health and sobriety.

Lastly, refresher trainings will help remind law enforcement and first responders about the changes and with the former, ensure that in instances of sweeps of encampments or any other relevant situations, they refrain from disposing of opioid antagonists, which are not considered drug paraphernalia.

It is important that the County continues to do what it can to keep our communities and our most vulnerable safe and that includes creating safe environments to request and access medical assistance and intervention without the fear of incarceration.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct the Department of Public Health (DPH) Substance Abuse, Prevention and Control (SAPC) to collaborate with:
  - a. County Counsel and harm reduction agencies across the County to:
    - i. Update all information materials relevant to overdose prevention and response to ensure providers, clients, and community have current and relevant information about California's Good Samaritan Law to increase safety and decrease fatal overdoses.
    - ii. Disseminate updated materials to partners, clients, and community via website, social media, and other forms, including ensuring materials are provided in highly-utilized threshold languages.
- 2) Direct the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) to engage the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles County Police

Chiefs Association and encourage departments to provide information and training for law enforcement officers and deputies on not confiscating opioid antagonists (including naloxone [Narcan]), during homeless encampment sweeps and other relevant situations, and on the Good Samaritan Law.

- 3) Direct the Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, and Sheriff's Department to report back, in writing, in 60 days on progress toward the above directives.

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