

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Health and Dignity: Providing Hygiene Kits to Incarcerated People in Los Angeles County

When incarcerated people enter the Los Angeles County (County) jails, they do not come in with their own hygiene kits. According to Vera Institute, based on an analysis of County jail data and national trends, a significant majority of the incarcerated population, 80-90%, is considered indigent or low-income.

In July 2024, the Board supported the motion, “People Over Profit: Fairness and Equity in Commissary Prices”¹ fully understanding the hidden costs associated with commissary items, like hygiene items, and the burden on the support network of incarcerated people.

California Code of Regulation Title 15, Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities, Section 1265 provides that any person held in custody over 24 hours shall be given certain hygiene items within 12 hours of being assigned housing if they are unable to supply it themselves. The Los Angeles County’s Sheriff’s Department (LASD) Custody Division Manual (CDM) Section 5-12/090.00 *Personal Care Items and Supplies for Inmates* , requires that “[a]ll inmates, regardless of their length of time within a custody facility who are unable to supply themselves with [a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb,

¹ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/193045.pdf>

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shaving implements, deodorant, or shampoo] will be provided the needed item upon request.”

Currently, LASD does not always have hygiene kits readily available due to “tariff and shipping issues”. Though some incarcerated people may be able to purchase a hygiene kit for \$1.35 with the inclusion of a razor and \$1.04 without the razor; these kits are necessary as they contain the supplies needed for basic hygiene. Purchasing them for the duration of someone’s incarceration can be expensive on them or family and friends who are supporting them by adding funds to their accounts.

If incarcerated people who are in the care, custody, and control of the County and are dependent on it for services, having access to hygiene products is basic and should be fulfilled without cost.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors

1. Request the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department to provide a report back, in writing, in 14 days, on the following, as it relates to hygiene kits: ~~have adequate supplies of hygiene kits and the ability to provide all incarcerated individuals hygiene kits free of charge by using AB 109 funds and other funding sources.~~
 - a. Estimated cost to provide hygiene kits to all incarcerated people upon intake and request, taking into account how many days the kit’s supplies last and how often specific items in the kits need to be replaced, e.g.: razors and toothbrush;
 - b. An accounting of stock and disbursement plans for existing stock of hygiene kits;
 - c. Identification of potential funding sources to provide hygiene kits at no cost to people who are incarcerated, e.g.: AB 109 funds;
 - d. Ways in which the Department will monitor, through established metrics, its

compliance with providing hygiene kits to all incarcerated people at no cost;
and

e. Attempts to explore other cost-savings or efficient approaches to providing hygiene kits to incarcerated people and findings, e.g.: bulk supplies, kits with longer supply of items.

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