

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

DECEMBER 15, 2015

Addressing Violence in the Community and the Workplace

The recent horrific events in San Bernardino are tragic reminders that the Board of Supervisors (Board) must ensure it is doing all that it can to prevent violence in the community and workplace.

Los Angeles County (County) has launched various successful strategies to combat the underlying complex causes of violence. For example, to the extent that the underlying problems are related to mental health problems, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) has implemented various successful efforts. DMH has created school threat assessment teams that identify troubled youth and intervene before a violent outcome occurs. DMH has provided mental health first aid training for thousands of community members and County staff to identify and respond to signs of mental illness.

The County has also taken steps to prevent violence in the workplace. Early this year, after an isolated shooting incident at a mental health facility, for example, the Board immediately strengthened safety protocols and practices at all County mental and health facilities. The County also takes steps to prevent and eliminate hostile workplace environments and regularly celebrates the diversity of its staff.

Much more needs to be done in the face of a deeply troubling and recurring pattern of mass shootings.

- MORE -

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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Yesterday, the United States Supreme Court signaled that local governments have the legal authority to reasonably regulate the purchase of rapid-fire weapons, such as those used in recent mass shootings. Now is the time to act.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Request the Sheriff and District Attorney, and direct County Counsel, Health Agency Director, the Interim Director of the Department of Mental Health, the Interim Director of Public Health, and the Probation Chief to report back in 30 days in writing on recommendations to further prevent violence and improve safety in the workplace and public settings. This report back shall include:

- a) Options to expand currently successful department efforts or to implement new promising County programs that prevent violence;
- b) Options to expand workplace safety protocols and practices and ensure they are adopted and implemented at all County facilities;
- c) Options to expand gun buy-back programs;
- d) Options to better enforce existing and/or adopt stricter gun control restrictions and penalties, especially related to the sale or possession of semiautomatic guns and military style assault weapons, including:
 - a. further background checks on the sale of guns within Los Angeles County;
 - b. requirements that gun purchasers also buy insurance (similar to car insurance) to cover any taxpayer expenses incurred from the injurious use of a gun;
 - c. or taxes on ammunition and firearms; and
- e) Other state or federal legislative options that should be considered.

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(YV/WP)