

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND SHEILA KUEHL**

October 15, 2019

Continuing on the Path of Reform: Strengthening Accountability and Civilian Oversight of the Sheriff’s Department

On January 12, 2016 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) voted to create a Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) with the mission to improve public transparency and accountability with respect to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (Department). The establishment of the COC – as well as the establishment of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in 2014 – followed many controversies over several years, including indictments against Department personnel and leadership, troubling incidents of jail violence, and federal monitoring. Stronger oversight was, and continues to be, a key component of the Department’s reform.

A recent lack of access to data, documents and direct testimony has impeded both the OIG and COC’s ability to improve transparency and ensure accountability. As a result of this and news of a federal investigation into secret subgroups, on July 23, 2019, the Board approved a Hahn – Ridley-Thomas motion requesting recommendations from County Counsel on expanding the role of the OIG to investigate secret subgroups and conferring subpoena power on the Inspector General. The Board awaits the report back, due on October 23, 2019, as it contemplates next steps.

On October 1, 2019, the Board unanimously approved a Ridley-Thomas – Solis motion to create a Probation Oversight Commission (POC), with a range of authorities essential to fulfilling its oversight function, including the power to compel through the OIG. The proposal to equip the POC with the power to compel, through the OIG issuing

MOTION

Solis _____

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subpoenas at the direction of and on behalf of the POC, came after nearly a year of public meetings and deliberations of the Probation Reform and Implementation Team.

The Board recognizes the importance of civilian oversight and the critical need for meaningful access to information for both oversight bodies – the POC and the COC. Community stakeholders as well as some COC Commissioners have been advocating for the COC to have the power to compel in order to fulfill its oversight function of the Department. Equally positioning both bodies is common sense. Additionally, because the OIG is central to both oversight bodies, it makes sense to review these issues together and make any necessary changes to the County Code in concert.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct County Counsel, in consultation with the Inspector General and the Executive Director of the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), to report back in writing to the Board of Supervisors in 30 days with options and recommendations for modifying the COC and Office of Inspector General (OIG) ordinances, including proposed amending ordinance language, to, in compliance with all laws and confidentiality protections, grant the COC access to Sheriff's Department data, documents, and direct testimony, including the authority to compel their production through the issuance of subpoenas by the OIG when deemed necessary by a majority of the COC commissioners to fulfill the COC's oversight function. This report should be completed in coordination and alignment with the forthcoming report-back on the "Expanding Authority to Investigate Deputy Secret Societies" motion (Hahn – Ridley-Thomas, July 23, 2019).
2. Direct County Counsel to report back within 30 days on the impact the above directive will have on the ballot measure titled "Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission Ordinance" scheduled to be on the March 2020 Los Angeles County ballot.

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(MN/CAS)