

SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL

October 9, 2018

Supporting Families Impacted by the Sheriff’s Department

How a jurisdiction communicates with a family following the death of an individual as a result of a fatal use of force by law enforcement or while in custody impacts the family, community and relations with law enforcement. Los Angeles County (County) began tackling this issue over a year and a half ago after hearing from families who had received incomplete or contradictory information about the death of their loved one and were seeking additional support to address their trauma. In a November 2016 letter, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) requested that the newly forming Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) take on this issue in order to improve County practices, particularly within the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD).

The COC formed a Family Assistance and Communication Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) tasked with identifying and addressing systemic issues within LASD that may have prevented clear, timely, and trauma-informed communication and interactions with families. The Committee met with families, LASD leadership, other County departments and community-based organizations, and examined model programs. The

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Committee presented its final report at the COC's monthly meeting on Thursday, September 27, 2018, where it was unanimously approved. This report makes a series of recommendations aimed at creating clear and empathic communication, compassionate responses, and direct services for grieving families.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in consultation with the Sheriff, the Executive Director of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), the COC Family Assistance and Communication Ad Hoc Committee, the Inspector General, the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors (Board), County Counsel, the Medical Examiner – Coroner, and any other relevant Los Angeles County (County) departments or stakeholders, to review the recommendations in the “Report of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission Family Assistance and Communication Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations” and report back in writing in 60 days on an implementation plan for consideration by the Board, including establishing any necessary County infrastructure, staffing, trainings, protocols and services, and, if relevant, identifying necessary costs and funding sources.

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