

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

February 19, 2019

**Supporting Efforts for the Prevention of Violence in Our Communities -
Establishing the Office of Violence Prevention**

In recent years this Board has recognized a variety of County violence prevention programs as highly innovative and effective. However, despite the fact that the County manages a wide variety of excellent violence prevention programs, these initiatives have not been organized or coordinated in a holistic manner. Lacking a single office or agency within the County to coordinate these myriad programs, the County is unable to identify gaps in the current array of violence prevention programs or to adopt a more strategic approach to preventing violence within our communities.

To address the critical problem of violence in our County, this Board directed the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to propose an infrastructure that would establish and support a robust and integrated violence prevention initiative for the County. This infrastructure, the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), would fill the much-needed role of a local lead agency to coordinate, provide technical assistance, and expand known best practices county-wide

MOTION

Solis _____

Ridley-Thomas _____

Kuehl _____

Barger _____

Hahn _____

for preventing and addressing violence in our communities. For example, once created, the OVP could strengthen the linkages between proven interventions and programs across the region, including: the Department of Parks and Recreation's Parks After Dark program, which has been shown to increase social cohesion and reduce gang violence by enhancing opportunities for residents to engage in health and recreation activities at our County's parks in the evenings; the Department of Mental Health's and the District Attorney's programming that trains law enforcement members to become better equipped to work with mentally ill residents in a non-violent manner; and the DPH's trauma prevention activities in South Los Angeles. Given the importance of collaborating with community partners and organizations leading the many violence prevention efforts across the County, the OVP would enhance alignment, integration, and support for community-driven solutions that work to build peace in our communities, homes and relationships.

At the core of the infrastructure is a commitment to develop and implement a place-based, mission-driven, comprehensive violence prevention and intervention strategy for the County. The strategy will focus on building regional capacity so that violence, in its various forms, can be addressed in a tailored, culturally sensitive, and community-specific way, where key voices, including those of the victims/survivors of violence are heard. This community-specific focus will be a key feature of the OVP's early and on-going implementation and engagement activities.

To begin this process, the DPH and other partnering departments have initiated strategic planning for the OVP and have begun evaluating opportunities where investments in prevention will be key to reducing and eliminating violence in our communities. In order to ensure that this strategic plan is completed and implemented,

this Board should embrace the vision for the OVP as described in the June 15, 2018 memo to the Board and take action today to establish and fully fund the OVP.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Instruct the Director of Public Health to launch the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), in collaboration with relevant county departments and community partners, by completing the strategic planning for the OVP, recruiting a permanent Director, and establishing a County Leadership Committee and a Community Advisory Council that can advise on priorities for the OVP, and report back in 180 days on its progress;
- 2) Approve interim ordinance authority, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code, for the Department of Public Health (DPH) to recruit and hire key personnel for the OVP, including the Director and eight core staff positions, subject to allocation by the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) Classification Division;
- 3) Instruct the CEO to identify at least \$6 million in unobligated funding in the Measure B Special Revenue Fund to support the OVP, to fund the OVP's overall operations and contracted services with community organizations for regional coalitions and to support capacity building in each Service Planning Area, for the first two years of operations; and
- 4) Instruct the CEO, in collaboration with the Director of DPH, to submit a written report to the Board within 90 days that includes a long-term funding plan for the OVP and related community-identified violence prevention efforts, using funding from Measure B.