

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL

July 24, 2018

Creation of Voter Engagement Taskforce for Justice-Involved Populations

Civic engagement and voting are the cornerstones of democracy. Engaging all individuals in these efforts, including those with justice system-involvement, is critical. Voter engagement also serves as an important reentry and crime prevention strategy. On February 13, 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved a Ridley - Thomas – Kuehl motion instructing the Director of the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), in collaboration with the Los Angeles County (County) Registrar Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC), the Interim Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Chief Probation Officer, the Sheriff, the Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel, and community stakeholders, to develop a Countywide plan for voter education and registration of eligible justice-involved youth and adults, building on the RR/CC’s “Voting While Incarcerated” program.

In response to the motion, a memo dated June 8, 2018 proposed the creation of a voter engagement taskforce (Taskforce) to strategize and guide voter education and registration efforts for justice - involved residents in the County. Conceptually, this

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SOLIS _____

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Taskforce would be convened by ODR and RR/CC and include other relevant agencies and community-based organizations. The main goals of the Taskforce would be to: register justice-involved County residents in advance of the November 2018 general election; compile existing and create new marketing materials, such as posters, websites, and other public service announcements, on the value of civic engagement and voter rights for justice-involved people; guide and implement other recommendations in the June 8, 2018 response; and identify potential funding sources as needed.

While the County has a strong history of voter registration for justice-involved individuals, as evidenced by jail in-reach efforts led by the RR/CC and community-based organizations such as A New Way of Life, more coordination and outreach are needed to ensure meaningful access to the polls is a right experienced by all.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Instruct the Director of the Los Angeles County (County) Office of Diversion and Reentry and the Registrar Recorder / County Clerk to co-convene a voter engagement taskforce, comprised of the Sheriff's Department, the Probation Department, and all other relevant County Departments and community stakeholders, to strategize and guide voter education and registration efforts for justice-involved residents in Los Angeles County (County), and report back in writing in 120 days on:

- a) Efforts to register as many justice-involved County residents as possible in advance of the November 2018 election;

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- b) Tracking mechanisms to measure civic and voter engagement for justice-involved populations; and
- c) Implementation updates of the other strategies in the June 8, 2018 memo.

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(DJJ/MN)