

13-0613

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MAY 17 2013

RESOLUTION

An initiative has recently been submitted to the City Clerk's Office that would require the City to establish its own Department of Health, instead of contracting with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. We believe that the initiative is a bad idea, because it is not in the best interest of public health, and it would waste scarce public resources by requiring governmental duplication.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has a long and distinguished record as one of the most active public health departments in the nation in terms of combating disease and ensuring environmental justice. The County Department of Public Health has been successfully serving the public needs of the residents of the City of Los Angeles since the 1960s.

The services currently provided to residents of the City of Los Angeles by the County Department of Public Health would be difficult and costly to replicate by a City Health Department. The County Department of Public Health receives grants, some of which are available exclusively to counties. In addition, the County of Los Angeles supplements the County Department of Public Health budget with General Fund dollars.

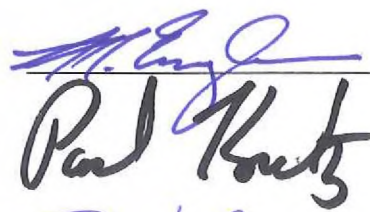

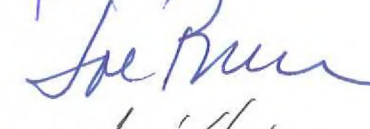
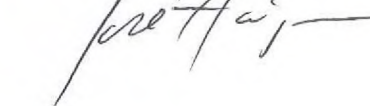
If the City Clerk determines that, despite the flaws in the petition requiring the City to break away from the County Department of Public Health, the petition contains sufficient signatures, the City Council will be forced under the City Charter to either adopt the petition and spend millions of taxpayer dollars to form a City Health Department, or spend millions of dollars to place the initiative on the ballot in June 2014. Either way, the public health and the public treasury will suffer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Los Angeles City Council gives notice that it opposes the initiative to create a City Health Department and hereby notifies the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors of its opposition.

PRESENTED BY:

SECONDED BY:


HERB J. WESSON, JR., 10th District


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