

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal government body or agency, must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Board of Supervisors formed the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence as an attempt to reform the Sheriff's Department, which had been plagued by scandals and reports of violence and improprieties; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, amidst allegations of corruption and brutality levied against the administration of former Sheriff Lee Baca, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors proceeded to create the Office of the Inspector General with the mission to improve public transparency and accountability with respect to Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved placing Measure R, the Civilian Police Oversight Commission and Jail Plan Initiative, on the March 3, 2020 ballot after a successful petition drive (247,000) led by Reform LA County Jails, a coalition of social justice and civil rights groups consisting of the American Civil Liberties Union Southern California, Justice LA, Community Coalition and the L.A. chapter of Black Lives Matter; and

WHEREAS, Measure R seeks to empower the Los Angeles Sheriff Department's (LASD) Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) by giving it the authority to subpoena LASD personnel to appear at disciplinary and other types of hearings; and

WHEREAS, Measure R also seeks to advance criminal justice reform by empowering the COC to develop plans that prioritize investment into rehabilitation programs and alternatives to incarceration as opposed to continuing to invest in jails; and

WHEREAS, Measure R seeks voter approval to amend Los Angeles County Code to do the following:

- Enact the ordinance establishing the "Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission;"
- Add section 3.79.210, entitled Comprehensive Public Safety Reinvestment Plan (Plan), to reduce jail population and provide alternatives to incarceration by: researching and developing the Plan within seven months of amending the County Code, conducting a Feasibility Study together with a timeline for the plan to reduce jail population, and develop a strategy to re-invest jail system costs into prevention and mental health treatment;
- Grant the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission subpoena power to obtain documents or witnesses for investigation and oversight, and delete provisions requiring the Commission to be bound by a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sheriff for access to records;
- Permit the Office of the Inspector General or the Civilian Oversight Commission to perform investigations, inquiries, audits, and monitoring;
- Allow the Civilian Oversight Commission to examine the Office of the Inspector General's management of citizen and inmate complaints; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Inspector General has experienced a recent lack of access to LASD's information, including direct testimony, which has impeded both the Office of the Inspector General and the Civilian Oversight Commission's ability to ensure transparency and accountability; and

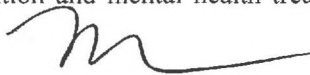
WHEREAS, on October 1, 2019, the BOS unanimously approved a motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Solis entitled "Implementing an Enhanced Structure for Probation Oversight" to create the Probation Oversight Commission (POC), with a range of authorities essential to fulfilling its oversight function, including the power to compel through the Office of the Inspector General the issuance of subpoenas at the direction and on behalf of the POC; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2020, the BOS considered and approved different motions related to areas that are the focus of Measure R to prepare the final amendments to County Code Chapter 3.79 (Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission), as set forth in the October 15, 2019 motion entitled "Continuing on the Path of Reform: Strengthening Accountability and Civilian Oversight of the Sheriff's Department";



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-20 State Legislative Program, SUPPORT for and/or SPONSORSHIP of legislation that would reduce jail population, and create a strategy that would re-invest jail system costs into prevention and mental health treatment and provide alternatives to incarceration.


FEB 04 2020

PRESENTED BY:


MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY:

ORIGINAL