

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

On December 16, 2014, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors entered into a federal consent decree for the implementation of significant changes to the County jail system. The decree gave a three-person panel appointed by a federal court the authority to develop a corrective plan and to monitor compliance. Under the agreement, jail guards will undergo extensive retraining.


On August 5, 2015, a settlement was announced between the United States Department of Justice and the County, in which the County will be required to implement changes of its jail system. As part of the settlement, the federal courts will impose court oversight for at least a year. As many as 4,000 mentally ill inmates are housed in the County jail each day, and many of the settlement provisions are designed to ensure the safety of such inmates. Part of these efforts will include special training for guards regarding the manner in which they interact with mentally ill inmates, and require closer coordination with mental health staff. In addition, part of the federal settlement addresses use of force complaints at Men's Central Jail and two other facilities.

On August 11, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved a plan to move at least 1,000 mentally ill inmates out of lock-ups and to construct an up-to-date facility focused on mental health and substance abuse issues. The Board of Supervisors also approved \$10 million for diversion programs to move mentally ill inmates from jails and into treatment programs. On August 18, 2015, the Board of Supervisors moved to reconsider the actions on September 1, 2015 in order to provide members of the public an opportunity to provide input on the proposed plans before their implementation.

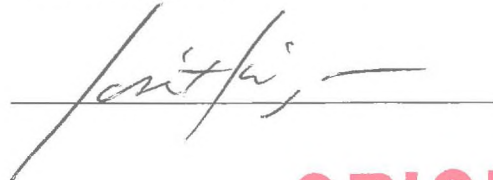
The County's recent actions reflect a continuing effort to address issues associated with mental illness among the inmate population. As these actions are reconsidered, there is a need to assess how inmates with mental health issues will be treated under the new system and the treatment programs that will be utilized to ensure that inmates are on a path to self-sufficiency in communities throughout the City. The Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health should brief and advise the City Council on these efforts.

I THEREFORE MOVE to request that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to report to Council on the implementation of the County jail system consent decree within the City of Los Angeles, including but not limited to mental health services for the inmate population and those individuals who are recently released, funding and staffing constraints, recidivism avoidance, and planned services for the new facility.

PRESENTED BY:

  
DAVID E. RYU  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



  
SEP 22 2015

ORIGINAL