

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, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the first case of monkeypox in humans was reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the 1970s, and today, monkeypox is endemic in West and Central Africa but is usually rare in other parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, beginning in May 2022, multiple cases of monkeypox were identified in several countries where the virus is not normally reported, including the United States, and as of July 27, 2022, 4,639 cases have been confirmed across the United States, including 799 in California; and

WHEREAS, as of July 27, 2022, 261 cases have been confirmed in Los Angeles County, a number of which have been traced to local community spread and not associated with any travel exposure; and

WHEREAS, among recent cases, sustained skin-to-skin contact with a symptomatic person with monkeypox has been the most significant risk factor associated with transmission, however, monkeypox has also been known to spread through contact with contaminated objects, fabrics, and surfaces that have been in contact with someone with the virus, or coming into contact with respiratory droplets from secretions from the eyes, nose, and mouth from a person with monkeypox; and

WHEREAS, fortunately, there is testing available through public and private health care providers and public and commercial laboratories, and there is also prophylaxis for monkeypox available in the form of the JYNNEOS vaccine; and

WHEREAS, to date, Los Angeles County has received 24,042 JYNNEOS doses, distributed 16,219 doses, and administered 9,360 doses with the remaining being distributed and administered this week and for high and intermediate-risk contacts – community partners have received over 4,000 doses and are reaching out to their vaccine-eligible patient population to come in for vaccination; and

WHEREAS, with the current supply, it is estimated that only 5-10 percent of the population that wants to be vaccinated will be reached; and

WHEREAS, due to the increased spread of monkeypox, and the current limited supply of the vaccine, including in Los Angeles County, many Angelenos have faced uncertainty, fear, and extreme medical and financial hardship; and

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WHEREAS, it has been reported that federal medical reimbursement rates for providers to support testing and vaccine administration are inadequate and place an undue share of the burden on those healthcare providers who are willing to partner in the response effort, and the Department of Public Health has received reports from community providers that reimbursement rates for administering monkeypox testing, vaccination and treatment are inconsistent and unsustainably low to support their efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program, administrative or legislative action to encourage the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to:

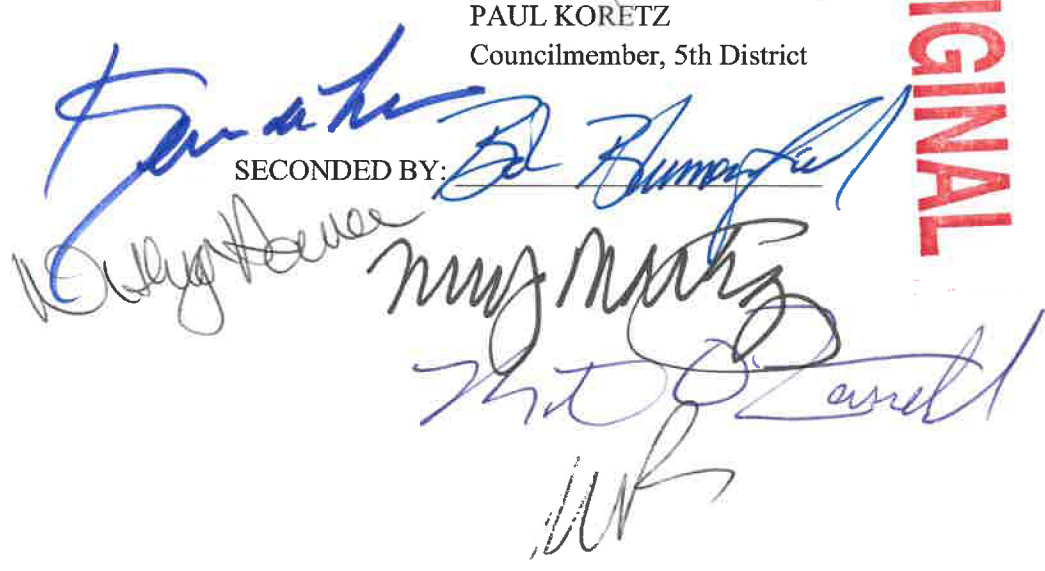
- 1) Secure additional supplies of the JYNNEOS vaccine to be sent to Los Angeles County, and take whatever measures are possible, including working with President Joseph R. Biden to invoke the Defense Production Act to increase the supply and manufacturing of the JYNNEOS vaccine.
- 2) Ensure that standard billing codes and sustainable reimbursement levels be established for monkeypox testing, vaccine administration, and treatment.
- 3) Identify and establish a funding source to reimburse monkeypox testing, vaccine administration, and treatment services provided by clinics, hospitals, and other healthcare providers caring for uninsured residents.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL