MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services
Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Public Social Services

At its meeting held November 29, 2005, the Board took the following action:

86-B

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"In December 2001, the Board of Supervisors approved my motion requesting the Department of Mental Health to accelerate their infrastructure plans to enhance countywide homeless services. Since that time, the Department of Mental Health has been working to address mentally ill homeless housing issues and access to resources. With the pending implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, the future continues to look brighter for those requiring housing assistance in Los Angeles County.

"In addition, the Department of Health Services has also worked to address similar issues and has drafted a report titled, 'The Homeless Services Action Plan' that addresses recommendation protocols and cooperation among County agencies to coordinate access to social services within Los Angeles County. The Homeless Services Task Force has also been working to address homeless services outreach within the community on Skid Row.

"However, there remain several factors related to those that are either entering into the Skid Row area or are being brought to the area to access services from the community providers within the Skid Row area in Downtown Los Angeles. The recent news accounts revealed inappropriate patient discharges from Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center, Hollywood Presbyterian and Kaiser Hospitals. These actions are unacceptable and appropriate action needs to establish collaboration between the public/private sector and County agencies in addressing this critical need."

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Molina being absent), the Director of Health Services was instructed to work in collaboration with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Public Social Services to:

1. Make recommendations, with the Director of Mental Health and the Sheriff, on protocols related to patient discharges to ensure that homeless patients have access to social services upon their discharge from a County heath facility;

2. Determine the feasibility and resources necessary for an on-site Department of Public Social Services pilot program where caseworkers address the needs of homeless individuals who receive treatment at Los Angeles County Medical Centers; and

3. Report on the status of the implementation of the Homeless Services Action Plan developed in July 2004, with a quarterly progress report to the Board on strengthening homeless services in Los Angeles County health facilities.

Later in the meeting, Senator Gil Cedillo addressed the Board.

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Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor
County Counsel
✓ Director of Mental Health

Letter sent to:
Sheriff