

Instructions:

TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

- Dial (844) 767-5651 beginning at 8:45am
- Participant Code: 9676434
- Dial 1-0 to enter the queue

TO VIEW VIA WEB: <http://bos.lacounty.gov/Live-Broadcast>

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I support agenda items 51-C, 3, 11, 19 and 20 and would also like to speak on general public comment.

Agenda Item 51-C: [Reimagining Los Angeles County: Shifting Budget Priorities to Revitalize Under-resourced and Low-income Communities](#)

- ❖ Thank you Supervisors Kuehl and Solis for meeting the moment and empowering LA County residents with this motion. Allowing the people of LA County to demonstrate their support for the Board's transformative vision will only propel the ATI process forward and ensure that Black, brown and low-income communities receive the services they need during and after this crisis. The charter amendment provides a pathway for relief from the devastating impact of the pandemic, and confronts the longstanding racial and economic inequality in our County. The Board has worked diligently to address these issues, but bold investment is long overdue. I encourage the Board to move beyond 10% and amend the motion to ensure that at least 20% of net county costs go towards ATI and direct community investment. The people of Los Angeles deserve reinvestment at a scale greater than the level of injustice.
- ❖ I strongly encourage the board to approve this important motion authored by Supervisor Kuehl and Solis. It is a pragmatic next step to ensure that this Board's *Care First* mission continues long after you leave office. We all understand that in

order to repair generations of racial and economic injustice, it will take transformative action. Investing 20% of our tax dollars into ATI and direct community investment is what this moment requires. I strongly encourage the Board to ensure the funding that is necessary to actualize the transformation of our Country towards health and equity instead of incarceration and policing.

- ❖ I enthusiastically support this motion and would like to thank Supervisors Kuehl and Solis for responding to the needs of our communities. It is clear that lack of affordable housing, lack of community investment, and an overreliance on incarceration have created a monumental crisis for our county, well before the pandemic. No one has been more impacted by this than Black residents, who make up only 8% of residents but are over 30% of our jail and houseless populations. Amending the county charter to ensure our most vulnerable communities receive the care and support that they need is the just and moral thing to do. This Board has already taken great steps, but in order to fully realize the *Care First* vision, we will need far more investment than is provided by this ballot initiative. I ask you to allow LA residents to approve the funding that we all know is needed and amend the motion to increase funding to 20%.

Agenda Item 3: [Establishing an Antiracist Los Angeles County Policy Agenda](#)

- ❖ Thank you Supervisor Ridley-Thomas for your ongoing leadership and consistency in bringing attention to the impact of systemic racism on Black people in Los Angeles County. This moment requires the County shift how it not only talks about progress but how it operates such that the experience and needs of Black Los Angeles residents is prioritized. As stated in the motion, Black people comprise 8% of the county population and an alarming percentage of those whose lives, health, and communities are being disrupted by COVID-19, houselessness, incarceration, and Sheriff violence and abuse. We urge this board to approve the concrete steps presented in the motion and integrate them into the care first framework that is shaping the county's budget, alternatives to incarceration, and covid-19 emergency response agendas. A long history of reforms across sectors demonstrates that progressive agendas do not inherently address the problem of systemic anti-Black racism. This motion will allow the county to avoid that pitfall as it continues to take monumental steps towards addressing the multiple crises impacting Los Angeles.
- ❖ I fully support the efforts of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas to push the County to adopt a standard of "eliminating" anti-Black racism in its policies, practices, and

investments. In addition to the directives included in this motion, the Board should uphold this standard in the implementation of the 114 Alternatives to Incarceration recommendations. For example, the county should mandate diversion outcomes that address the alarming racial disparity reflected in the fact that Black people have represented 41% of the jail mental population. A recent study from clinicians and researchers from UCLA's Geffen School of Medicine, the Semel Institute of Neuroscience, as well as the Office of Diversion and Re-Entry has made it clear that Black people are the last to be diverted from the jails and least likely to receive effective and meaningful treatment in their communities. The county should refer to the ATI Implementation plans developed for each of the 114 recommendations and adopt the standard of eliminating anti-Black racism in the planning and operationalizing of each recommendation.

- ❖ I encourage the board to approve this important motion authored by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, and adopt the standard of eliminating anti-Black racism in the process and outcomes of closing Men's Central Jail. While the jail population has been reduced by roughly 5000 people, the underlying dynamic of systemic racism has not been addressed. This is reflected in the fact that Black people still comprise roughly 30% of the jail population despite only representing 8% of the County population. Challenging anti-Black racism requires the county to reject any attempts to justify this disparity as the result of more harm, violence, and/or criminality demonstrated by Black people. Instead the county should examine the systemic defunding of opportunity, stability, and wellbeing exacerbated by millions spent in policing and incarcerating communities with significant Black populations throughout the county as demonstrated by the work of Million Dollar Hoods.
- ❖ I support Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' efforts to adopt recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness. Many of the recommendations put forth in that report are complementary to the efforts of ATI and the vision of reducing policing and incarceration of houseless people. Los Angeles County is only 5 years away from a Department of Justice Settlement that exposed a coordinated effort by the Sheriff's Department and the Housing Authority of Los Angeles to target Black people on section-8. This coordinated effort resulted in many losing their housing. While this case has been settled, settlements are not systemic solutions and reforms in of themselves do not address systemic racism. The County should adopt this motion and resolve the many factors driving the houslessness of Black people in Los Angeles, including

investments in the Sheriff's Budget as opposed to other ATI and public health investments that have been proven to produce better outcomes.

Agenda Item 11: [Expanding the Scope of the Gender Responsive Advisory Committee](#)

- ❖ Thank you Supervisors Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas for recognizing the critical need to include trans, gender non-conforming and intersex people in the scope of the GRAC. Given the disproportionate impact of policing and incarceration on these populations, particularly those who are Black, Indigenous and people of color, it is critical that gender responsiveness be interpreted expansively. But I want to be clear: incarceration is not and will never be "gender-responsive" for cisgender women, trans, gnc and intersex people. These populations face unique risks in carceral settings and are especially vulnerable to violence and other forms of mistreatment. In fact, the rate of sexual assault in carceral settings is ten times higher for transgender people than the general population. It is critical that LA County focus on supporting the release of cisgender women, trans, gnc and intersex people, particularly Black trans women, and provide them with the services and care they need to thrive.

- ❖ I fully support Supervisor Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas' motion to expand the scope of the GRAC to include a *care first* mission. The Alternatives to Incarceration framework should be guiding all reforms the County undertakes. Expanding community-based services and diversion programs for cis women, trans, gender non-conforming and intersex individuals strongly supports the Board's goals of reducing the jail population and closing MCJ. Investing in care on the front end will save the county millions of our taxpayer dollars currently wasted on a failed jail system in the long run. The GRAC should prioritize the implementation of ATI and support the Board in ending the incarceration of our most vulnerable and high need populations.

Agenda Item 19: [Cut Restoration for Public Defender](#)

- ❖ Thank you Supervisors Solis and Hahn for recognizing the importance of restoring funding for The Office of the Public Defender. Public Defenders are often the only legal representation our community members have access to.

They play a critical role in not only protecting the presumption of innocence, but also pursuing law enforcement accountability. Fully funding the Public Defender will be essential in continuing to reduce the jail population and ultimately close MCJ. Without sufficient resources to the Department, Black, brown and low-income people will be the ones most harmed. If the county is committed to eliminating the disproportionately impact of policing and incarceration on Black, brown and low-income people, it must invest in the county services that protect them.



Agenda Item 20: [Immigration Legal Due Process for Low-Income Immigrants at Risk of Deportation](#)

- ❖ Thank you Supervisor Solis for presenting this motion and continuing to champion this urgent and important issue. As our country has grappled with the impact of COVID-19 and Los Angeles County and the State of California have taken bold measures to protect the public's safety and health, ICE instead continued business as usual. Instead of working to flatten the curve, ICE heightened the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks in its facilities and the surrounding communities. In Los Angeles County, when ICE agents arrest our constituents, they usually haul them away to the Adelanto ICE Detention Facility, the largest in California, where ICE has failed to provide adequate medical care even under normal circumstances. In fact, the federal district court in Los Angeles has noted that the conditions of confinement at Adelanto are "inconsistent with contemporary standards of human decency. Since mid-April, GEO Group, the private company that runs Adelanto, has been using a very harsh chemical called "HDQ Neutral" to disinfect the facility, causing detainees to experience difficulty breathing, bloody noses, and burning eyes.

- *[Apart from the inhumane approach due to COVID 19, detainees inside Adelanto continue to experience extreme use of force. On June 12, 2020, GEO officers dressed in full riot gear (helmet, shields, gas masks, etc.) used pepper spray, pepper bullets, and other "non-lethal" weapons against peaceful detainees in 5 dorms in Adelanto West, causing some detainees to lose consciousness and multiple detainees to be hospitalized. Multiple detainees our Attorneys spoke to described that officers beat up at least one detainee until there was blood all over the floor. Now, anywhere from 1 to 2 dozen detainees are in solitary confinement for 30 days in retaliation for "resisting." The 5 dorms remain on extremely restrictive lockdowns. The confrontation happened after*

GEO told detainees they had to go into lockdown because of protests outside the facility that the detainees had nothing to do with.]

- ❖ In this context, we cannot back down. When Trump has doubled down on his white-supremacist “America First” immigration agenda, and in light of ICE’s move to expand Adelanto and open new detention facilities in Southern California, this is the time not to pull back, but to invest even further in, and expand, the LA Justice Fund. We also urge that as this program moves forward there is genuine involvement and feedback from the community based organizations who are on the ground working with the most impacted. Please take action today in support of immigrant families and support item 20.