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## **Economy & Efficiency Commission Presentation**

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*Editorial Note: Although every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of the material in this presentation, the scope of the material covered and the discussions undertaken lends itself to the possibility of minor transcription misinterpretations.*

**PRESENTATIONS BY  
The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Board of Supervisors  
Los Angeles County**

**March 06, 2013**

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Chairman Barcelona greeted Chairman Ridley-Thomas and welcomed him while turning it over for Chairman Ridley-Thomas to speak to the Economy and Efficiency Commission.

### **The Priorities of the 2nd Supervisorial District:**

#### **Health Reform**

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Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that the Community Partner Clinics provide cost-effective, life-saving primary care services countywide to our sick and low-income residents, many of whom experience chronic diseases that could become life-threatening and expensive to address if not treated and controlled. He stated that recent Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) data shows that many Los Angeles County residents experience avoidable hospitalization because they cannot get adequate access to primary care services especially in South Los Angeles.

Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that Federal legislation is fueling our steady progress to transform the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center campus into a center of hope and excellence for health care delivery, a medical home for the underserved, urban health promotion, health workforce development research and teaching, and economic development. He stated that the grand opening of the federally funded MLK Center for Public Health last October marked the first major milestone of a renaissance occurring on that campus. He also stated that the expanded benefits through health reform will ensure the financial viability of the next

two phases--a new inpatient tower and a new ambulatory care center. The public investment of nearly \$800 million in health related construction projects in the Second District has created approximately 8,370 new jobs--4,600 of them at MLK alone.

Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that he is big on the use of technology to transform business operations. He stated that constituents need a higher level of connectivity and cited the example of patients using mobile phones to access comprehensive medical background. Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that no healthcare system is currently comparable to Kaiser Permanente. He stated that the County of Los Angeles is not where we need to be and that there is an urgent need to create an environment and digital infrastructure to get us there.

### **Public Safety**

Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that he has never forgotten that the top concern is the safety of the community, family, home, school, neighborhood and community. He stated that he understands the community's concerns about crime and violence. He stated that he has worked tirelessly to ensure that families feel safe where they live, work and recreate. Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that he has been an advocate for programs that intervene at the neighborhood level to encourage youths to choose education and productive pursuits that will steer them clear of activities that could lead them to being incarcerated for crimes committed as teens or young adults.

Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that he is studying the feasibility of creating and funding a Residential Academy for Los Angeles County probation youths. He stated that the Residential Academy concept would provide probation youths the opportunity to receive a high quality college preparatory education. He also stated that the Residential Academy concept could feature 'wrap-around' social services in a safe learning and living environment so young people on probation could complete their high school education and begin their post-secondary studies. Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that the result of the Residential Academy concept would be to fully prepare young people trapped in a cycle of crime and incarceration to become productive members of society with the learned ability to make a positive contribution to their communities. He stated that if this is successful, the Residential Academy concept could become a national model. He also stated that no Residential Academy currently exists for probation youths, so thorough study of the concept is needed.

Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated in 2012 he introduced a Board motion directing the County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer to assess the viability of establishing both a Citizens Law Enforcement Commission and an Inspector General for the Sheriff's Dept. He stated that he also co-authored a motion for the creation of the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence (CCJV) with Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. He stated that their goal was to obtain and analyze the data necessary to determine the full extent of the custody problems within the County's jails. He stated that CCJV released 77 findings in its nearly 200-page report. He also stated that after more than a year of investigation, testimony, and sifting through over 35,000 pages of documents; the evidence of inmate abuse and jail mismanagement is clear and convincing. He stated that now that the Board has the data, they cannot stop here.

Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that new oversight is warranted and it needs to be more substantial and comprehensive. He stated that the change has to be structural because there are no easy remedies and shortcuts to accomplishing the goal of fair and equitable treatment by those entrusted to provide public safety services. He stated that it is time to deal with the problems now, using a unified approach that achieves reform in L.A. County law enforcement, and bolsters public trust. He stated that the police camera surveillance system is broken and that the County needs to find a way to repair and replace the system so that the jails can be run more efficiently and safe. He stated that the cameras need to be working because it has a lot to say about litigation. He stated that the County would save a lot of money rather than a lawsuit because if it is on camera, then everyone knows they have to be on good behavior. He stated that there is a major decline in criminal behavior when it is clear that the cameras are working and working properly. He stated that there is no excuse for the lack of installation of a camera system throughout the County jail system. He stated that the County cannot afford to be timid about tackling these policing issues. He stated

that there are a number of deputies who have failed the public. He stated that this culture was repeatedly overlooked by jail custody management and Department executives. He also stated that the County must make sure that people in custody are not victimized by those charged with their supervision. He stated that most importantly the County must steer the Sheriff's Department in a new direction. He stated that another major concern is that the Probation Department may have lost its way.

### **Economic Development**

Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that another area of concern is economic development with the dissolution of redevelopment agencies. He stated that the County now has the opportunity to capture substantial sums of money in the County. He stated that there is already approximately \$200 million dollars that is essentially found money. Chairman Ridley-Thomas stated that the Board made a motion that would have affectively caused a 5 point distribution plan in bio-tech, affordable housing, and transit development opportunities. He stated that some thinks with the extra money should be used for the clean water initiative, or the hire more Sherriff Deputies. He stated that the Board is in a debate mode right now on what to do with the excess funds.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Commissioner Ikejiri commented that he would like to thank Supervisor Ridley-Thomas for always attending the Race of Life in Gardena. He stated that Supervisor Ridley-Thomas shows up more than the members of City Council do and it is greatly appreciated. Commissioner Ikejiri added that the event is dear to him because both of his parents had cancer and the fact that the Supervisor comes to walk is inspiring. Chairman Ridley-Thomas replied that the South-east portion of the County of Los Angeles has the highest rate of cancer. He stated that it is also dear to his heart as well.

Chair-Emeritus Philibosian asked what can the County or the Board of Supervisors do or forbear from doing that will help grow business in the County of Los Angeles? Chairman Ridley-Thomas replied that the LAEDC will be requested by the 2nd District to provide a creation job analysis pursuing the range of projects of which the County has been involved with from the hospitals, jails, to affordable housing. He referenced the book from the 2nd District titled "from Advocacy to Delivery" which he handed out earlier at the meeting, and stated that the book provides details of projects the County is working on that has potentials to create jobs.

Chairman Barcelona expressed his appreciation to Chairman Ridley-Thomas and invited him to come back to speak to the EEC in the near future and the Commissioners applauded.

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