

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

OCTOBER 29, 2019

**Examining the Role of Tissue and Organ Procurement in Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner (DME-C)**

One of the most important responsibilities of the Department of the Medical Examiner-Coroner is to investigate unexpected and untimely deaths in the County. The investigators and physicians in this department have the difficult job of piecing together physical evidence available on and about the body of the deceased, as well as obtaining information surrounding the death and about those who have died, including that available at the scene, to reach conclusions about the manner and cause of death. This information is important to providing answers to grieving loved ones, is often used in court cases, and can be used as helpful data to inform strategies for preventing similar deaths from occurring.

Concerns have been raised that the quality of the DME-C death investigations is compromised by organ and tissue donation/procurement. While organ and tissue donation is invaluable, saves lives, and improves the quality of lives, it is important to ensure that it does not interfere with the death investigation services our County

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SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

residents receive from DME-C.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel and the Department of the Coroner-Medical Examiner to report back in writing in 90 days with a detailed report on:

1. The role of organ and tissue procurement in Los Angeles County.
2. The laws, policies, and practices that govern the relationship between organ and tissue procurement companies and the Department of the Medical Examiner-Coroner, and an evaluation of past and current practices related to this issue.
3. A detailed plan to make any improvements, if needed.

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HLS:rk