

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.1
(ID # 13174)

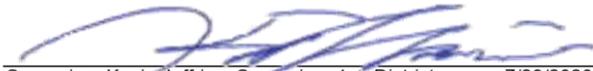
MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, August 04, 2020

FROM : SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES AND SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ :

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES and SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ:
Scheduling Workshops on County Goals and Services in the Midst of Ongoing
Social, Health, and Economic Crises

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors Convene Workshops to Evaluate
County Services and Priorities Amid Ongoing Societal Challenges

ACTION:Policy


Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, Supervisor 1st. District 7/29/2020

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Background:

The County of Riverside faces numerous challenges to adequately serve, assist, respond and protect all its residents, visitors and businesses. The pressing social, healthcare, public safety, workforce and education needs of our county, combined with the growing financial constraints, justifies an urgent and ongoing reexamination or “reimagining” as to how our services can be improved, redesigned, restructured, and/or partnered with other government entities, non-profit, not-for-profit, and community-based organizations.

The County of Riverside acknowledges that underserved communities, especially those located in our unincorporated communities, lack valuable services, programs, and infrastructure that is commonly found within municipalities, and that investment is necessary to achieve sustainable communities in the unincorporated areas. In addition, equity, fairness and equal opportunity are key tenets that the County of Riverside strives to achieve.

The County of Riverside acknowledges that healthcare is a critically important component of the well-being of our communities. Healthy and safe communities provide for an overall quality of life that is desired by our residents. Strategies to provide health and wellness services to our underserved populations by integrating our behavioral health, community health, population health, medical center, and other operations, while collaborating with our private partners should be refined to provide better access to services for our underserved communities.

The County of Riverside acknowledges that public safety services must fully engage with communities, develop open lines of communications with residents and community organizations, and provide young men and women with entry level access to training and employment to enhance community representation and diversity within the professional ranks of our public safety departments.

The County of Riverside acknowledges that the integration of social services and behavioral health services into day-to-day public safety field operations and urgent responses will help to address the critical needs of vulnerable populations immediately, preventing delays that could potentially lead to further harm.

The County of Riverside acknowledges that education, vocational training, and entry level access to employment with career opportunities can create more sustainable communities and provide hope for our youth that they may have a productive future in our county, rather than

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leaving for perceived better possibilities elsewhere. Intern programs, mentoring services, and coordination between our Workforce Development programs and major employers (including the County itself) can be part of that solution.

Despite the ongoing, long-standing shortfalls in provision of essential health, social services, and public safety services, as well as quality of life programs that require an increased investment, the County is faced with significant budget challenges that require difficult choices. Growing financial constraints and competition for limited financial resources, combined with built-in cost escalators are forcing our County to do more with less. Our recent budget resulted in deep cuts to multiple agencies departments, and even most agencies who received increases in their budgets fell short of the funding they needed to pay for increased labor and other fixed or mandated costs.

Looking ahead, county revenues are likely to continue to fall short of needs, while demand for services are likely to increase. Simply forcing departments and agencies to absorb another 5-10% budget reduction within their existing framework is unsustainable, and may result in the complete cessation of services within some departments. In a time of financial and social crisis, it is critical that we re-evaluate our historic priorities and processes, so that underserved communities and populations are not left further behind or forgotten in the quest for budget savings.

As part of the final motion on Item 3.21 at the July 14th, 2020 Board of Supervisors, it was recommended that Supervisors Jeffries and Perez work with the Executive Office to develop a Board Workshop focused on how we might look at larger reforms and revisions to county services and departments, with the opportunity for Board members to discuss different frameworks, partnerships, and concepts outside of our standard operating procedures and traditional service models.

This Form 11 memorializes that part of the discussion and directs the Executive Office to plan a two part Board Workshop in September, the first part of which would be a "Listening Session" for public comment and suggestions for reforms from the residents of Riverside County, and then the second part (likely a different day) for the Board of Supervisors and Department Heads that would be divided into sessions on 1) Public Safety, 2) Health and Human Services, and 3) Other County Services. Each section should include discussion of potential non-profit alliances, community outreach, intern, vocational training, and entry level employment and volunteer opportunities.

Suggestions that have broad Board support within this discussion can then be referred to the Executive Office for further evaluation or implementation, so that they might be included when the Board revisits our budget. The Board can also utilize this workshop to craft a scope and

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design for a Community Task Force, which was also endorsed by the Board as part of Item 3.21 on July 14th.



Impact on Residents and Businesses: Re-evaluating service processes and priorities can help preserve critical county functions and protect under-served communities during the ongoing budget crisis.