

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

OCTOBER 1, 2002

The Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, and Probation Department have all had unprecedented increases in workers' compensation claims over the last five years. State law has recently allowed for increased workers' compensation claims. Los Angeles County currently has a policy of requiring each County Department to bear the costs of all workers' compensation claims. This is causing a budget crisis for the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, and Probation Department.

The Chief Administrative Officer began this policy on the theory that if the Department were required to pay the costs of workers' compensation claims, the Department would be vigilant in guarding against workers' compensation fraud. County departments have done their best to deter fraud, but each fraud unit is understaffed and overwhelmed by workers' compensation claims. This creates the need to have a centralized risk management unit within the County to counter workers' compensation fraud.

Given that workers' compensation claims are at their highest levels ever, and that the County is currently assessing the need to centralize the risk management function, it is time to allow the Sheriff, District Attorney and Probation Department some relief from the burden of absorbing workers' compensation costs. Requiring the County to pay a percentage of workers' compensation costs would still provide an incentive to each Department to investigate workers' compensation claims, but would relieve a large budgetary problem within these three Departments.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to create a new policy whereby the Sheriff, District Attorney, and Probation Departments are required to pay 50% of the costs of workers' compensation claims within each Department, and the Chief Administrative Officer is required to identify funding for 50% of the costs of workers' compensation claims within these three Departments.

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