

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

January 14, 2003

AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IMAGE

To aggressively combat welfare fraud, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion on October 23, 1990 implementing fingerprint imaging as a fraud deterrent system in the General Relief (GR) program. This was the first use of automated fingerprint matching outside of law enforcement in the nation.

This Automated Fingerprint Image Reporting and Match (AFIRM) system virtually eliminated multiple case frauds from the GR caseload and allowed Los Angeles County to save millions of dollars.

Given this success, in early 1992, the Board unanimously instructed DPSS to seek the necessary State and Federal waivers to expand AFIRM to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program and to non-assistance Food Stamps programs, again resulting in a net savings to the County.

Recognizing AFIRM's fraud deterrence effectiveness and following numerous AFIRM national and local fraud deterrent awards, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) began rolling out its Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) to the 58 counties in March 2000 in the State's California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and Food Stamp programs.

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However, on January 2, 2003, the California Bureau of State Audits sent to Governor Gray Davis and State Legislative Leaders a copy of its review of the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS). The report concludes that the California Department of Social Services did not determine the extent of duplicate aid fraud throughout the State and did not collect statewide data that would allow them to determine whether SFIS is cost effective and, therefore, it did not properly establish the State's need for a fingerprint imaging system. The report also recommends that the State weigh whether or not SFIS should be continued.

In light of the Board's firm support of welfare fraud prevention measures, including the proven cost and effectiveness for fraud deterrent, it is paramount that the statewide fingerprint imaging continues.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT the Board instruct the Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to Governor Gray Davis opposing the elimination of the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System.

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