

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

March 4, 2003

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), is a federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. This tax credit will reduce the amount of Federal taxes owed, resulting in a tax refund for those who qualify. Families eligible to EITC may also qualify for the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Again, reducing the amount of tax owed by low-income families with children under the age of 17.

Most families with household earnings between \$10,350 and \$20,000 per year will qualify for both the EITC and CTC, but, unfortunately, many of these families are unaware of such tax credits, and are unaware of how to claim their benefits. Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, low-income working families can prepare their taxes with the assistance from volunteers in the community, which would ensure that they are filing properly and claiming the EITC and the CTC if qualified. VITA is available at more than 80 sites throughout Los Angeles County.

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Information on how to access these tax credit programs, as well as the VITA program, was included on the January 30th and February 28th County employee paychecks. However, much more needs to be done to ensure that low-income families know about and file for the tax credits they are due.

I, therefore, move that this Board request all County departments to promote awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program to their employees and the general public by sharing both the L.A. County EITC hotline number at (800) 601-5552, the website address at www.eitc-la.com, and further by posting the locations of 80-tax-assistance centers such as on public bulletin boards.

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