

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 4, 2003

The California Attorney General recently filed suit against a group of attorneys accused of abusing the State's Unfair Competition Law to extort cash settlements from thousands of small businesses under the guise of consumer protection. Many of the businesses targeted by these attorneys were minority-owned businesses in Los Angeles County.

It is vital that these attorneys discontinue the practice of targeting small business owners for frivolous lawsuits under the current law. Current law must be amended to ensure that minority-owned businesses are not targeted in this manner.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the:

1. County Counsel to draft and send a five-signature letter in support of the Attorney General's position with regard to the lawsuit against attorneys accused of abusing the Unfair Competition Law;
2. County Counsel to report back in two weeks regarding what additional steps can be taken in support of the Attorney General's position, including the possibility of intervening as a plaintiff in the lawsuit;
3. Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to Governor Davis, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Assembly Speaker, minority leaders in both the State Senate and Assembly , and the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation in support of Assembly Bill 102 (Pacheco), which amends the current Unfair Competition Law to ensure that it is not used by unscrupulous individuals to target legitimate businesses.

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MDA:jho

MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

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