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R-25


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Date: March 19, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilwoman Suzie Price, Third District *SP*
Councilwoman Jeannine Pearce, Second District *JR*
Councilman Daryl Supernaw, Fourth District *DS*
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, Seventh District *R*

Subject: Recommendation to Request Report on Laura's Law

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the City Manager to provide an update within 60 days on Laura's Law and an explanation of how it is being applied and funded by the County of Los Angeles.

DISCUSSION:

In 2002 the California State legislature passed Assembly Bill 1421, known as Laura's Law, giving counties the authority to force certain people with severe mental illness to receive treatment. The law targets a very specific group: mentally ill people who have landed in jail or hospitals because of their condition, and only applies to those who might be a danger to themselves or others because they do not recognize that their condition puts them in need of treatment.

Named in memory of Laura Wilcox, who, while working in a mental health clinic, was shot to death on January 10, 2001 by a mentally ill patient who refused services, the statute can only be utilized in counties that choose to enact outpatient commitment programs based on the measure.

Since passage 17 years ago, individual California counties have been slow to sign on with Los Angeles County adopting the law in 2014. With mental illness, homelessness, and public safety continuing to be a major focus for all Long Beach residents, the City Council should receive an update on this law and an explanation of how it is being implemented by Los Angeles County.

This matter was reviewed by Budget Manager Grace H. Yoon, on March 11, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This recommendation requests a report in 60 days on the status of Laura's Law and how it is being applied and funded by the County of Los Angeles. The City Manager is planning to reach out and work with the County to prepare this report. Preparing this report is anticipated to have a minimal impact on staff hours beyond normal budgeted scope of duties and minimal impact on existing City Council priorities as staff will work to coordinate with the County to provide this information.