

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS
AND MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVAL TASK FORCE

On August 1 and 2, 2015, an electronic music festival was held at the Pomona Fairplex, a property owned by Los Angeles County. Tragically, two teenagers, Tracy Nguyen and Katie Dix died at the event. The Board took immediate action, and on August 4, 2015, instructed the Interim Chief Executive Officer and the Interim County Counsel to report back on the issue of prohibiting these festivals on County-owned property, while examining whether additional safety measures could be implemented to create a safe environment for all patrons. At the time, the Fair Association and promoter Live Nation had contracts for two future events.

In the interim, Live Nation has agreed to cancel the first event planned for September 10, 2015, and to implement several significant health and safety conditions at the two-day event scheduled for October 31- November 1. Among the conditions: attendance will be greatly reduced, from 65,000 to 40,000 per day; the age limit will be 21 and over; there will be an increase in cooling stations, shaded areas and free water; onsite emergency medical services and security will be increased; and, anti-drug / drug education messaging will be distributed.

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RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
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KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

While these conditions and safety measures are significant, additional research is needed. The tragic deaths of these two young women were not isolated. There have been a number of deaths at electronic music festivals in Los Angeles County over the past several years.

In 2010, after the death of 15 year old Sasha Rodriguez at a Coliseum hosted electronic music festival, the Board directed that a task force be convened to provide recommendations to enhance the safety at these events. This resulted in a number of guidelines which the Board adopted as “general policy direction for all electronic music festivals”.

In 2011, AB 74 was enacted in the State of California. Referred to as ‘Sasha’s Law’ in reference to Sasha Rodriguez, AB 74 imposed restrictions on events held at State owned or operated facilities.

The most recent deaths have confirmed that procedures stronger than “general policy direction” are needed. Enforceable conditions and restrictions are required when these events take place on County-owned property. As such, the County should reevaluate the recommendations made in the past, the restrictions developed by other jurisdictions, and any new information that is available.

Ultimately, in the interest of public safety, a ban of electronic music festivals at County-owned properties remains a possibility that will continue to be evaluated. While the Board supports musical events in the County, what is of paramount importance is the health and safety of the youth attending these events.

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WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, Departments of Public Health, Health Services, and Fire, in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department, to convene a task force that will develop recommendations for enforceable health and safety measures and procedures, that would be required for all electronic music festivals on County-owned property, and report back in 120 days. The task force should consider the County's 2010 recommendations, the AB 74 procedures, and any new studies and best practices, including the impact of alcohol consumption and security staff training. The task force should also seek input from the electronic music festival community, specifically groups promoting safe experiences.

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