



The Chair's Outgoing Message

by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District

It has been an honor to serve as Chairman during a historic year that ushered in a new era for the Board of Supervisors.

For the first time, the governing body of the nation's largest county includes four women. What a privilege and a joy to work alongside Supervisors Hilda Solis, Sheila Kuehl, Janice Hahn and Kathryn Barger – trailblazers all.

Together, we worked to enact inclusive and progressive policies to strengthen the social safety net, while responsibly overseeing a balanced budget of \$30.1 billion – the largest in the history of Los Angeles County.

Thanks to voters passing Measure H, we now have an unprecedented amount of dedicated funding for programs to end and prevent homelessness. This will provide housing and supportive services to 45,000 families and individuals, and avert homelessness for 30,000 others.

We also made progress in establishing bioscience hubs at the County's medical research facilities. These incubators for scientific discovery and lifesaving medical treatments and devices are expected to rev up our economy, and create thousands of jobs.

Other accomplishments over the past year include promoting the development of affordable housing; expanding mental health services; protecting the environment; developing cohesive policies to regulate the legal use of cannabis; connecting youth with education and employment; and diverting them from commercial sexual exploitation.

We have also sought to implement the Civilian Oversight Panel of the Sheriff's Department, and to reform the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, as well as the Probation Department.

I am proud that the Board has been governed by the values of integrity, inclusivity and diversity while carrying out its mission of improving the lives of Los Angeles County's 10 million residents, as well as the millions who visit, work, study, and worship here. I am confident that we will continue to practice intentional civility towards one another as well as our constituents as we remain resolute in tackling the wide range of issues before us.

As we look forward to more blessings in the coming year, I wish you all a very happy holiday season.



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Calendar of Events

Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

www.centertheatregroup.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Through December 31 – Something Rotten!

Kirk Douglas Theatre

Through December 31 – Spamilton

January 27 through February 25 – Elliot, A Soldier’s Fuge

Mark Taper Forum

January 31 through March 11 – Water By The Spoonful

Grand Park

(213) 972-8080

www.grandparkla.org

December 31 – Grand Park + The Music Center’s N.Y.E.L.A.

Every Tuesday through Thursday – Lunchtime! Food Trucks

Every Wednesday and Friday – Lunchtime! Yoga reTREAT

Walt Disney Concert Hall

(323) 850-2000

www.laphil.com

February 11 – Israel in Egypt

May 13 – Reid & Riley

June 9 through June 10 – Brahms Requiem

WeTip
WELFARE FRAUD
1 (800) 87-FRAUD

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information on employment
opportunities with the
County of Los Angeles



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Submissions to the DIGEST may be
edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Check out the DIGEST at

<http://hr.lacounty.gov/about-the-county/>

Meet Bobby D. Cagle, MSW

Director, Department of Children and Family Services



Bobby Cagle became Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on December 1, 2017. With an annual budget of approximately \$2.6 billion and over 9,000 employees, Mr. Cagle oversees the largest child welfare agency in the nation, serving about 34,000 children, including 18,000 children in out-of-home care.

Most recently, Cagle served as the Director of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. Appointed by Governor Nathan Deal in June 2014, he served as the chief executive officer of the state agency providing child welfare services, and nutrition and economic assistance. Prior to his appointment, Cagle had also served the agency as Director of Legislative and External Affairs and as Family Services Director where he led policy development on child welfare, domestic violence, sexual assault, and provider contracting.

Cagle also served as the Commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, the agency responsible for the early care and education of hundreds of thousands of Georgia’s children. Earlier positions from his time in North Carolina include Deputy Director of Youth and Family Services for the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services, Director of the Graham County Department of Social Services, and Judicial District Manager for the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

Director Cagle is a member of the Board of Advisors for the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work, member of the Board of Advisors of the Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory University School of Law, member of the Executive Committee for the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA).

Director Cagle’s numerous honors include being awarded the prestigious Annie E. Casey Children and Families Fellowship in 2016, awarded for Distinguished Social Work – Public Service by the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, named a Notable Georgian by Georgia Trend Magazine in 2015, 2016, and 2017, receiving the 2015 Hearing Children’s Voices Award from SAFEPATH Children’s Advocacy Center, receiving a 2013

United Way of Greater Atlanta Women’s Leadership Council Excellence in Education Award, and receiving the 2012 Interfaith Children’s Movement of Georgia Leadership Award.

A native of Robbinsville, North Carolina, Director Cagle earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology and a Master of Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Spark of Love Toy Drive *25 Years of Giving*

The Los Angeles County Fire Department and ABC7 are celebrating 25 years of bringing holiday cheer to underserved children and teens through the Spark of Love Toy Drive. Over 8 million toys have been collected and distributed through the program since it began.

Toys are distributed through partnerships with local non-profit organizations working in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Ventura, and Riverside counties.



Community Development Commission



The Community Development Commission (CDC) and the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) are celebrating a major milestone. It has been 35 years since the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors merged three entities – HACoLA, the Community Development Department, and the Redevelopment Agency – to form the CDC.

For over three decades, the CDC and HACoLA have worked together to ensure families secure stable and affordable housing, increase employment opportunities, and provide access to safe, public spaces in the community.

The CDC prides itself on adapting to the evolving needs of the County and positioning itself to address the myriad of challenges. For example, in 1988, HACoLA recognized that its responsibility extended beyond putting a roof over tenants' heads and implemented Resident Services Program to offer onsite services designed to help public housing residents gain the confidence and skills to become self-sufficient.

Further, in 1994, when a 6.7 magnitude earthquake hit Northridge, the CDC and HACoLA mobilized to administer millions in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding to house displaced residents, assist business owners in keeping their operations going, and rebuild damaged infrastructure.

The CDC is proud to be on the ground every day transforming neighborhoods to improve the livability for all County residents. Within the past 10 years, the CDC has overseen the construction or rehabilitation of 13 community centers, 10 public libraries, four County parks, and three childcare centers. Investing in safe, public spaces has been a longstanding priority for the CDC.

The CDC has remained a trusted resource for the Board, often called upon to administer programs and funding, and oversee projects from inception to completion. In 1997, the Board approved the CDC to oversee the County's Traffic Violator School Monitoring Program. Further, during the 2008 housing crisis, the Board tasked the CDC with implementing a Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program, which helped nearly 4,000 County residents remain in stable housing.

Most recently, the Board has called upon the CDC and HACoLA to be a key player in the County's homeless initiative. The CDC and HACoLA have developed award-winning approaches that housed more than 800 families, individuals, and veterans since the creation of its homeless incentive programs in early 2016.

Although the CDC and HACoLA have had to overcome obstacles throughout the years, the two entities are stronger together, and look forward to continuing to fulfill the agency's mission to *Build Better Lives and Better Neighborhoods*.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Los Angeles County residents can once again conveniently recycle their Christmas trees this year. Most areas throughout the County provide curbside recycling services and/or drop-off sites, where trees can be recycled. Please click the links below for details and information regarding Holiday tree recycling:

- Incorporated Cities
- Unincorporated Communities (Garbage Disposal Districts and Franchise Areas)
- Other Unincorporated Areas (Antelope Valley)

For additional information regarding Christmas tree recycling programs in the GDDs or unincorporated communities and to learn more about the County of

Los Angeles Environmental Programs, please call 1 (888) CLEAN LA between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.





County Reaffirms Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment

What is sexual harassment?

by Stephen Strati

County Equity Investigations Unit
Department of Human Resources

Recently, it seems, every time I turn on the television, open the newspaper or look at my smart phone, there is a new story regarding sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. Titans of industry, celebrities, politicians, athletes and everyday ordinary people are being accused of and/or subjected to inappropriate sexually-based conduct. Here in the County of Los Angeles, our Board of Supervisors have taken further steps to improve our County’s reporting process related to discrimination, retaliation, and sexual harassment.

So, what is sexual harassment? The U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) defines sexual harassment as follows:

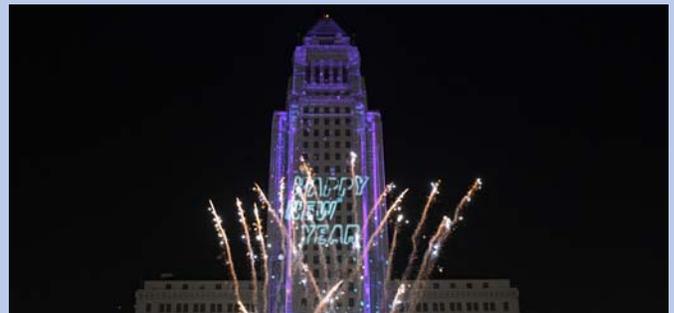
“Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

- submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual’s employment,
- submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decision affecting such individual, or
- such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.”

Also, the County Policy of Equity makes it clear that sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that is directed toward a person because of their gender. The conduct can be physical, verbal and/or visual, and can include:

sexual propositions; commenting on physical attributes; discussing sexual thoughts, fantasies or activities; repeated requests for a date; using demeaning or inappropriate terms; telling off-color jokes; displaying sexually suggestive pictures; emails and text messages of a sexual nature; impeding or blocking movement; hugging/massaging; deliberately brushing up against someone; engaging in hostile physical conduct; and granting job favors to those who participate in consensual sexual activity therefore excluding those who refrain or decline, just to name a few.

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that sexual harassment is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any employee who feels they have been harassed or who is aware of another employee who has been harassed should contact the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors’ County Intake Specialist Unit at (213) 974-9868. For further information, please refer to the County Policy of Equity <http://hr.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/PolicyOfEquity.pdf>, the County Equity Oversight Panel website <https://ceop.bos.lacounty.gov>, and the DHR website <http://hr.lacounty.gov/>.



Grand Park + The Music Center’s N.Y.E.L.A.

Saturday, December 31, 8 p.m.

For the fifth year, Grand Park + The Music Center’s N.Y.E.L.A. will be the go-to central gathering place in Los Angeles where Angelenos from all over the County and visitors from across the globe ring in the New Year. This unique civic event, which has been recognized alongside major New Year’s Eve celebrations around the world, brings Angelenos and their family and friends together to celebrate the holiday at LA’s biggest dance party. Grand Park’s N.Y.E.L.A. will focus on music and dancing both onstage, on the dance floor, and throughout the rest of the event. The event will include free interactive motion-graphic activations for audiences to bring to life with their own moves, and a unique only-in-Los Angeles New Year’s countdown, featuring 3-D digital video mapping on the side of the iconic City Hall with an integrated light show celebrating the wonderful energy of this New Year’s celebration.

Brain Interface Bionic Suit Could Change the Future for Paraplegics

Loss of the ability to walk is one of the most devastating consequences of spinal cord injuries, destroying paraplegics' independence and sense of self-control. But that could all change in the near future.

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho) is once again on the forefront of innovation, most recently pushing the frontiers of robotics and brain-machine-interface. Rancho is part of a team that was recently awarded the *National Science Foundation (NSF) Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) Frontiers Grant*. The five-year, \$8 million grant will be used to create a brain machine interface system in conjunction with a wearable robot exoskeleton that could restore walking and lower extremity sensation after a spinal cord injury.

The principal investigators are physicians, engineers, and scientists from UC Irvine (Payam Heydari, Zoran Nenadic, An Do), USC (Charles Liu), and Caltech (Richard Andersen), and much of the work with patients will take place at Rancho.

The award is the culmination of ongoing transformative work taking place at Rancho over the past several years, including team collaboration with UC Irvine and USC, to decode the “thoughts” associated with walking in the brain through use of implanted electrodes. In parallel, another team involving Caltech, USC, and Rancho have created the ability to generate “artificial sensation” by applying electrical stimulation to the brain using the same electrodes in the epilepsy patients.

The new NSF-funded project combines the two teams to create a new strategy for patients with spinal cord injury to be more independent. The dynamic work is made possible by the unique resources at Rancho, such as the Rancho Los Amigos Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, which has a National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) level IV designation (highest level) and serves as a principal resource for all patients in DHS. This cutting edge research could be life changing for the more than 250,000 Americans currently living with spinal cord injuries.



Dr. Charles Liu explains the benefits of the bionic suit to Rancho patient Cynthia Ramirez.



Instead of tossing your unwanted goods in the trash, post them on LACoMAX.com and give them a second chance.

If you need FREE materials for your home, business, non-profit or school, visit LACoMAX.com. You just might find what you're looking for!

Your trash could be someone else's treasure.

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LACoMAX is an online materials exchange website managed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

Working for You

Department of Public Health

Get Vaccinated For Flu

The colder months of December through March are *flu season*. Influenza, also called flu, is an illness caused by a virus (germ). Symptoms typically include headache, fever, chills, sore throat, and muscle or body aches. People with the flu can spread it to others. With holiday preparations, work, and family priorities, it can be a busy time for all and no one wants to spend it home with the flu. Take steps to prevent you and your loved ones from getting sick with the flu this year.

Groups with a greater risk for severe illness from the flu

Anyone can get the flu. However, some groups are at a greater risk for serious problems associated with the flu. These groups include:

- Adults 65 years and older
- People with chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, or heart disease
- Children
- Pregnant women
- People with weakened immunity like those with cancer, HIV or AIDS

How to prevent the flu

Get the flu shot. It's safe, effective, and the best way to prevent the flu. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated. Visit your medical provider to get the flu shot. Most County health insurance providers offer the flu shot for free.

You can also stay healthy by practicing these healthy habits:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
3. Stay away from sick people.
4. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
5. Use medication the way your doctor recommends it.
6. If you are sick with flu-like symptoms, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.

We wish you a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. For more information about the flu, visit the following websites:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/influenza.htm>



Protecting Your Home from Holiday Fire Hazards

The holiday season is a joyous time, filled with beautifully decorated trees and houses draped in festive lights. But every year, dry Christmas trees and holiday lights cause hundreds of house fires.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department has a few tips on keeping you, your family, and your home safe during the holidays.

Christmas Tree Safety

There are many alternatives to fresh trees. Many of the artificial trees are fire-resistant. If you buy one, look for a statement that specifies this protection.

If you decide to buy a real tree, make sure to determine the freshness of your tree. A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

To check for a tree's freshness, remember:

- A fresh tree is green.
- Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.
- When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- The trunk of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
- When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that the tree is too dry.

When setting up a tree:

- Place it away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry out trees quickly, producing a fire hazard.
- Use thin guy-wires to secure a large tree to walls or the ceiling.
- Make sure to keep fresh trees in a sturdy, water-holding base.
- Prevent the tree from drying out by keeping the stand filled with water as long as it is indoors.

New Public Health Report Recommends CalFresh Food Benefits as a Vital Element to Preventing Food Insecurity in LA County

CalFresh, the federally-funded supplemental nutrition food benefit that helps low-income families and individuals increase their food-buying power, is a significant partner in a multi-sector approach to preventing food insecurity in Los Angeles County, according to a recently released report by the Department of Public Health.



The report, “*Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County*,” supports the need for an ongoing collaboration between government agencies, local health care providers, schools, and faith-based and community-based organizations, to reach approximately 599,000 Los Angeles County residents identified through geocoding as in need of food assistance by the California Department of Social Services.

According to the report, families and individuals in food insecure households often have poor diets because they resort to buying less expensive foods that are high in calories, but lacking in nutritional value. Additionally, food insecurity during childhood can lead to delayed development, diminished academic performance, impaired social skills, and early onset of obesity.

“We all know someone who is experiencing difficulties purchasing food for themselves or their family,” said Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Director Sheryl L. Spiller. “This issue is a priority of the department.”

Before December 31, DPSS will have distributed information to a total of 984,000 households in areas identified by geocoding where CalFresh participation is below 50 percent. The information is intended to educate the public on the benefits of CalFresh, highlight more convenient options to apply, eliminate the stigma, and sometimes fears, associated with applying for public assistance.

Los Angeles County residents can expect to see the DPSS Health & Nutrition Mobile Office and trained DPSS Eligibility Workers deployed daily throughout the County at large community events, supermarkets, health clinics, libraries, and other public settings that are easily accessible and provide a comfortable atmosphere for applying for CalFresh.

Some of the many recommendations where DPSS CalFresh Program can play a major role in reducing food security include the following:

- Exploring new partnerships between DPSS, private organizations, and other public agencies to reach more seniors, families, single adults, homeless individuals, and other groups who experience food insecurity.
- Launching new initiatives to increase participation in the CalFresh Program.
- Referring patients identified as food insecure to resources such as CalFresh, Women Infants and Children, and other food assistance programs.

Some additional overall findings of the study to address food insecurity included enhancing the nutrition standards in food pantries and meal programs, screening for food insecurity at scheduled health visits, increase nutrition education resources, reducing food waste by feeding hungry people, and supporting broad societal efforts to eliminate poverty and increase household incomes.

Rideshare L.A. County!

from Department of Human Resources

December is Commute Safely Month. Rideshare L.A. County wishes you a safe and happy holiday season. There are many ways to be safe on the road, and following safety measures can ensure that you and your loved ones enjoy this blissful time of year. One way to be safe is to make sure you buckle up if you are driving or carpooling. When on public transit, make sure you wait in a safe location on a curb or behind marked lines at bus or rail stations. For more safety tips on public transit, visit www.metro.net/around/safety-security. Have a great holiday season and remember to Take Pride, Share the Ride.

Retirees

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after their many years of service to the County of Los Angeles:

50+ Years

HEALTH SERVICES: Laurie L. Brooks

45+ Years

HEALTH SERVICES: Lillie Bradley, Karen Dove, Mary E. Nevarez

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Brenda E. Dolphin, Ilene B. Harrison

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING & COMMUNITY SERVICES: Angela E. Whitaker

40+ Years

ASSESSOR: Iranetta D. Roberson

COUNTY COUNSEL: Yvonne Diaz

HEALTH SERVICES: Cynthia D. Moore Oliver

HUMAN RESOURCES: Maria L. Maldonado

INTERNAL SERVICES: Priscila P. Deleon, Frank Olinger, Daniel R. Williams

LACERA: Murene K. Tsang

MENTAL HEALTH: Astrid Beigel

PARKS AND RECREATION: Raul Flores

PUBLIC HEALTH: Joyce E. Walker

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Nellie Duarte, Guadalupe Jackson, Janet M. Lee, Melanie A. Marks, Lillie Thomas

PUBLIC WORKS: Maria Alvarez

35+ Years

ASSESSOR: Gwendolyn M. Harris

BEACHES & HARBORS: Carlos Zimmerman

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Isabel C. Cervantes

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Catherine T. Walsh

HEALTH SERVICES: Joseph M. Baltrushes, Cresenia S. Camcam, Linda Elliott-Nett, Maureen M. Flannery, Michael A. Laudano, Hilda Montano, Terry J. Reimer, Elaine Z. Saafir, Paula Santana, Ethel M. Stepney

INTERNAL SERVICES: Frederick W. Chan

PARKS & RECREATION: Gail E. Bedford

PROBATION: Carol R. Campbell, Alfred Cortez

PUBLIC HEALTH: Carolyn Cole

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Youngtae Choo, Miranda Y. Ng, Barbara Watson-Grave

PUBLIC WORKS: Francis A. Calasanz

SUPERIOR COURT: Andrea J. Billue

30+ Years

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Paula P. Leiva

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SHERIFF: Joan N. Apolonio, Adam Arteaga, Michael A. Chacon, Jeffrey R. Fleming, Jeffrey S. Leslie, Roger E. Wallace

SUPERIOR COURT: Glynis J. Walker

TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR: Mary A. Camperi

25+ Years

ASSESSOR: Ricky A. King

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: James Cooper, Donna L. Garth, Susan Pace

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Gregory A. Icamen

FIRE: Donna Goldstein, Ernest A. Marquez, Philip G. Olivas

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INTERNAL SERVICES: Steven Wood

MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER: Denise L. Bertone

MENTAL HEALTH: Alma Baray, Olivia I. Cadena, Bruce Heidelberg

PROBATION: Carolyn J. Anderson-Pryor, Robert D. De Vries

PUBLIC HEALTH: Joyce Mullen

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Maria D. Abarca, Pamela M. Abbey-Knight, Gwendolyn R. Dixon, Ramon A. Duron, Consuelo Essis, Edith M. Lopez, Teri S. Lynch, Lydia M. Rosario, Mariam Sinanyan, Karen H. Ton, Regina N. White, Pauline Young

SHERIFF: Robert J. Connor, Jasper O. Hicks, John T. Lazarus, Raquel J. Mateo, Florentina S. McMorrow, Warren V. Norian, Jr., Derek T. Yoshino

SUPERIOR COURT: William Bianchi, Shelly Garret, Gregg E. McCarrell, Andrew H. Nelson, Gloria M. Nunez



Cyber Security Awareness

Holiday Online Cyber Tips



KEEP YOURSELF A LITTLE SAFER ONLINE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

- * Protect your online accounts with strong authentication beyond usernames and passwords (e.g., one-time code, security answers).
- * Never use your County email address for non-County business.
- * Received a suspicious email?
 - > Unknown / unexpected sender or subject, bad grammar and typos - report it then delete it.
 - > Opened it already? Don't click on links.
 - > Already clicked on it? Yikes! - don't panic and don't enter anything, call your local Help Desk immediately!



**Contact your Departmental Information Security Officer (DISO)
for more information on holiday online cyber tips.**