

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021

Legislative Services Section: (619) 531-5434

INDEX:

Revised Page

REVISED BACKUP ONLY:

16. **AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (8/31/2021 - FIRST READING; 9/14/2021 - SECOND READING) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

(CHANGES TO EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ATTACHMENT)

NEW AGENDA AND BACKUP:

19. **FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: DECLARING HEALTH MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**
20. **CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

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8. AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION FOR AN ADMINISTRATOR FOR HOMELESS HOUSING AND SUPPORT TO SERVE PEOPLE WITH HIGH NEEDS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY [FUNDING SOURCES: EXISTING ALLOCATIONS OF STATE FUNDING FROM HOUSING FUNDS FOR WHOLE PERSON WELLNESS AND THE HOUSING DISABILITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM]
9. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:
GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS AND GROUND LEASES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING - 1501/1555 SIXTH AVENUE, 5255 MT. ETNA DRIVE, 6950 LEVANT STREET AND 1464 MONTECITO ROAD (4 VOTES)
10. FULL VETTING OF THE BENEFITS, POTENTIAL RATE PAYER COST INCREASES AND LIABILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION
- 11.* AUTHORIZATION TO JOIN COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY AND TAKE RELATED ACTIONS [FUNDING SOURCE: CHARGES TO CLIENT DEPARTMENTS]
12. NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT PROGRAM GRANT (DISTRICT: 4) [FUNDING SOURCE: GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE]
13. COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GRANTS (DISTRICT: 3) [FUNDING SOURCE: TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUES]
- 14.* RECEIVE THE REPORT BACK ON THE SCOPE, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF STAFF AND TYPE OF POSITIONS FOR INITIAL EXECUTION OF THE DUTIES FOR THE OFFICE OF LABOR STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT [FUNDING SOURCE: GENERAL FUND FUND BALANCE]
15. ADVANCING FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS
16. AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (8/31/2021 - FIRST READING; 9/14/2021 - SECOND READING)

*Presentation

Appointments 17. APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS

Communications 18. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED
Received

Health and 19. FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: DECLARING HEALTH
Human MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS
Services

Closed Session 20. CLOSED SESSION

19. SUBJECT: FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: DECLARING HEALTH MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The resurging pandemic has led to more infections and hospitalizations than the region has seen since the beginning of the year and ICU capacity is once again being tested. The U.S. Surgeon General has recently warned that health misinformation presents an urgent threat to public health. Therefore, urgent action is needed to curb the spread of the Delta variant by combatting misinformation, thereby supporting our health care system and, in turn, saving lives. There would be a substantial detrimental effect on the County and public if not" acted upon immediately. For these reasons, this Board Letter requires immediate action at the next Board meeting.

This Board Letter declares health misinformation to be a public health crisis. At a pivotal time in our history, with an FDA-approved vaccine available to all San Diegans free of charge and booster shots recommended later this year, health misinformation now presents a greater threat to public health than a variant of COVID-19. In response, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego recognizes the vaccine hesitancy, that stands in the way of the County moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, is being fueled by the spread of health misinformation, and commits to developing strategies to actively combat health misinformation.

Following the recommendations of the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy in his advisory entitled "Confronting Health Misinformation," 1 this board letter acknowledges the role misinformation has had in the resurgence of CO VID-19 infections, once again filling hospital capacity, and driving the deaths and hospitalizations of thousands, including San Diegans2 and committing County resources to work with trusted stakeholders to aggressively counter misinformation in our community and engage in outreach based on best practices.

We strongly urge your support for the recommendations in this letter to recognize health misinformation as the threat to public health that it is, and take the necessary steps towards a stronger, healthier future.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Approve resolution titled "Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego Declaring Health Misinformation a Public Health Crisis."
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to implement the following strategies cited by the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy in his advisory entitled "Confronting Health Misinformation," and report back within 90 days on the status of implementation and within 180 days upon completion:
 - a. Devote resources to identify and label health misinformation and disseminate timely health information to counter misinformation that is impeding our ability to keep our community safe,
 - b. Modernize public health communications with investments to better understand gaps in health information, and questions and concerns of the community, especially in hard-to-reach communities. Develop targeted community engagement strategies, including partnerships with trusted messengers,

- c. Expand our research efforts to better define and understand the sources of health misinformation, document and trace its costs and negative impacts, and develop strategies to address and counter it across mediums and diverse communities,
- d. Invest in resilience against health misinformation including digital resources and training for health practitioners and health workers. Explore educational programs to help our communities distinguish evidence-based information from opinion and personal stories.
- e. Partner with federal, state, territorial, tribal, private, nonprofit, research, and other local entities to identify best practices to stop the spread of health misinformation and develop and implement coordinated recommendations.
- f. Identify resource gaps to combating health misinformation and working with state and federal partners to meet ongoing needs.
- g. Work with the medical community and local partners to develop a website that will serve as a central resource for combating health misinformation in our community.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of individuals, businesses, and communities across San Diego County. Recent studies have found that online misinformation campaigns are associated with a decrease in vaccinations over time, which impacts all communities' ability to reach herd immunity.³ But, the impacts are greater in ethnic minority communities as a majority of non-white adults were found to be hesitant to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. ⁴ Studies have found vaccine and healthcare distrust continue to serve as major barriers to addressing racial equity in Covid-19 vaccine efforts. ⁵ It is believed that developing sustainable and sound strategies to mitigate and combat misinformation, such through the actions proposed in this Board action, is crucial to closing health outcomes gaps within Black and Hispanic communities and achieving overall public health goals.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. There may be future fiscal impacts associated with final recommendations which would need to be approved by the Board.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

20. SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)

San Diego County Office of Education, et al. v. County of San Diego, et al.;
Sacramento Superior Court, Case No. 34-2017-80002701-CU-WM-GDS

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph 4 of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9: (Number of Cases – 1)

- C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
K.J.P., et al. v. County of San Diego, et al.; United States District Court, Southern District No. 3:15-cv-02692-H.MDD
- D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
D.W., a minor, et al. v. County of San Diego, et al.; San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2019-00029602-CU-PO-NC
- E. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Deborah Hooper v. County of San Diego, et al.; United States District Court, Southern District No. 3:07-cv-01647-JAH-KSC
- F. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Citizens for a Friendly Airport v. City of Carlsbad, et al.; San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2019-00028690-CU-TT-CTL
- G. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Travelers Casualty Insurance Company of America v. The City of Oceanside, et al.; San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2021-00017609-CU-PO-NC
- H. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Cleveland National Forest Foundation, et al. v. County of San Diego, et al; San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00031320-CU-WM-CTL
- I. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
(Government Code section 54957.6)
Designated Representatives: Susan Brazeau, Brad Rankin
Employee Organizations and Unrepresented Employees: All

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Executive Summary
August 31, 2021

ACTION	SECTION	COMMENTS
ESTABLISHES ONE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE	SECTION 1 Amends Appendix One of the Compensation Ordinance	This action establishes the Housing Navigator in the Classified Service to support County initiatives and programs to address homelessness in San Diego County, which will streamline and strengthen the delivery of services to individuals and families that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
ESTABLISHES THREE CLASSIFICATIONS AND COMPENSATION IN THE UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE	SECTION 2 Amends Appendix One of the Compensation Ordinance	This action establishes the Director, Office of Environmental and Climate Justice in the Unclassified Service, which will be responsible for administering the activities of the Office of Environmental and Climate Justice. This position will be responsible for engaging environmental justice communities throughout the region and including them in setting priorities for County programs and services. This office will collaborate with County departments, San Diego Air Pollution Control District, and multi-jurisdictional partners to report on the cumulative impacts to communities throughout the region, mutual activities to advance pollution exposure reductions and improved air quality, best practices, and identified barriers and gaps to ensure robust environmental and climate justice practices through the region. This action also establishes the Director, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs in the Unclassified Service, which will be responsible for planning, organizing, directing, and coordinating the administrative and operational activities for the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs in the Health & Human Services Agency. This office will be responsible for expanding and enhancing existing refugee programs throughout the County's communities and establishing a priority of devoting County resources to the immigrant population, regardless of immigration status. It will provide a central location for public questions and connections to County and community resources. Further, this action establishes the Chief Evaluation Officer in the Unclassified Service, which will be responsible for planning, directing, organizing, coordinating, and evaluating the overall activities and operations of the Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics. This position will direct the establishment and implementation of policies and procedures related to County-wide data collection, analytics, performance dashboard, and program evaluation and will incorporate data and program evaluation policy throughout County policies, procedures, strategies, and operations.

Executive Summary
August 31, 2021

ACTION	SECTION	COMMENTS
AMENDS COMPENSATION FOR ONE CLASSIFICATION IN THE UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE	SECTION 3 Amends Appendix One of the Compensation Ordinance	This action increases the salary range for the Director, Fire Authority from Salary Grade 9 to Salary Grade 17 to reflect the increased responsibilities as a result of Emergency Medical Services moving under the County Fire Authority.
CHANGES CLASS CHARACTERISTICS FOR ONE CLASSIFICATION IN THE UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE	SECTION 4 Amends Appendix One of the Compensation Ordinance	The Chief Medical Officer's bargaining unit is changing from Unclassified Management to Executive Management to reflect the higher-level responsibilities and decision-making duties as an integral part of Health & Human Services Agency leadership, including establishing policies for the provision of medical and healthcare services to the public.
RETITLES THREE CLASSIFICATIONS IN THE UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE	SECTION 5 Amends Appendix One of the Compensation Ordinance	<p>This action retitles the Director, Fire Authority to Director, County Fire. The County Fire Authority was renamed to San Diego County Fire Protection District in order to formalize the process of unifying and professionalizing fire protection services throughout the County's unincorporated area.</p> <p>This action also retitles the Chief Operations Officer, Public Safety Group to Chief Operations Officer, which will allow greater flexibility for the use of this class to support the management of financial, personnel, and operational functions, and coordinate initiatives in accordance with the Chief Administrative Officer's Strategic Plan and County goals.</p> <p>Further, this action retitles the Director, Office of Ethics and Compliance to Director, Office of Ethics, Compliance and Labor Standards. This is to reflect the expanded responsibilities of this office to include enforcement of labor standards.</p>
AMENDS SECTION 6.1.1	SECTION 6 Section 6.1.1 is hereby added amended	Section 6.1.1, <u>Authorized Positions</u> , is being amended to increase the total number of authorized regular positions. As staffing needs increase, this will allow the County to hire additional full-time employees to support new programs and departments that provide critical services to the San Diego region.
AMENDS SECTION 122 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE	SECTION 1 Section 122 is hereby amended	Section 122, <u>CAO's Immediate Office</u> , is being updated to reflect the retile to Director, Office of Ethics, Compliance and Labor Standards, and to add the Chief Evaluation Officer as a position in the Chief Administrative Officer's immediate office.

Executive Summary
August 31, 2021

ACTION	SECTION	COMMENTS
AMENDS SECTION 125 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE	SECTION 2 Section 125 is hereby amended	Section 125, <u>CAO Staff Offices</u> , is being updated to reflect the retitle to Office of Ethics, Compliance and Labor Standards, and to add the Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics as a department reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer.
AMENDS SECTION 125.2 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE	SECTION 3 Section 125.2 is hereby added -amended	Section 125.2, <u>Functions of the Office of Ethics and Compliance</u> , is being updated to reflect the retitle to Office of Ethics, Compliance and Labor Standards.
ADDS SECTION 125.4 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE	SECTION 4 Section 125.4 is hereby added	Section 125.4, <u>Functions of the Chief Evaluation Officer</u> , is being added to the Administrative Code to outline the responsibilities of the Chief Evaluation Officer, which will oversee the functions and administration of the Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics.
AMENDS SECTION 494 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE	SECTION 5 Subsection (a) of Section 494 is hereby amended	The Chief Medical Officer is a classification that is eligible for reimbursement costs related to renewal of a license that is required as a condition of employment by the County. The Administrative Code is being updated to reflect the change in bargaining unit for the Chief Medical Officer, which is changing from Unclassified Management to Executive Management.
AMENDS SECTION 496 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE	SECTION 6 Section 496 is hereby amended	Section 496, <u>Automobile Allowance</u> , of the Administrative Code is being updated to reflect the retitle to Director, Office of Ethics, Compliance and Labor Standards, and to add the Chief Evaluation Officer.

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
2021 AUG 27 AM 8:33
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

NATHAN FLETCHER
CHAIR
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM

DATE: August 31, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

19

SUBJECT

FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: DECLARING HEALTH MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The resurging pandemic has led to more infections and hospitalizations than the region has seen since the beginning of the year and ICU capacity is once again being tested. The U.S. Surgeon General has recently warned that health misinformation presents an urgent threat to public health. Therefore, urgent action is needed to curb the spread of the Delta variant by combatting misinformation, thereby supporting our health care system and, in turn, saving lives. There would be a substantial detrimental effect on the County and public if not acted upon immediately. For these reasons, this Board Letter requires immediate action at the next Board meeting.

This Board Letter declares health misinformation to be a public health crisis. At a pivotal time in our history, with an FDA-approved vaccine available to all San Diegans free of charge and booster shots recommended later this year, health misinformation now presents a greater threat to public health than a variant of COVID-19. In response, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego recognizes the vaccine hesitancy, that stands in the way of the County moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, is being fueled by the spread of health misinformation, and commits to developing strategies to actively combat health misinformation.

Following the recommendations of the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy in his advisory entitled "Confronting Health Misinformation,"¹ this board letter acknowledges the role misinformation has had in the resurgence of COVID-19 infections, once again filling hospital capacity, and driving the deaths and hospitalizations of thousands, including San Diegans² and committing County resources to work with trusted stakeholders to aggressively counter misinformation in our community and engage in outreach based on best practices.

We strongly urge your support for the recommendations in this letter to recognize health misinformation as the threat to public health that it is, and take the necessary steps towards a stronger, healthier future.

**SUBJECT: FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: DECLARING HEALTH
 MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER**

- 1.) Approve resolution titled “Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego Declaring Health Misinformation a Public Health Crisis.”
- 2.) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to implement the following strategies cited by the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy in his advisory entitled “Confronting Health Misinformation,” and report back within 90 days on the status of implementation and within 180 days upon completion:
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 - b.) Modernize public health communications with investments to better understand gaps in health information, and questions and concerns of the community, especially in hard-to-reach communities. Develop targeted community engagement strategies, including partnerships with trusted messengers,
 - c.) Expand our research efforts to better define and understand the sources of health misinformation, document and trace its costs and negative impacts, and develop strategies to address and counter it across mediums and diverse communities,
 - d.) Invest in resilience against health misinformation including digital resources and training for health practitioners and health workers. Explore educational programs to help our communities distinguish evidence-based information from opinion and personal stories.
 - e.) Partner with federal, state, territorial, tribal, private, nonprofit, research, and other local entities to identify best practices to stop the spread of health misinformation and develop and implement coordinated recommendations.
 - f.) Identify resource gaps to combating health misinformation and working with state and federal partners to meet ongoing needs.
 - g.) Work with the medical community and local partners to develop a website that will serve as a central resource for combating health misinformation in our community.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of individuals, businesses, and communities across San Diego County. Recent studies have found that online misinformation campaigns are associated with a decrease in vaccinations over time, which impacts all communities’ ability to reach herd immunity.³ But, the impacts are greater in ethnic minority communities as a majority of non-white adults were found to be hesitant to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.⁴ Studies have found vaccine and healthcare distrust continue to serve as major barriers to addressing racial equity in Covid-19 vaccine efforts.⁵ It is believed that developing sustainable and sound strategies to mitigate and combat misinformation, such through the actions proposed in this Board action, is crucial to closing health outcomes gaps within Black and Hispanic communities and achieving overall public health goals.⁶

SUBJECT: FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: DECLARING HEALTH MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. There may be future fiscal impacts associated with final recommendations which would need to be approved by the Board.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

This Board Letter declares health misinformation to be a public health crisis. At a pivotal time in our history, with an FDA-approved vaccine available to all San Diegans free of charge, health misinformation now presents a greater threat to public health than a variant of COVID-19. In response, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego recognizes the vaccine hesitancy, that stands in the way of the County moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, is being fueled by the spread of health misinformation, and commits to developing strategies to actively combat health misinformation.

Since vaccines became widely available in mid-April, there has been a local and national surge in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations that has once again threatened to strain hospital resources and put the health and safety of our community at risk. Slowing vaccination rates have made more San Diegans susceptible to contracting the more contagious Delta variant which has led to infection rates not seen since January of 2021.⁷

Research has shown that people are increasingly turning to the internet and social media channels for health information which has enabled public health professionals, including local health departments, to expand their reach but it has also facilitated the rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation.⁸ The prevalence of falsehoods undermining confidence in the vaccine has surged in recent months fueling unfounded notions that vaccines don't work, that they contain microchips, that people should rely on their "natural immunity" instead of getting vaccinated, that the vaccines cause miscarriages, among other erroneous assertions.⁹

While empirical data and the broad scientific consensus point to the fact that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective against preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death from the Delta variant,¹⁰ misinformation and disinformation has played a significant role in undermining vaccine utilization and compliance with public health guidelines, such as those related to masks.¹¹ Misinformed beliefs about vaccines and public health guidelines have turned this into what many have labeled a "pandemic of the unvaccinated."¹²

On August 23rd, the Food and Drug Administration granted full approval to Pfizer-BioNTech's coronavirus vaccine for people 16 and older.¹³ As our community and our country looks to turn the page on the pandemic, and as booster shots become more important to maintaining our recovery, confronting and combating misinformation becomes vital to saving lives and realizing our shared public health goals.

**SUBJECT: FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: DECLARING HEALTH
 MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

The Surgeon General has said “health misinformation is a serious threat to public health. It can cause confusion, sow mistrust, harm people’s health, and undermine public health efforts. Limiting the spread of health misinformation is a moral and civic imperative.”¹⁴ This board letter signals the Board’s agreement with the Surgeon General and affirms the Board’s commitment to taking action to combat misinformation. We strongly urge your support for the recommendations in this letter to recognize health misinformation as the threat to public health that it is, and take the necessary steps towards a stronger, healthier future.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today’s proposed actions support the Live Well San Diego Initiative in the County’s Strategic Plan, and its vision for San Diego that is Building Better Health, Living Safely, Thriving, by supporting and defending public health efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Fletcher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

NATHAN FLETCHER
Supervisor, Fourth District

ATTACHMENT(S)
Resolution

SUBJECT: FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: DECLARING HEALTH MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Fourth Board District

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Joon Suh
Name
(619) 705-9642
Phone
Joon.suh@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail

Stephanie Gioia-Beckman
Name
(619) 531-5544
Phone
Stephanie.Gioia@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail

**SUBJECT: FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: DECLARING HEALTH
 MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

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- ¹ ["Confronting Health Misinformation. The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on Building a Healthy Information Environment."](#) Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy, July 2021
- ² ["Coronavirus Doctors Battle Another Scourge: Misinformation."](#) August 17, 2020, New York Times
- ³ Wilson S.L., Wiysonge C. Social media and vaccine hesitancy. *BMJ Global Health.* 2020;5(10)
- ⁴ Reinhart R.J. Gallup; 2020. [More Americans now willing to get COVID-19 vaccine.](#)
- ⁵ Ndugga N., Artiga S., Pham O. Kaiser Family Foundation; 2021. [How are states addressing racial equity in COVID-19 vaccine efforts?](#) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8117478/>
- ⁶ Xiang D, Lehmann L., *Health Policy Technol.* 2021 Sep; 10(3): 100520. Confronting the misinformation pandemic
- ⁷ August 19th case numbers in San Diego are the highest one-day total since late January, [NBC San Diego](#)
- ⁸ ["Misinformation: A Threat to the Public's Health and the Public Health System,"](#) *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice: May/June 2020*
- ⁹ ["Virus Misinformation Spikes as Delta Cases Surge."](#) August 10, 2021, New York Times
- ¹⁰ [Safety and Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines,](#) Johns Hopkins Medicine
- ¹¹ [Health-related misinformation dangerously undermines response to public health crisis,](#) Center for Health Security
- ¹² Dr. Rochelle Walensky, CDC director, on [July 16th at briefing of the White House COVID-19 Response Team](#)
- ¹³ [Full FDA-approval of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine,](#) August 23, 2021, New York Times
- ¹⁴ ["Misinformation is 'serious threat to public health,' surgeon general warns,"](#) July 15, 2021, NBC News

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: 08/31/2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DECLARING HEALTH MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, health misinformation has significantly undermined public health efforts and the unmitigated proliferation of health misinformation has created a culture of mistrust and has prolonged the COVID-19 pandemic, endangering the health and safety of all San Diegans.

WHEREAS, the coronavirus (COVID–19) pandemic has resulted in over 318,120 cases and resulted in over 3,850 deaths in San Diego County, as of August 25th 2021; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID–19 has had a devastating impact on our health and safety, our regional economy, our communities of color, the educational development of our children, and every aspect of our lives; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 vaccines have met the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality and have been proven to be safe and effective; and

WHEREAS, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has received full FDA approval and been proven to be highly effective in preventing serious disease, hospitalization and death from COVID-19 and that its benefits outweigh its risks; and

WHEREAS, the COVID 19 vaccine is available to everyone in San Diego County at no cost, regardless of income, and is administered by health professionals, like nurses and doctors; and

WHEREAS, misinformation has caused confusion and nationally has led to eligible people declining COVID-19 vaccines, rejecting public health measures such as masking and physical distancing, and using unproven treatments; and

WHEREAS, on July 15th, 2021, the United States Surgeon General issued his first advisory describing the "urgent threat" posed by the rise of false information around COVID-19 — one that continues to put "lives at risk" and prolong the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, recent surges in infections and hospitalization from COVID-19 have highlighted the importance of clear and unequivocal communications from public officials that vaccines are the best protection against severe illness and hospitalization.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Board of Supervisors that health misinformation is declared a public health crisis and the County of San

Diego should commit to combating health misinformation and curb the spread of falsehoods that threaten the health and safety of our residents.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: _____,
DAVID M. STOTLAND
Senior Deputy County Counsel



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS
First District

JOEL ANDERSON
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District

NATHAN FLETCHER
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

DATE: August 31, 2021

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TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT
CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
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Deborah Hooper v. County of San Diego, et al.; United States District Court,
Southern District No. 3:07-cv-01647-JAH-KSC
- F. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Citizens for a Friendly Airport v. City of Carlsbad, et al.; San Diego Superior
Court, Case No. 37-2019-00028690-CU-TT-CTL

SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

- G. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Travelers Casualty Insurance Company of America v. The City of Oceanside, et al.; San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2021-00017609-CU-PO-NC**
- H. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Cleveland National Forest Foundation, et al. v. County of San Diego, et al;
San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2020-00031320-CU-WM-CTL**
- I. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
(Government Code section 54957.6)
Designated Representatives: Susan Brazeau, Brad Rankin
Employee Organizations and Unrepresented Employees: All**


**RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
At the direction of the Board.**

**FISCAL IMPACT
N/A**

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT
N/A**

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT
N/A**

**BACKGROUND
N/A
LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN
N/A**

Respectfully submitted,

**LONNIE J. ELDRIDGE
County Counsel**

ATTACHMENT(S) N/A

SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Office of County Counsel

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Lonnie J. Eldridge

Name

531-4860

Phone

E-mail

Name

Phone

E-mail

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