Health Care Council Meeting
February 2, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Self-Introductions

2. Health and Homelessness in 2018 with Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

   Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas
   Supervisor, Second District
   County of Los Angeles

   Q&A with Supervisor Ridley-Thomas

3. Discussion Item
   • 2018 Advocacy Agenda

4. Upcoming Events
   • Land Use, Construction, and Housing Council with Phil Ansell, Director of the Homeless Initiative at Los Angeles County – 9:30AM, February 28th @ LA Chamber
   • Access D.C. – March 13, 2018 to March 15, 2018 @ JW Marriott
   • Access Sacramento- May 22nd to May 23rd @ Citizen

**Thanks to Pacific Federal for once again providing our breakfast!**

Next Council Meeting
April 6, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Since he was overwhelmingly elected in 2008, and reelected in 2012 and 2016 to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Mark Ridley-Thomas has distinguished himself as an effective leader for more than two million Second District residents. He is a board member of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission and LA Care, the nation’s largest publicly operated health plan.

Prior to his election to the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas served the 26th District in the California State Senate, where he chaired the Senate’s Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. While in the Senate, he served as Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus in 2008 and led the Caucus in unprecedented levels of cooperation and collaboration with counterparts in the Latino and Asian-Pacific Islander Legislative Caucuses.

Mark Ridley-Thomas was first elected to public office in 1991 and served with distinction on the Los Angeles City Council for nearly a dozen years, departing as Council President pro Tempore. He later served two terms in the California State Assembly, where he chaired the Jobs, Economic Development, and Economy Committee and served the Assembly Democratic Caucus. His legislative work addressed a broad range of issues with implications for economic and workforce development, health care, public safety, education, budget accountability, consumer protection and civic participation.

He is widely regarded as the foremost advocate of neighborhood participation in government decision-making by virtue of his founding of the Empowerment Congress, arguably the region’s most successful 26-year initiative in neighborhood-based civic engagement. Ridley-Thomas’ political career was preceded by a decade of service as the executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles (1981-1991).

The Supervisor graduated from Manual Arts High School (Class of 1972) and then earned BA and MA degrees along with secondary and adult education credentials from Immaculate Heart College. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas went on to receive his Ph.D. in Social Ethics from the University of Southern California focusing on Social Criticism and Social Change.

He is married to Avis Ridley-Thomas, Co-Founder and Director of the Institute for NonViolence in Los Angeles. They are the proud parents of Sinclair and Sebastian, both Morehouse Men. Sinclair earned an MBA degree at USC’s Marshall School of Business, works in the investment banking industry, and resides in San Francisco with his wife Shaunie, an attorney, and 1-year old son Duke Flynn. Sebastian formerly represented California’s Fifty-forth Assembly District (12/05/13-12/31/17). He will now turn his attention to political empowerment, millennial civic engagement, and training a new generation of leaders throughout the state of California as Chief Strategist for the African American Voter Registration, Education, and Participation Project beginning in March of this year.
The Health Care Council of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is a leader in providing the business perspective on key health care issues in our region.

Los Angeles County has the highest number of people covered under Affordable Care Act (ACA) with about 1.5 million residents, 15 percent of the population, now insured either through Medi-Cal or a Covered California plan. And with nearly 600,000 health care jobs in the Los Angeles region, the health care industry is vital not only to the well-being of our residents, but to our businesses, workforce and economy.

In 2017, the Chamber will closely monitor proposed reforms to the nation’s health care system, and continue our advocacy for business-friendly health care policies that increase affordability, protect access to coverage and quality care, create health professional workforce opportunities and generally improve the health of all individuals and businesses.

**Influence Affordable Care Act/Health Care Reform Proposals**
The Chamber has been an advocate for implementation of the ACA, and will continue to influence proposed changes to the ACA to ensure shared responsibility for health care financing, adequate access to health care providers and reduced overall financial burden on employers. The Chamber also supports reform and innovations in delivery and financing models that strengthen the sustainability of the health care system and improve the quality of care. We will work with the state legislature on policies that seek to provide accessible healthcare for all, while ensuring healthcare providers and systems are properly funded.

**Advocate for Policies that Increase Affordability and Efficiency**
The Chamber will advocate for policies that control escalating health care costs and increase affordability for employers and employees. We support options to help businesses manage health care costs, and provide more flexibility for large and small businesses to join together to purchase quality coverage.

**Encourage Certainty in Health Care Reform**
As we navigate the new world of ‘health care reform’, the Chamber will encourage our leaders to use planning and predictability as cornerstones of their discussions. Regulatory vagueness and ambiguity can impede businesses success, and harm value-based care and the work of Los Angeles’ health care leaders in providing access to quality, affordable health care for individuals and employers.

**Support Adequate Access to Health Care Services**
The Chamber is committed to supporting broader access to health care services, including mental health parity and addiction equity. Over the past several years, we have supported an expansion of Medicaid and fought for hospitals and providers to receive fair reimbursement.
rates. We will continue our work to protect and strengthen Los Angeles County’s health care safety net and ensure quality care for all patients. The Chamber will also continue our efforts to promote initiatives aimed at enhancing the health care infrastructure, including strengthening graduate educational programs and the workforce, and enhancing facility accessibility for members of the community who are aging and disabled.

**Promote Integrated Health Systems and Innovative Strategies**

The Chamber supports a “whole-person” approach to wellness and care, and encourages considerations focused on the social determinants of health, such as the environments in which people are born, live and work. We also encourage innovative strategies and the development of proposals that advance the provision of integrated health care sectors including hospitals, provider groups, health plans, health systems and federally qualified health centers.

**Promote Children’s Health**

The Chamber strongly supports preserving funding streams for children’s health programs. Health care coverage and prevention of chronic illnesses is critical to ensuring successful educational and physical development in children, and reducing health care costs for businesses and taxpayers. The Chamber will promote business-friendly options to combat obesity, address behavioral health, increase quality oral health access and focus on health education, exercise and healthy foods to ensure our future generations are ready to learn and succeed.
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