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**CITY ATTORNEY SPONSORED HOMELESS
PATIENT ORDINANCE RECEIVES UNANIMOUS
SUPPORT OF AD HOC HOMELESS COMMITTEE**

*Vote Comes On Two Year Anniversary of Kaiser Hospital's
Dumping of Patient Carol Ann Reyes on Skid Row*

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today hailed the unanimous decision by the City Councils Ad Hoc Homeless Committee to support a first of its kind ordinance that makes it a specific crime for a hospital to dump its patients in the City of Los Angeles.

“Today marks another important step in our effort to hold hospitals accountable for transporting a patient to any location other than the patient’s residence without written consent,” said City Attorney Delgadillo. “I commend the members of this committee who have today made clear their support for this critical measure which we believe will play a key role in our effort to end the unconscionable practice of homeless patient dumping in our City, once and for all.”

The motion supported by Ad Hoc Committee Members Jan Perry, Eric Garcetti and Bill Rosendahl today, would make it a misdemeanor for health facilities to transport patients to a location other than the patient’s residence without written consent. Violations of the law could result in fines of up to \$25,000 and three years corporate probation for hospitals. The proposed ordinance now moves to the full City Council for consideration.

The support by the Ad Hoc Homeless Committee comes on the two year anniversary of the discovery of Carol Ann Reyes, an elderly homeless woman suffering from dementia, wandering in the middle of San Pedro Street in downtown Los Angeles after being dropped off via taxi from a Kaiser Permanente hospital.

Under existing law, hospitals in the State are required to have written discharge planning policies and processes requiring that appropriate arrangements are made for post-hospital care for those patients who are in need. All patients must be informed either orally or in writing.

Existing law also prohibits a hospital from transferring a homeless patient from one county to another in order to receive supportive services without prior notice or authorization, but does not prevent a hospital from transferring a patient within one county against their wishes.

The City Attorney's Office continues to investigate instances of private hospitals transporting discharged homeless patients' to skid row from miles away without the patients' consent.

The City Attorney has also filed civil law enforcement actions against Hollywood Presbyterian and Methodist Hospital of Arcadia under existing law for dumping of homeless patients and last year reached a landmark settlement with Kaiser Foundation hospitals in the Reyes case that establish first-of-their kind, court-ordered protocols for the discharge of homeless patients.

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