



MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER
— DISTRICT 10 —

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Ridley-Thomas Introduces Motion to Mandating COVID-19 Vaccination for City Employees

As concerns around the highly contagious Delta variant continue to increase, and local efforts to reach herd immunity against the coronavirus continues to wane, Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas introduced a [new motion](#) that would direct the City's Chief Administrative Office, Chief Legislative Analyst and City Attorney to develop a policy to require all City employees be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus and report their COVID-19 vaccination status to the City.

"Plain and simple - vaccinations are the only way out of this pandemic, and the City of Los Angeles must lead by example. Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent transmission and limit COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths. If we want our economy to fully recover, if we want our children to be able to go to school without masks on, and if we want the most vulnerable members of our community to not end up in the hospital, we must all do our part. Voluntary efforts have proven to be insufficient to move beyond this pandemic, so it's time to think differently about our approach, and the City must lead as an example of what can and should be done."

Sixteen months into the pandemic with widespread availability of vaccines, only 2,202,429 City of Los Angeles residents aged 16+, representing 67.3% of the City's population have received vaccinations. Amongst communities of color in Los Angeles County, the rates of vaccination are even more stark, with only 46% of African Americans and 55% of Latinos having been vaccinated. These rates have not only impeded Los

Angeles' economic recovery, but have resulted in thousands of Angelenos continuing to contract the disease on a daily basis.

The motion drew an outpour of widespread support from co-authors including; Councilmembers Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Bob Blumenfeld, Monica Rodriguez, Nithya Raman, and Curren Price.

"Getting vaccinated is our most powerful weapon in the fight against COVID. With cases rapidly rising again, it is our responsibility to ensure that people who call on city services for support are not putting themselves at risk of getting sick from exposure to unvaccinated employees," Fourth District Councilmember, Nithya Raman.

"With the City having prepared for the return of many employees to their workplaces and re-opened some of its facilities, the presence of the Delta variant makes it imperative that the City take steps to protect its employees and the public with whom they come in contact," said Fifth District City Councilmember and Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee Chair, Paul Koretz. "Vaccines now are widely available and free of charge and the City should follow in the footsteps of municipalities such as San Francisco and Pasadena and mandate that all City employees be vaccinated and all workers and visitors in City-owned and/or operated facilities wear masks for the duration of the Safer at Home emergency order. It is only prudent that the City Council take this step to reduce the continued viral spread and set a positive public health example for the general public."

"The science and facts are irrefutable. Unvaccinated people are putting the public health and economic recovery in jeopardy. Many City staff members have direct interaction with the public and therefore an obligation to protect not only themselves but those they have contact with by getting vaccinated. I believe our public workforce should be the example and today's motion is the first step in creating a pathway to meet that goal," said Councilmember and Public Safety Chair, Monica Rodriguez.

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