

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND  
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February 13, 2018

Records show that nearly 28,000 people went missing in Los Angeles County in 2016. Many of these persons have conditions such as autism, Alzheimer’s disease, related dementias, and other complex neurobehavioral conditions that affect memory, judgment, cognitive functioning, and/or ability to communicate with and relate to others. Last February, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) established the Bringing Our Loved Ones Home (BOLOH) Task Force to address this growing concern.

The Task Force gleaned extensive and valuable information over the last year from various experts and stakeholders. Their original purpose was *‘to explore the feasibility of establishing a voluntary countywide program that can keep track of adults and children whose psychological afflictions cause them to wander.’* They discovered many service gaps and lack of coordination among key agencies that are responsible for locating missing persons. Their solutions to these identified challenges resulted in seventeen recommendations leading to the creation of a Countywide program that would have the capability to track and monitor people prone to wandering, identify the best ways to coordinate efforts between agencies and institutions who serve these

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populations and determine preventive strategies and measures to curtail or eliminate wandering incidents.

The Task Force has submitted to our Board their Recommended Strategies and Initiative to promote and facilitate necessary actions focused on protecting, locating and identifying persons likely to go missing. They recommend a three year initiative spearheaded by our Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services.

Far too many people go missing every year. We believe that, with a proactive, forward thinking strategy and sustained effort by our County family, these tragedies can be avoided.

**WE, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the Bringing Our Loved Ones Home (BOLOH) Task Force's Recommended Strategies and Initiative that were unanimously approved by the Task Force at its meeting on December 13, 2017;
2. Instruct the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to identify funding to establish a unit of 4 staff that will lead the implementation of the Task Force's recommended strategies, and report back as part of the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Recommended Budget;
3. Instruct the CEO, in conjunction with WDACS and the Sheriff's Department to identify \$765,000 for one-time costs based on the amounts outlined by the Task Force, specifically:
  - a. Approve a budget of \$30,000, to purchase new equipment for the Sheriff's Department, to join Project Lifesaver as a member agency and pay for the New Agency Start-up Package;

- b. Approve a marketing plan, education and training budget in the amount of \$650,000;
  - c. Approve a budget of \$85,000 for technology solutions that include tracking, alerts and registry of tracking bracelets; and
4. Direct WDACS, in coordination with all County Departments identified as Lead Agencies in the BOLOH Task Force's Recommended Strategies and Initiative, to implement and evaluate the strategies and provide written updates to the Board every 180 days on the status of implementation efforts. In one year, and annually thereafter, provide a written report to the Board that includes outcomes to measure the success of the program such as: number of individuals recovered; number of alerts and registered users of tracking bracelets; trainings conducted; influence of community awareness campaigns; and other measureable data.

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