



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
11.		Favor	DeLlora Ellis-Gant	The Los Angeles County African American Employees Association strongly support this proclamation and will promote this day on our social media platforms.
			Heather Ortner	
			Hector Ramirez	
		Item Total	3	
Grand Total			3	

October 4, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Supervisor Hahn and Barger's Motion (Item #11)- Proclaiming October 15, 2024 as "L.A. Found Day" in Los Angeles County

Dear Honorable Members of the Board,

Alzheimer's Los Angeles strongly supports the proposed motion to declare October 15, 2024, as L.A. Found Day. Our organization is a local, independent non-profit, serving those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias and serving their families. Reducing the risk of wandering for a person with Alzheimer's and other dementias is essential. Sixty percent of those with Alzheimer's disease will wander at some point. Ensuring their safe return quickly is imperative because the longer the person is missing, the higher the risk of injury or death.

On October 15, 2016, Kirk Moody and his wife Nancy Paulikas were visiting the Los Angeles County Museum of Art when Nancy and Kirk were momentarily separated. Living with early onset Alzheimer's disease, Nancy became disoriented and walked away from the museum. We stood alongside Kirk and Nancy's friends and family as they reached out to the public for help in finding her. For over two years, Nancy's friends and family never stopped looking for her. Sadly, her remains were found and later identified 10 miles away in the hills of Sherman Oaks.

The search for Nancy highlighted many failures of our county's ability to address and deal with wandering. In response, the LA County Board of Supervisors created the *Bringing Our Loved Ones Home Taskforce*. The taskforce's recommendations led to the creation of the L.A. Found program and the adoption of the Project Lifesaver program by the LA County Sheriff's Department.

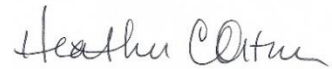
Today, we continue to support the L.A. Found program. Together we have raised awareness of the issue of wandering, educated caregivers, and connected individuals with technology supports to reduce the risk of wandering. For example, in conjunction with L.A. Found and members of the Board of Supervisors, we conducted nine public webinars on home safety and the LA Found program, reaching over 1,700 people. Recordings of these presentations in English, Spanish, and Chinese are available online at: <https://www.alzheimersla.org/videos/dementia-and-home-safety/>

We are proud to support L.A. Found and celebrate the recognition of this program with the proclamation of L.A. Found Day. It is our hope that through this recognition more

families will learn about L.A. Found and take advantage of the services and supports the program offers.

Thank you to Supervisor Hahn and Supervisor Barger for their continued support for this program, Alzheimer's families, and those at risk of wandering. Together we will continue to positively impact people living with cognitive impairment and the family members who care for them. Together we will save lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Cooper Ortner".

Heather Cooper Ortner
President & CEO
Alzheimer's Los Angeles