

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
AND KATHRYN BARGER**

AGN. NO.
October 7, 2025

Proclaim October 15, 2025 as L.A. Found Day in Los Angeles County

Children, young adults, and older adults are vulnerable to wandering and going missing, posing risks that necessitate intervention from law enforcement, social services, as well as community support. The Alzheimer’s Association reports that in 2025, an estimated 7.2 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer’s dementia, rising from 6.9 million in 2024, with approximately 60% of them at risk of wandering¹. The number and proportion of Americans with Alzheimer’s or other dementias are expected to continue to increase in coming years because the risk of dementia increases with advancing age. The number of people living with the disease doubles every five years beyond age 65. Alzheimer’s disease is projected to more than double by 2040 in Californians older than 65, according to an October 2021 report from the California Department of Public Health, which was completed in conjunction with Alzheimer’s Association. This sharp rise will affect people across all racial and ethnic groups

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC-ADDM

¹ <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/ef8f48f9-ad36-48ea-87f9-b74034635c1e/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>

MOTION

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Network) reports in 2025 that 1 in 31 children in the U.S., an increase from 1 in 36 in 2020, has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Research indicates that 49% of children with ASD tend to wander or bolt from safe settings, such as homes or schools². This behavior can pose serious safety risks leading to injury and death. In a six-year study of Mortality & Risk association with autism wandering/elopement, the National Autism Association found that accidental drowning accounted for 71% of deaths, a rate 160 times that of non-autistic individuals. Other risks include traffic/transit deaths, exposure, and falls. According to a study published in Pediatrics, nearly one-third of wandering incidents occurred from a school setting; more than one-third of children with autism who wander/elope are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address, or phone number; and 40% of parents experience sleep disruption due to fear of elopement.

In Los Angeles County (County) alone, the Department of Public Health's Healthy Brain Initiative estimates that approximately 190,300 residents who are 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's or other dementias, and thousands more are affected by developmental disabilities such as autism, and other cognitive impairments. The need for effective measures to locate and protect these individuals has never been more critical.

L.A. Found, established by the Board of Supervisors in September 2018, which is now under the Aging & Disabilities Department, is dedicated to locating and assisting individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, and other cognitive impairments who are at risk of wandering and becoming lost. Since its inception, L.A. Found has used innovative tracking technology and has established and maintained collaborative efforts

² <https://www.cdc.gov/autism/media/pdfs/2025/04/ADDM-Community-Report-SY2022.pdf>

between law enforcement and community organizations, as well as caregivers, to ensure the safety and well-being of at-risk individuals residing in the County. The L.A. Found Program offers voluntary trackable bracelets to those with Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, and other cognitive impairments who are prone to wandering. L.A. Found has successfully issued over 1,800 trackable devices to residents and has successfully located and reunited missing individuals with their families or caregivers, significantly enhancing public safety and community well-being.

Proclaiming L.A. Found Day raises awareness of the program's mission and encourages community participation. Additionally, the L.A. Found Day press conference will call attention to the critical public safety issue of wandering and the County's innovative solution. It serves as an opportunity to educate residents about the resources available through L.A. Found and how they can support efforts to safeguard vulnerable community members. By highlighting this initiative, those with Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, or other cognitive impairments are supported, ultimately creating a safer and more inclusive environment for all.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Proclaim October 15, 2025, as "L.A. Found Day" in the County of Los Angeles (County), in recognition of the program's significant contributions. This proclamation reinforces Los Angeles County's commitment to compassionate care and support for individuals and families affected by conditions such as Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, and cognitive impairments, ensuring that all residents receive the assistance they need in critical times, thereby enhancing their quality of life and overall safety and well-being.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Interim Director of Aging & Disabilities to collaborate with the Los Angeles

County Office of Education (LACOE) and State Regional Centers to:

- a. Explore ways in which information on L.A. Found bracelets can be integrated into Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), where appropriate;
 - b. Conduct informational webinars for LACOE and Regional Center staff on the L.A. Found Program; and
 - c. Collaborate with LACOE and Regional Centers to deliver training on wandering prevention and promote the L.A. Found Program for individuals with autism and other cognitive impairments;
2. Direct the Interim Director of the Aging & Disabilities Department to continue conducting community outreach and educational webinars on the L.A. Found Program, specifically targeting individuals, caregivers, and families affected by Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and autism; and
 3. Waive parking fees in the amount of \$1,000, excluding the cost of liability insurance, for approximately 50 vehicles on October 15, 2025 at the Music Center garage, Lot 14, for attendees of a symbolic press and media day at the Gloria Molina Grand Park to drive public awareness, highlight program successes with Project Lifesaver technology, introduce the new Theora Care GPS watches, and boost enrollment through targeted media coverage.

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