AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND KATHRYN BARGER

October 6, 2026

Proclaim October 15, 2026, as L.A. Found Day in Los Angeles County

Individuals living with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, autism, and other cognitive or developmental disabilities may be at risk of wandering or becoming lost, creating serious safety concerns that may require support from law enforcement, social services, caregivers, and community partners. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that in 2026, approximately 7.4 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease, including approximately 720,000 Californians. Wandering is a recognized safety concern for people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia[1]. As the risk of dementia increases with age, the number of affected individuals is expected to grow in the coming decades. The California Department of Public Health's 2021 projection estimates that the number of Californians age 65 and older living with Alzheimer's disease will more than double by 2040. This growing need will affect communities throughout the state. Nationally, older Black and Hispanic adults have a higher prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias than older White adults, underscoring the importance of accessible, culturally responsive support for affected individuals and their families.

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

MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

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In 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through its Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, reported that California had the highest identified prevalence of autism among participating monitoring sites for both 4-year-old and 8-year-old children [2]. Research indicates that approximately 49% of children with autism spectrum disorder engage in wandering or elopement from safe settings, such as their homes or schools. This behavior can expose children to serious safety risks, including injury and drowning. The National Autism Association's has highlighted drowning as a leading cause of death in reported fatal wandering incidents involving children with autism. Its review of media-reported U.S. cases from 2011–2016 found that drowning accounted for more than 70% of fatal outcomes, while its reporting on fatalities in 2024 identified drowning in 91% of cases. fatal outcomes. A 2017 Columbia University study estimated that estimated that children with autism were 160 times as likely to die from drowning as children in the general pediatric population. More recent Columbia-led research, using U.S. emergency department data from 2016–2020, found that children with autism had 2.31 times the adjusted odds of an emergency department visit for unintentional drowning compared with children without autism. These findings underscore the importance of proactive safety measures, accessible resources, and coordinated responses to wandering incidents.

In Los Angeles County (County), the need for effective safety measures is substantial. The Department of Public Health's Healthy Brain Initiative estimates that approximately 215,000 residents age 51 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease or

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

other dementias. Thousands more residents are affected by developmental disabilities, including autism, and other conditions that may increase the risk of wandering or becoming lost. These residents and their families need access to practical safety resources, responsive community partners, and reliable systems that can help locate missing individuals and facilitate their safe return.

On February 20, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Kathryn Barger solidifying the efforts that led to the L.A. Found program, a coordinated, Countywide effort to prevent and safely resolve wandering incidents involving individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, autism, and other cognitive or developmental disabilities. Administered by the County's Aging & Disabilities Department, L.A. Found uses voluntary tracking technology and promotes collaboration among law enforcement agencies, community organizations, caregivers, and other partners to help locate at-risk individuals who go missing. Since its inception, the program has distributed more than 1,900 tracking devices to County residents and has helped locate missing individuals and reunite them with their families or caregivers, strengthening public safety and providing greater peace of mind to loved ones.

Proclaiming L.A. Found Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the program, educate residents about available safety resources and tracking technology, as well as help families and caregivers understand how to access support for individuals at risk of wandering. Strengthening community awareness and encouraging participation, can help more families access potentially life-saving resources, support caregivers, and

promote a safer, more inclusive community for individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, autism, and other conditions that may affect their safety.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim October 15, 2026, as "L.A. Found Day" in the County of Los Angeles, 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 Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, and other 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.
2. Direct the Director of Aging & Disabilities to continue outreach and communication efforts in Los Angeles County, to promote the program and available technology to families and caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, autism and other cognitive impairments.

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JH:nh