



DAVID E. RYU
COUNCILMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

The Honorable Paul Krekorian
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 435
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Department of Aging FY19-20 Budget Request for a Mini-Multipurpose Senior Center in CD4 to serve the LGBT population

Dear Councilmember Krekorian and Members Budget and Finance Committee:

My office has been working closely with the Los Angeles LGBT Center and the Department of Aging to seek funding to establish a Mini-Multipurpose Center at the LGBT Center's new Anita May Rosenstein campus to the serve the unique needs of our City's LGBT senior population.

The Department of Aging has recognized the critical need of this historically underserved population, and included this request for a Mini-Multipurpose Center in their budget request to the Mayor and in their letter to the Budget and Finance Committee dated April 23, 2019.

As our senior population grows, our LGBT seniors are particularly vulnerable to social isolation, economic insecurity, and face challenges in accessing services. It is estimated that 68% of LGBT seniors in Los Angeles live alone, and are four times less likely than their heterosexual counterparts to have children and grandchildren to support them. Because of the legacy of bias and discrimination, LGBT seniors are often hesitant to seek services through traditional agencies. A 2016 Department of Aging survey found that 92% of LGBT seniors would feel more comfortable using older adult services that are peer-specific and LGBTQ-friendly.

The Los Angeles LGBT Center is prepared and extremely well-suited to fill this gap and provide services to this underserved population. In 2018, the Center provided services to 2,200 seniors, many of whom would not attend programs at other senior centers because of a history of discrimination and the need to connect with their LGBT peers. For decades, the Center has been a safe and

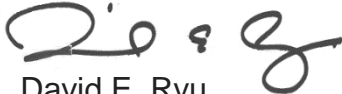
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welcoming space for individuals of all ages and has provided a critical social safety net for the LGBT community.

The Center's new Anita May Rosenstein campus, located in Council District Four, will serve and support LGBT seniors through their Harry and Jeanette Weinberg senior center and 98 units of affordable housing for seniors will open in mid-2020 on the campus. But to truly meet the needs of the growing LGBT senior population, the Center requires financial support to provide services for this historically underserved population.

I respectfully request the Budget and Finance Committee amend the proposed Department of Aging Budget to include \$450,000 for a Mini-Multipurpose Senior Center at the LGBT Center's Anita May Rosenstein Campus in Council District 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. E. Ryu', written in a cursive style.

David E. Ryu
Councilmember, District Four

Cc: Laura Trejo, General Manager, Department of Aging