

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: August 17, 2016

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections,
Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *Sharon M. Tso*
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No.16-04-0364

SUBJECT: Resolution (Ryu-Wesson) to SUPPORT/SPONSOR Legislation to Increase
Funding for Senior Nutrition Programs

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Ryu-Wesson) to include in the City's 2015-2016 State Legislative Program, SUPPORT/SPONSOR legislation that would increase funding to senior nutrition programs by at least \$5.4 million, as defined in the Older Americans Act and the Older Californians Act.

SUMMARY

On April 13, 2016, the Resolution (Ryu-Wesson) was introduced stating the following:

- Seniors represent the fastest-growing age group in the United States with over 1,000 individuals in California expected to reach age 65 every day during the next fifteen years;
- Large reductions were made to nutrition program during the recent economic downturn, including staff reductions, the establishment of waiting lists, and the closure of senior meal sites;
- The Legislature is currently considering the 2016-17 Proposed State Budget, including a proposal to increase funding for senior nutrition programs by \$5.4 million;
- Providing \$5.4 million in additional funding for senior nutrition programs will allow an additional 730,000 meals to be provided annually and is expected to generate substantial savings in medical costs; and
- Support for additional funding for senior nutrition programs is consistent with existing City programs providing meals to vulnerable seniors who reside in the City of Los Angeles.

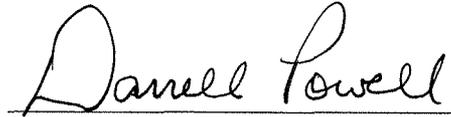
The Department of Aging supports the 2016-17 Proposed State Budget which includes increased funding for senior nutrition programs by \$5.4 million. According to Department of Aging staff, the funds would be used to increase the quality of food served to seniors.

BACKGROUND

The Nutrition Programs are authorized under Title III C of the Older Americans Act. They fulfill their purpose by providing access to healthy meals, nutrition education and nutrition counseling. The Nutrition Programs target low-income individuals who are 60 and older.

DEPARTMENT NOTIFIED

Department of Aging

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Darrell Powell

Analyst

Attachment: Resolution (Ryu-Wesson)

RESOLUTION

OLDER, ELDERLY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, seniors represent the fastest-growing age group in the United States with over 1,000 individuals in California expected to reach age 65 every day during the next fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, while the health and independence of older Californians is a critical foundation to the future well-being of our State, increasing numbers of seniors are experiencing poverty and suffering from food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, nutritionally-insecure seniors are at greater risk of developing serious health conditions such as depression, heart attack, and congestive heart failure; and

WHEREAS, large reductions were made to nutrition programs during the recent economic downturn, including staff reductions, the establishment of waiting lists, and the closure of senior meal sites; and

WHEREAS, the Elder Economic Security Index which measures the true cost of living for a senior in California has determined that 36 percent of all Californians age 65 or older do not have sufficient income to meet their basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is currently considering the 2016-17 Proposed State Budget, including a proposal to increase funding for senior nutrition programs by \$5.4 million; and

WHEREAS, providing \$5.4 million in additional funding for senior nutrition programs will allow an additional 730,000 meals to be provided annually and is expected to generate substantial savings in medical costs; and

WHEREAS, support for additional funding for senior nutrition programs is consistent with existing City programs which provide meals to vulnerable seniors who reside in the City of Los Angeles;

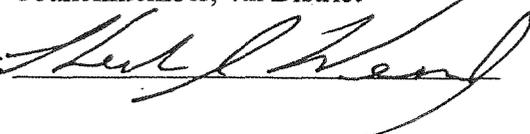
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 State Legislative Program SUPPORT and/or SPONSORSHIP of legislation that would increase funding to senior nutrition programs by at least \$5.4 million, as defined in the Older Americans Act and the Older Californians Act.

PRESENTED BY:



DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



APR 13 2016

BMR