

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is home to more than 500,000 residents 60 years of age and older. Over the next 20 years, this number is expected to increase by 50 percent. A sizable and growing portion of this population are members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

LGBT seniors face unique challenges as they age. According to the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, LGBT older adults have a higher risk of various medical conditions and disabilities. As a result of past experiences with discrimination, many LGBT older adults are apprehensive about how they will be treated by healthcare providers. LGBT older adults are also less likely to have children or other family members who can assist them.

The City's Department of Aging (Department) is responsible for providing senior and caregiver services to older adults, including the LGBT community. In partnership with the Los Angeles LGBT Center, the Department conducted a Needs Assessment of LGBT older adults in 2016, and has held cultural sensitivity training for Department staff and service providers. Various City officials have also coordinated with Equality California to advance LGBT civil rights and to advocate for gun violence prevention measures.

The Department has taken several steps to address the needs of LGBT older adults. It is critical that the Department expand these efforts, including pursuing grant funding opportunities and partnerships with other organizations whenever possible. The goal is to ensure the needs of LGBT seniors are met in an inclusive and equitable manner.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Aging, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, to report on the following relative to the LGBT older adult population: current programs in support of the LGBT older adult population and current funding; anticipated future funding requirements; grant opportunities in support of LGBT older adults; State and Federal laws applicable to LGBT older adults; best practices learned from the 2016 LGBT Needs Assessment; an analysis of how the eCivis grants database is used to search for grant opportunities; and, other issues as appropriate.

PRESENTED BY:   
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SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

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