

Date: February 23, 2023

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Older Adult Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning**

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On February 10, 2023, the Board of Health and Human Services approved the attached letter to the Mayor and City Council regarding Older Adult Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning.

Attachment

CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY  
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
KATY NOMURA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN LEE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK  
DEPARTMENT HEADS

February 10, 2023

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
City of Long Beach  
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**RE: Older Adult Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning**

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

The Board of Health & Human Services recently received a presentation on the needs of older adults in Long Beach including gaps in resources. During this meeting, there was a particular focus on issues that intersect housing, poverty, and access to basic needs and services as experienced among aging communities. In terms of housing insecurity, the Health Department reports that 30 percent of those experiencing homelessness, per the point in time count, are over the age of 55. Since 2019, the point in time count shows an overall increase in homelessness among older adults in Long Beach, with 592 homeless older adults counted in 2019, and 938 counted in 2022.

Based on the concerns raised during this meeting, including experiences shared during public comment, the board makes the following recommendations:

1. The Board recommends the Office of Aging undergo a vision and mission development process, relying on input from older adult community members, the aging service network, and other key community stake holders.
2. The Board recommends completion of an updated strategic plan for older adults. The most recent strategic plan was updated in 2016 and may not reflect current health and social needs (particularly related to housing, technology access, and other critical basic services). A focal point of this analysis may include the development of strategies for increased coordination between the Office of Aging housed within the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Parks and Recreation, which houses the City's Senior Centers.

Our aging community is rapidly growing and experiencing unique challenges in health and human services needs. As we continue to learn about critical gaps in resources, we feel the City should recognize and implement strategies to ensure older adult health is a priority issue.

Sincerely,

Sabrina K. Sanders  
Chair  
Board of Health & Human Services