

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Los Angeles Officially Declares May 15, 2020 Senior Fraud Awareness Day

LOS ANGELES - May 13, 2020 - Today, Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz (CD5), Mike Bonin (CD11) and David Ryu (CD4) introduced a Resolution declaring May 15, 2020 as Senior Fraud Awareness Day in Los Angeles as part of the declaration of May as Older Americans Month. The City Council has annually declared the May 15th day since 2013 on the traditional birthday celebration of former City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl who passed away in 2016. He was a passionate advocate for the health and safety of the senior citizens of Los Angeles. [Usually](#) the annual Council presentation has taken place in City Council Chambers joined by a representative from the Department of Aging as well as advocates for the health and well-being of our older Angelenos, including the Stop Senior Scams acting program as led by Adrienne Omansky. However, City Council meetings are being held online in observance of the physical distancing protocols.

"During these difficult times we are working to not only protect our older Angelenos from COVID-19 but making sure to get our Seniors are able to eat and our emotionally safe during these vulnerable times. However our seniors are being targeted by lending predators, vaccine and cure snake oil salesmen and imposters capitalizing on fear related to the pandemic by using fraudulent offers to con our seniors out of their money and their personal identity information," said Councilmember Koretz who has led the presentation for several years. "Even in the most normal of times, the most nimble sober mind can be lured into fraudulent claims and taken advantage of – they, too, can be too proud to report when they have been defrauded and is, therefore, another important reason why we continue to recognize May 15th as Senior Fraud Awareness Day even if we have to hold it as a part of the City Council meeting on line."

"From Medicare scams and Social Security scams to investment scams, fraudulent ploys to take from vulnerable older adults are wrong, yet they happen with alarming frequency," said Councilmember Bonin. "I am deeply grateful to work with and support organizations like my district's Stop Senior Scams Acting Group led by Adrienne Omansky to bring awareness to senior citizen scams and to empower these older adults to live safe and comfortable lives. Thanks to Paul Koretz and the City's Department of Aging for championing this important issue that impacts many people living in Los Angeles."

"Especially now, we need to make sure seniors are safe from these scams," Councilmember Ryu said. "This was already a big problem, but with seniors stuck at home and away from their families, these scams can be even harder to stop. This is why I launched a Senior Outreach program - to proactively reach out to seniors in Los Angeles and match them with volunteers who can offer help and a friendly connection. I'm grateful to work with my colleagues Councilmember Koretz and Bonin on helping our seniors stay safe and informed."

"During this time of COVID-19, many seniors are socially isolated and are prime targets of COVID-19 scams and other scams including Medicare, Grandparents, Lottery and Imposter. This Resolution helps support our mission to stop senior scams through our peer-to-peer education," said Adrienne Omansky, founder of Stop Senior Scams acting groups whose mission is to educate about Senior Scams through Peer to Peer Education with use of Theater.

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