

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
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A question facing policymakers at all levels of government is how to best protect the safety of those suffering from autism, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or other memory-related afflictions. Far too often we hear of individuals wandering from the safety of their caregivers, never to be seen again. I recently became aware of a 56 year-old Manhattan Beach woman with early-onset Alzheimer's who has been missing since October 2016. Despite a relentless search by her family, she has yet to be found. There are an estimated 100,000 people in the County of Los Angeles who suffer from Alzheimer's and many are prone to wandering away from their caregivers.

I believe that the families cannot and should not be left to perform this anguishing task alone. The resources at the disposal of Los Angeles County are far-reaching. We have the expertise to help families keep track of their loved ones and the means to search for them should they wander away. Additionally, the County employs the best practice models involving specific training for law enforcement coupled with the use of tracking devices in place around the county such as Project Lifesaver. This company had created a device that has led to the successful recovery of numerous individuals

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and allowed them to be reunited with their families.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board establish the Bringing Our Loved Ones Home Task Force, led by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, the Sheriff's, the Department of Public Social Services, as well as the Office of Public Guardian, the Commission on Disabilities, the Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services, the Commission on Aging, the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, and the Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles to explore the feasibility of establishing a voluntary countywide program that can keep track of adults and children and to expedite the recovery time of those individuals who wander away from their families and caregivers. The Task Force should explore the best available devices to be implemented, provide guidance and a timeline for comprehensive training, estimate the cost of such a program and report back to the Board with their findings in 60 days.

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