

SEP 06 2005

MOTION

ARTS, PARKS,  
HEALTH & AGING

Increasingly, prescription drugs are being used by seniors to treat many chronic health conditions, and the amount of money patients spend on prescription drugs has also increased significantly.

Many seniors who rely on Medicare as their primary health coverage have had difficulty keeping up with the costs associated with the drugs their doctors prescribe to them to stay healthy.

Beginning in January 2006, Medicare recipients will be offered insurance coverage for prescription drugs. While most covered under Medicare will likely have to pay a monthly premium, those with limited income and resources could receive this coverage free of cost. Medicare has developed several prescription drug plans for seniors to choose from, and the US Department of Health and Human Services has initiated a nationwide outreach effort, to ensure that all Medicare recipients have all the information they need to choose a prescription drug plan that works best for them.

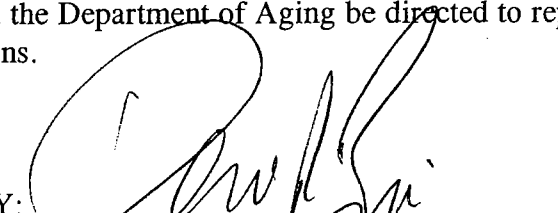
The City of Los Angeles should join in this effort to ensure that Medicare recipients in this City, including our seniors, receive the information on this new prescription drug coverage.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CAO with the assistance of the Department of Aging and the Information Technology Agency be directed to take the steps needed to ensure that the City's 311 operators have all appropriate information available and on hand to assist seniors and other callers with information on the new federal prescription drug benefit program.

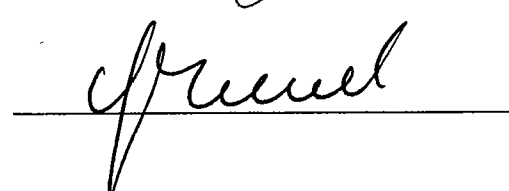
I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Aging be directed to work with County and federal agencies to explore further ways of enhancing City outreach to seniors about the Medicare prescription drug plan.

I FURTHER MOVE that the CAO and the Department of Aging be directed to report in 45 days on the status of the above instructions.

PRESENTED BY:

  
DENNIS P. ZINE  
Councilman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



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