

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to request that City Hall and key landmarks in Los Angeles be lit in teal on March 15, 2025, for Long Covid Awareness Day. Teal is the official color for raising awareness of Long Covid, a condition that affects hundreds of thousands of Angelenos and millions nationwide. Lighting City Hall in teal will show Los Angeles' commitment to the health and well-being of its residents and amplify the visibility of a condition that is devastating our community. Long Covid affects 10-30% of all COVID-19 infections, including those who are vaccinated or have recovered. Symptoms such as chronic fatigue, brain fog, joint pain, and shortness of breath can be so severe that many are bedbound or housebound, unable to work, and facing financial hardship. In Los Angeles, with over 2.2 million COVID-19 cases, an estimated 286,000 to 1.39 million residents are living with Long Covid, facing an economic crisis that mirrors the public health toll. Many are too disabled to work. 1-4 million Americans are struggling with this level of disability, and many SSDI claims are being denied due to a lack of "objective evidence" because we lack enough research on this condition. Los Angeles is already a leader in the effort to understand Long Covid, with research programs like the NIH-RECOVER initiative and Long Covid clinics at UCLA. However, we still need much more visibility and public support for the hundreds of thousands of Angelenos suffering in silence. Lighting City Hall in teal on Long Covid Awareness Day would not only raise awareness but also send a powerful message that Los Angeles is committed to its residents' health, leadership in public health, and advocacy for critical research and policy changes. This action would bring immediate visibility to the economic and social struggles of Long Covid sufferers in Los Angeles, showing our residents that they are seen and supported. It will also increase public pressure to expand research funding and healthcare services specifically targeting Long Covid. Furthermore, as other cities like New York and Chicago have lit their landmarks in support of health causes, Los Angeles has the opportunity to show that it leads by example and stands with its residents during this public health crisis. I respectfully urge you to light City Hall in teal on March 15, 2025. By doing so, Los Angeles will take a stand on one of the most significant health issues facing our city today, and show solidarity

with those whose lives have been upended by Long Covid. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further.