

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Respected Mayor and council members, thank you so much for allowing me to speak today about my concerns about lung cancer and lung cancer screening in the Los Angeles community. My name is Diya Kar, and I'm here with Aparna Pillai. We are undergraduate students at University of California Los Angeles and board members of the national nonprofit organization, the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative. Lung cancer is a topic that is very important because lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer related death in the Los Angeles community and the United States. In 2023, it is estimated that 234,580 people will be diagnosed with lung cancer, and 125,070 people will die of the disease in the United States alone. Lung cancer has a generally poor prognosis, with only 23% of patients living at least 5 years past initial diagnosis. This is because lung cancer is often caught in the later stages of disease progression, as people don't feel any symptoms of lung cancer until the later stages. The best way to catch lung cancer early is through lung cancer screening using low-dose CT scan. This scan is like a spiral x-ray that creates a detailed picture of the lung. Radiologists can find tumors as small as a pushpin with a CT scan. Using the CT scan, doctors can diagnose lung cancer early, so that patients have more time and options for treatment. However, the only issue is that not a lot of people are aware of lung cancer screening. In fact, of all the high-risk smokers who should be getting screened every year, LESS THAN 6% are getting screened in the United States. And this rate is even lower for California at LESS THAN 1%. And this is why we believe lung cancer education and awareness are crucial. We need to educate our community about who needs to get screened, why to get screened, and how to get screened. Currently, annual lung cancer screening is recommended for adults aged 50 to 80 years who have a 20 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. Hispanic and African American patients are at an even higher risk for lung cancer when compared to other populations, and given that Los Angeles county serves low-income and underserved communities, it is extremely important that we educate patients, doctors, and families about lung cancer screening. So for everyone here, we urge you to please share with your family and friends the importance of lung cancer screening. In terms of lung cancer

screening rate, California ranks 50th among all states, placing it in the bottom-most tier. But, we are confident that we can do better. By holding community events around lung cancer, we can educate every single Californian, and the state of California can lead this effort to save lives. We have worked with over 390 mayors across all US states and Canada to issue a proclamation recognizing November as National Lung Cancer Awareness Month, so we would like to ask if Mayor Karen Bass would consider doing the same. Additionally, we have worked with over 85 mayors, governors, state representatives, doctors, and patients to film a short 1-minute public service announcement encouraging constituents to get screened. We would be honored to work with Mayor Bass or council members on filming this public service announcement for Los Angeles constituents. Thank you.

PROCLAMATION

Lung Cancer Awareness Month November 2022



WHEREAS, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the United States in 2019 there were approx. 221,097 new lung cancer cases and 139,601 deaths because of lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is ~60%, yet only ~24% of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage; and

WHEREAS, screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals using low dose computed tomography can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives, reducing the mortality by 20% when compared to screening by chest x-ray in the National Lung Screening Trial and reducing the risk of death at 10 years by 24% in men and 33% in women as demonstrated by another large, randomized trial; and

WHEREAS, funding for lung cancer research trails far behind funding for research of many other cancers, and additional research is needed in early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for lung cancer as well as in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities; and

WHEREAS, lung cancer incidence is decreasing twice as fast in men as it is in women, each year more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer and by 2035, more women will die from lung cancer than men; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality of all races, and disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well characterized among African Americans and other racial minorities; and

WHEREAS, lung cancer in never smokers is the 7th leading cause of cancer-related death and accounts for 17,000-26,000 deaths in the US every year, 60-70% of never smokers diagnosed with lung cancer are women, and the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in never smokers is increasing in the US; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative and Women's Lung Cancer Forum, are committed to educating about lung cancer and lung cancer screening and working to increase lung cancer screening rates in 2022; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR WES SPEAKE, on behalf of the Corona City Council do hereby proclaim the month of November 2022 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month and recognize the need for research in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities and encourage all citizens to learn about lung cancer and early detection through lung cancer screening.

PROCLAIMED this 2nd day of November 2022.

Wes Speake, Mayor

CITY OF CORONA

