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DIST**Katherine Douglas** *Public Comment*

From: Katherine Douglas
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:52 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: FW: Testimony at Today's hearing
Attachments: GPSBN BOIS 011425 draft ck.docx

From: David Landecker <dlandecker23@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:30 AM
To: Katherine Douglas <kdoug@countyofsb.org>
Subject: Re: Testimony at Today's hearing

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for your assistance. Here is the Statement I intend to make at today's BoS hearing. In the event I am no longer available when this Item is heard, please circulate this to the Board.

David Landecker

BOS ITEM 4, JANUARY 13, 2025

MADAM CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

I AM DAVID LANDECKER, REPRESENTING THE GRAY PANTHERS OF SANTA BARBARA. I WILL BE READING YOU A STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE INCOMING PRESIDENT OF OUR GROUP, FORMER 3RD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR GAIL MARSHALL.

THE SANTA BARBARA GRAY PANTHERS WERE FORMED 4 YEARS AGO TO ADVOCATE, AGITATE AND EDUCATE ON BEHALF OF OLDER ADULTS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY.

WE HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB AT EDUCATION THROUGH OUR SERIES OF ALMOST 20 FORUMS, ATTENDED BY HUNDREDS OF PARTICIPANTS— BOTH ONLINE AND IN PERSON.

WE ARE NOW FINDING OUR FOOTING ON THE ADVOCACY PART OF OUR MISSION AND STAND READY TO AGITATE AS NECESSARY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS – WHICH, IN MANY CASES ARE ALSO THE NEEDS OF OUR ENTIRE POPULATION.

AT OUR UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, WE WILL FEATURE AN ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT NEEDS AND PROPOSALS FROM OUR STATE SENATOR, MONIQUE LIMON, AND THEN CONSIDER OUR ORGANIZATIONS' LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR.

WE EXPECT THOSE TO INCLUDE:

HOUSING – PARTICULARLY TENANT PROTECTIONS; THE SAFE PARKING PROGRAM; MOBILE HOME PROTECTIONS; IN HOME IS HEALTHIER; CONGREGATE CARE FACILITIES, AND INCREASING THE STOCK OF AVAILABLE AFFORDABLE AND SUBSIDIZED HOUSING.

WE PLAN TO LOBBY OUR STATE LEGISLATORS FOR AN **OLDER ADULT CAUCUS – TO PROVIDE A LEGISLATIVE BODY WHOSE ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS.**

WE WILL ENCOURAGE ACTION TO ADDRESS FRAUDS AND SCAMS TARGETING OLDER ADULTS – THAT SHOULD INCLUDE EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO AVOID FRAUDS AND SCAMS, AS WELL AS SUPPORT FOR CITY ATTORNEYS, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ABOUT PROTECTING SENIORS FROM THESE ABUSES.

THE GRAY PANTHERS OF SANTA BARBARA LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ON THESE AND OTHER METHODS **TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE OLDER ADULTS OF OUR COMMUNITIES.**

WE THANK YOUR BOARD FOR THIS HEARING THAT AFFIRMS YOUR RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING FOR THE NEEDS OF THE **FASTEST GROWING POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA**, OUR SENIORS.

THANK YOU!