

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



MEDIA ADVISORY

Los Angeles City Hall to Shine Purple to Recognize International Overdose Awareness Day (Monday, August 31)

WHAT: Los Angeles City Hall will be lit up in purple to recognize [International Overdose Awareness Day](#), a global event held on August 31st each year that aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related death. It also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have met with death or permanent injury as a result of drug overdose. Additionally, the Coronavirus pandemic is contributing to an increase of overdose deaths because of increased isolation and anxiety which are both contributors to substance use disorder. As of May, overdoses were up 42% nationally.

Beverly Hills City Hall and Staples Center will also light up purple on Monday evening.

WHEN: Monday, August 31, 2020

WHO: Last week, Los Angeles City Councilmember Koretz (CD5) introduced a motion to turn the lights purple in partnership with the non-profit organization [Moms Against Drugs](#). The organization was co-founded by two mothers, Juli Shamash and Debi Nadler who both lost their sons to drug overdose.

Moms Against Drugs works to promote drug abuse awareness, overdose prevention, and to provide resources and support for others who want to put on [awareness events](#) in their neighborhoods. They now have groups for siblings and dads, too

“No family is immune to the devastation of drug addiction, and far too many suffer the heartbreak of losing loved ones to overdose. Addiction and overdose effect people of all races, religions and socioeconomic status,” said Councilmember Koretz. He also pointed out that, “Particularly during the coronavirus pandemic when so many are isolated, scared and lonely, lighting up Los Angeles City Hall purple should serve as a beacon of love and support for families and friends (and those fighting addiction) that you are not alone and that help is available.”

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