

# STAFF MEMO

**DATE OF STUDY SESSION: OCTOBER 18, 2021 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Bruce Roome, City Clerk, 303-987-7081

Subject: **LAKWOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION – KIDS VISITING SENIORS**

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**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** The Neighborhoods Committee of the Lakewood Advisory Commission worked as a group to provide the City Council a report on Lakewood students visiting seniors at our retirement communities.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Neighborhoods Committee began by brainstorming the various possible sources of information and key stakeholders involved. The committee identified a series of key starting research points for interviews and further reading,

**BUDGETARY IMPACTS:** The proposal itself has no fiscal impacts. If City Council approves the recommendations, there could be budgetary impacts for some areas of implementation.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Neighborhoods Committee of the Lakewood Advisory Commission proposes the following recommendations:

- Convene a workshop for senior care activities directors and interested others on effective practices to combat social isolation in seniors. Highlight “Kids Visiting Seniors” programs and practices and use local activities directors as some of the speakers.
- Gather and publish best practices for bringing kids and seniors together to help groups looking to start a new program in Lakewood. This could be added to the Older Adults Services section of the city’s website.
- Encourage, inform, and assist stakeholders in the community who express interest in starting “Kids Visiting Senior Programs.” We do not recommend that City staff develop a new program as there are plenty of well-designed programs locally and throughout the country from which to learn, and there are citizen stakeholders with an interest to provide more of these programs.

**ALTERNATIVES:** No alternatives are being proposed at this time.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH:** This item was promoted via the regular communication channels for an item coming before City Council.

**NEXT STEPS:** If City Council approves LAC recommendations, next steps will be for staff to research costs and implementation strategies.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Kids Visiting Senior’s Report  
PowerPoint Presentation

**REVIEWED BY:** Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager  
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager  
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney