

Family Diversity Task Force Awarded Grants

Los Angeles City Councilman Michael Woo announced June 25 that a City task force set up to study contemporary family life in Los Angeles was awarded grants from three corporate, civic and religious organizations.

The Task Force on Family Diversity received grants from Pacific Bell (\$5,000), the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (\$5,000) and the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles (\$3,000).

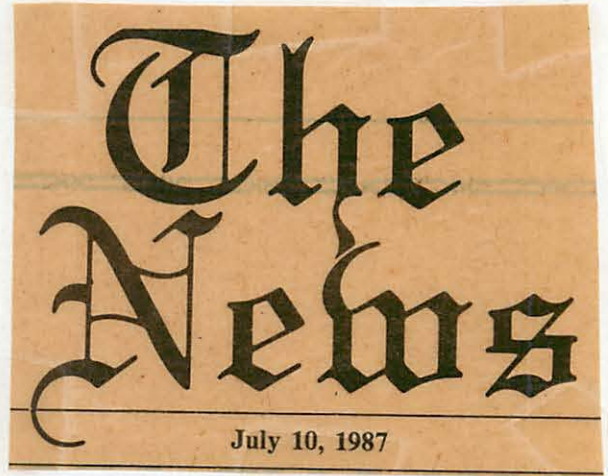
"These grants from a variety of well-established organizations and companies stress the keen community interest in the findings of the task force. I eagerly await the November report, and these grants will allow for a quality publication that can be generously distributed," Woo said.

When Woo established the task force in April 1986, he asked task force members "to study the nature and extent of family diversity in the City of Los Angeles" and directed the group to "investigate any evident problems experienced by variable family groups" such as two-wage-earner families, single-parent families, foster parents, unmarried couples, gay or lesbian couples, immigrant families, or families with senior or disabled members.

Findings of the 38-member task force will help local lawmakers update outmoded public policies which have generally been based on the stereotyped "nuclear family," which now accounts for less than 15 percent of local families.

The task force is co-chaired by community activist Christopher McCauley, Senior Consumer Affairs Representative, Southern California Gas Company; and Dr. Nora Baladerian, a mental health consultant. Attorney Thomas Frank Coleman, former director of the Governor's Commission on Personal Privacy, coordinates the research project.

Joining Woo at City Hall to officially award the grants were Aurora Gabsky, Director of Public Affairs, Pacific Bell; Bishop Oliver Garver, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles; and Lynn Shepodd, co-chair of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA). McCauley, Baladerian and Coleman represented the task force.



Councilman Michael Woo accepts grants from three corporate civic and religious organizations totaling \$13,000 to the City's Task Force on Family Diversity. Pictured (bottom row, l to r) are Task Force co-chair, Dr. Nora Baladerian; Woo; Co-chair Christopher McCauley and (top row, l to r) attorney Thomas Coleman, coordinator of the research project; Aurora Gabsky, director of Public Affairs for Pacific Bell, who donated a \$5,000 grant; Bishop Olive Garver, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, who awarded a \$3,000 grant; and Lynn Shepodd, co-chair of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA), who donated a \$5,000 grant.