

UPDATE 7-22-87

Family Task Force Secures Funding

LOS ANGELES — Three corporate, civic and religious organizations have awarded grants to a city task force established by Councilman Mike Woo to study contemporary family life — including the Lesbian and Gay community — in Los Angeles.

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).

When Woo established the task force in April, 1986, he directed it 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 or parents, immigrant families or families with senior or disabled members.

In a series of public hearings conducted through the end of 1986 and the beginning of 1987, the 38-member Task Force — which includes several representatives of the Gay community — heard from

a great range of speakers, including Gay professionals, parents and community representatives.

The Task Force report is scheduled to be released in November of this year. The group is co-chaired by community activist Chris McCauley and by mental health consultant Dr. Nora Baladerian, with research coordinated by attorney Thomas Coleman, now active in legal work at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

Findings of the group are intended to help local lawmakers update outmoded public policies which have generally been based on a stereotypical "nuclear family" — a family model which now accounts for less than 15 percent of the general population.

The money from MECLA and the two other sources will be used to ensure wide distribution of the Task Force's final report.