

11-1060
Refer To: 11-0884

CD 4

MOTION

ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH & AGING

JUN 2 1 2011

On January 23, 1987, the City approved a fifty (50) year ground lease agreement with the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum (now known as the Autry National Center) for approximately 12.75 acres of land located in the northeast portion of Griffith Park. Subsequently, the Museum of the American West was formed in 2003 by the merger of the Autry Museum of Western Heritage (at Griffith Park) with the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe (at Mt. Washington) of the American Indian and the Women of the West Museum. The Museum is operated by the Autry National Center (Autry) on land leased by the Autry from the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. The merger in 2003 allowed the Autry Center to have over 500,000 pieces of Native American art and artifacts, making it the largest and most significant collection in the United States.

On June 3, 2011, a Special Meeting of the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee held a public hearing concerning proposed renovations of exhibit space in the galleria, and outdoor area and restrooms at the Autry National Center's Museum (Autry) of the American West (C.F. 11-0884). At this meeting, the Committee considered public comment concerning the development of the Autry Museum. In addition, around the same time, an appeal was filed with the Los Angeles City Council over the proposed exhibit project's environmental impacts and review processes.

At an additional meeting of the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee on June 20, 2011, testimony was heard regarding the Commission's action, and also the Committee considered the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) appeal filed by Daniel Wright on behalf of the Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance, and Highland Park resident Charles Fisher. The Committee voted to uphold the Commission action and also to deny the appeal. The City Council will decide this matter on Tuesday, June 21, 2011.


There is a need for the City of Los Angeles to have a comprehensive review of its rights and responsibilities with regard to both the Autry and the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe sites. To allow the Autry and the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe to move forward with further discussions, the Council should instruct City staff to meet with stakeholders from both the Autry and the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe to take the necessary steps to develop a long-range plan for **both** museums.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst's Office (CLA) to establish and convene a City working group comprised of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the City Administrative Office (CAO), City Attorney, CD 14, CD 4 and CD 1 to engage in formal discussions with the Autry National Center of the American West, museum experts, stakeholders, and community groups and: (1) develop a long-range plan for the Autry Center at Griffith Park, (2) develop a long-range plan for the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe site at Mt. Washington, (3) advise as to the status of the lease renewal process between the City and the Autry Center, (4) review the Merger Agreement and the implementation of its mandates (5) identify funding sources for renovation and operation of the Southwest Museum, and (6) report to the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee, and Budget and Finance Committees within 60 days on the progress of these discussions.

JUN 21 2011

PRESENTED BY: 
JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: 
ED REYES
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY: 
TOM LABONGE
Councilmember, 4th District



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