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MOTION

INFORMATION TECH. & GEN. SERVICES

The Information Technology Agency (ITA) has been working with the Bureau of Engineering to re-locate the operations for Los Angeles City View Channel 35, the City's public access television station. The mission of Channel 35 is to serve the people of Los Angeles by providing accurate and current information about policies, services, and activities of City government, as well as to highlight and provide programs that address significant issues facing our communities.

Currently, Channel 35 is occupying leased space in the neighborhood of Little Tokyo. The City's asset management policy is to reduce private lease agreements by either purchasing property or to retrofit existing City property so as to reduce expenditures. In addition, the Channel 35 studios are in need of infrastructure and equipment upgrades to meet current technological demands. In 2011, ITA released a five-year budget plan for the use of the City's Public Education and Governmental (PEG) Access Fund (Council File 10-1826-S1). The report recommended upgrading Channel 35's outdated analog studio equipment to a digital platform to gain technological efficiencies and improve broadcast signal quality in the future. ITA hopes that Channel 35 can serve as an anchor and hub for governmental access programming and events streamed over the internet.

At the direction of the Municipal Facilities Committee, the Bureau of Engineering and ITA completed a relocation feasibility study and building assessment to review possible sites to accommodate Channel 35 near the Civic Center. Channel 35's relocation criteria included: close proximity to the City Hall campus; availability of a minimum of 13,000 square feet; a parking area that allows for unobstructed loading; floor to ceiling heights of 13' to 15'; natural light for offices; electrical power availability; and, the ability to upgrade data wiring to incorporate fiber optic cable.

After reviewing multiple City-owned properties around the Civic Center, the Bureau of Engineering and ITA have found that the historic Merced Theatre, located at 420 South Main Street within El Pueblo Historical Monument, presents the best opportunity and greatest public benefit for this re-location. The capital investment will allow the City to redevelop this important building for a purpose that is consistent with its historic usage as well as revitalize the southern portion of the historic monument. An additional benefit may be the ability for El Pueblo to secure rental revenue from the PEG fund.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering, Information Technology Agency, and El Pueblo Historical Monument report to the Information Technology and General Services Committee in 45 days with a report and proposed budget for the re-location of Los Angeles City View Channel 35 studio to the Merced Theatre.

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PRESENTED BY:
JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:

ORIGINAL