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MOTION

BUDGET & FINANCE

The City of Los Angeles is fortunate to be home to a multitude of great and diverse cultures. Last week the City was honored to participate in a ceremonial lease signing celebrating the soon-to-be-built Korean American Museum at 6th and Vermont. It was a fantastic event that was attended by many prominent community leaders and elected officials including Council President Herb Wesson, Councilmembers LaBonge, Garcetti and Zine, our City Attorney Carmen Trutanich and many more.

It is important the City support efforts like these to ensure our many communities have museums and community centers to acknowledge their great contributions to the City. In addition, these community anchors actually help the City do its work by providing programming for the community which the City unfortunately cannot fund. To help ensure the success of the new Korean American Museum, the City entered into an agreement with the non profit building the museum for a long-term lease of city land with an annual lease rent of \$1 dollar (Council File 11-0081-S4).


Following the example of the new Korean American Museum, the city has a tremendous opportunity to create another such rich cultural institution in the San Fernando Valley. The old abandoned Fire Station 83 sits empty at 5001 N. Balboa Blvd. in Encino. Instead of enhancing the community, this building has sat vacant for many years and is now becoming a public safety hazard. The site has fallen victim to copper wire theft, vagrancy, graffiti, and illegal dumping.

In the spirit of celebrating the diverse communities of Los Angeles, there is now an opportunity to partner with the Armenian American Community in the San Fernando Valley. The Armenian Cultural Foundation, a registered 501 3(c), engages in a full spectrum of community centered services and activities. This includes education, after school programs, tutoring, senior and social services, recreational services, community meetings, and cultural affairs. The Armenian Cultural Foundation has presented the City with an amazing opportunity to bring Fire Station 83 back to life as a real asset to Encino and the entire San Fernando Valley. If the City partners with the Armenian Cultural Foundation to re-purpose Fire Station 83 as the new home of the Armenian Cultural Foundation, the community of Encino and City as a whole can tremendously benefit. In addition, given the public safety concerns with this vacant property, it is important that we act quickly to secure this opportunity and the property before more damage is done.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the General Services Department, in consultation with the City Administrative Officer and the City Attorney, be directed to negotiate and present to Council, within sixty days, a long term lease agreement (of at least 50 years) with the Armenian Cultural Foundation, for use of the City-owned surplus Fire Station 83, located at 5001 N. Balboa Blvd, Encino, at an annual lease rate of \$1 per year.

C0-PRESENTED BY:

  
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