

MOTION HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

To help address the unsheltered homeless crisis, including the vulnerable residents of downtown, the City established the Refresh Spot in Skid Row which provides a variety of hygiene services. Currently, the Refresh Spot, located at 557 Crocker St., is an incredibly popular intervention which provides more than 500 services per day, and thousands over the last few months. Visitors can use its showers, restrooms, and laundry facilities, as well as receive referrals for additional homeless services. The ReFresh Spot also hires local community members to help operate the site.

The City looks forward to continuing operation of the ReFresh Spot, currently managed by Homeless Healthcare Los Angeles (HHCLA), however, the City is forced to move the location because the Weingart Center, who owns the site, will be developing the space into permanent supportive housing, with construction possibly commencing as early as October 2019.

In preparation for the loss of the site, last November, Motion (Huizar / Harris-Dawson) (C.F. 18-1119) was introduced to explore opportunities to identify a new location. Staff investigated multiple sites, including the property at 606 E. 6th St., near to the ReFresh Spot. This site was determined infeasible for practical and significant financial reasons, and therefore would be an inefficient way to expend homeless emergency aid desperately needed by the downtown residents.

Fortunately, however, another property near to the ReFresh Spot, located at 544 Towne Avenue, has been identified and is a larger and better option. The property's larger size along with its limited improvement needs provides the City flexibility to permanently adapt its use into the new hygiene center. Although the site's larger size may necessitate increased maintenance and supply costs, the new site also presents opportunities for expansion of service programming.

Given that the Refresh Spot is highly valued by its users, the Skid Row community, and the City, staff should determine the requirements and funding needs to relocate the ReFresh Spot from its current location to the site at 544 Towne Avenue, as well as the cost to potentially expand services and HHCLA administrative support.


I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council determine that the property located at 544 Towne Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, 90013, is a suitable alternative for the relocation of the ReFresh Spot, and instruct the Department of General Services (GSD) to negotiate a lease with the owner of the property to utilize the site for this purpose, and report on the necessary California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determinations made by the Bureau of Engineering for use of the site as the ReFresh Spot.

I FURTHER MOVE that GSD be instructed to negotiate a sub-lease with Homeless Health Care of Los Angeles to operate the site.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and GSD be directed to report with a determination of the costs and a source of funds, including State Homeless Emergency Aid, to relocate the ReFresh Spot and potentially expand services.


JUN 14 2019

PRESENTED BY: _____


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: _____

ORIGINAL