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MOTION

The City of Los Angeles has a tremendous opportunity to create a vibrant community center on the Westside, utilizing former Fire Station 62, which currently sits empty at the corner of South Centinela Boulevard and West Windward Avenue in Mar Vista.

Instead of enhancing and serving the neighborhood, this building has sat vacant for nearly a decade and has the potential to become a public safety hazard. Over the years, the site has fallen prey to theft, vagrancy, graffiti and illegal dumping.

Before his retirement due to illness, former Councilmember Bill Rosendahl promised Mar Vista that he would help turn the site into a community center, for use by the Mar Vista Community Council, other local groups, and as a site for city officials and agencies to hold public meetings and office hours. Councilman Rosendahl sought to partner with the Mar Vista-based Friends of Historic Fire Station 62, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. This organization was created by the local community and Mar Vista Community Council to engage in a full spectrum of neighborhood-focused services including, but not limited to: Community Emergency Response and Training (CERT); art, culture and educational classes; grassroots democracy and government education sessions; green technology and sustainability efforts; and community history lessons.

Council District 11 seeks to repurpose former Fire Station 62 as a valuable community-serving asset. In 2014, Council District 11 worked with General Services to address and resolve public safety nuisance abatement issues on the property. Given the existing public safety concerns with this vacant parcel, however, it is vital that the City act quickly to facilitate rehabilitation of the property to serve the people of the Mar Vista and the 11th District.

The City has a unique opportunity to fulfill Councilman Rosendahl's promise to the community through partnership with Mar Vista-based Friends of Historic Fire Station 62. It would be prudent for the City to grant the organization a renewable lease, for an initial term of 3 years, in order to conduct a capital campaign to raise the funds needed to rehabilitate the facility for public use. Such an agreement would allow the organization greater opportunity to raise funds or partner with other organizations to do so. Given the condition of the 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 Department of General Services, in consultation with the City Administrative Officer and the City Attorney, be directed to negotiate and present to Council, within sixty days, a three year lease agreement with the Friends of Historic Fire Station 62, for use of the City owned surplus Fire Station 62, located at 3631-35 South Centinela Boulevard in the community of Mar Vista at an annual lease rate of \$1 per year. The lease agreement will have opportunity to renew for 47 years after successful completion of capital campaign phase.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



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