

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to increasing the number of community spaces open to address multiple natural emergencies dramatically impacting the public's health including but not limited to air quality.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Blumenfield - Rodriguez):

1. INSTRUCT the Emergency Management Department (EMD), in consultation with the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and Department of General Services (GSD), to prepare a plan and protocols to open certain City facilities during times of dangerous air quality that includes staffing, facility and outreach needs.
2. INSTRUCT the EMD and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in consultation with RAP and GSD, to prepare a report with recommendations on what additional city-owned sites could be open during emergencies that would better serve the unhoused population and if hours can be expanded, as well as explore private partnerships to further address this issue.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On April 7, 2021 the Public Safety Committee virtually considered a Motion (Blumenfield - Rodriguez) relative to increasing the number of community spaces open to address multiple natural emergencies dramatically impacting the public's health including but not limited to air quality. According to the Motion, the Los Angeles Times has noted that California has experienced six of the biggest wildfires in recent history. The unhealthy air, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic and excessive heat, has made it critical to temporarily stay inside and avoid strenuous activity.

As public health and elected officials make the call for everyone to remain inside, there appears to be no consistent plan or protocols to help unhoused residents and other vulnerable Angelenos stay safe and away from the toxic air. When temperatures become too extreme cooling centers are opened but a similar protocol does not exist for when air quality is as dangerous. Even with cooling centers there are not enough and often they are too far away from where the need is to be fully useful. For example, on September 6th, when temperatures surged in Woodland Hills to 121 degrees, there was only one city cooling center open in the West Valley and had enough space for only ten people. It was miles away from where most Council District 3 encampments are located, leaving the 600 homeless people in the district to suffer in the extreme elements with no relief. Also, tens of thousands of housed residents of all ages and health histories who don't have, or can't afford, consistent air conditioning or air filtrations systems need relief. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations in the Motion, as detailed above. This matter is now transmitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
DE LEON:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES

KK 4-7-21

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-