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December 1, 2023

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Council President  
City Council  
City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall

Attention: Eric Villanueva

**RESPONSE TO COUNCIL FILE 22-1562 RELATIVE TO the City Council request for the Department of Recreation and Parks to report on the operational status of the Westchester Senior Center including an overview of their current operational capacity and the resources needed to further activate the space for the senior community.**

**Background:**

On March 17, 2023, Council adopted a motion directing the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to report on the operational status of the Westchester Senior Center (Center) including an overview of their current operational capacity and the resources needed to further activate the space for the senior community.

*Date of when the Center closed.* The Center only closed for four days, October 11-14, 2022. Monday, October 10th was a city holiday and the center was closed.

*Date of when the Center restarted programming / or reopened.* The Center resumed activities on Monday, October 17, 2022.

**Analysis / Findings:**

The Center has been making significant progress. The latest developments are described below:

**Senior Meal Program**

RAP is now receiving and distributing over 40 hot senior lunches through the Senior Nutrition Program from Monday to Friday. This surpasses the pre-pandemic numbers, indicating a strong resurgence in our services.

**Senior Activities**

RAP is actively working on expanding program offerings to provide a more diverse and engaging experience for our seniors



Honorable Council President Krekorian

December 1, 2023

Page 2

To cater to a wide range of interests, RAP has introduced a variety of programs. Currently, RAP offers three exercise classes, two art classes, karaoke sessions, and chess lessons. Furthermore, this month, RAP initiated a knitting class led by Instructor Shirley Porter, which has been well-received. RAP has exciting plans to start a Genealogy Class in July with our new volunteer, Shellena Leftridge.

RAP's efforts to rebuild membership have yielded positive results, as there are currently 124 members. RAP is committed to expanding membership through special events that are both enjoyable and engaging. Over the past year, RAP has organized at least one special event per month, starting from September 2022. These events have ranged from intimate gatherings like Halloween flower arranging with 12 participants to larger celebrations like Friendsgiving and the Rotary Club sponsored luncheon, which saw nearly 100 participants. RAP is grateful for the support it has received from community members as well as organizations like the Parenting Sisterhood of Westchester, Playa Del Rey & Playa Vista, and the Pacific Art Guild. Their contributions have helped us bring our seniors back to a place they know and love.

I would like to highlight the invaluable role of our staff and volunteers in spreading awareness through our social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram) and has utilized her connections in the print media, including Hometown News and The Argonaut.

We are incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement we have received from the City Council as we strive to create a thriving and vibrant community for our senior members. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact and provide meaningful experiences for our seniors.

**Recommendations:**

Consider this informational report and advise, if necessary.

Sincerely,



JIMMY KIM  
General Manager