

MOTION

The Lincoln Heights Jail, located at 401 N. Avenue 19 (Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 5447-005-900), has been vacant since 2014. Built in 1931 as a jail to hold 625 people, it quickly became overpopulated and by the early 1950s was holding nearly 2,800 prisoners. Due to the overcrowding and cost of maintenance, the City and County voted to decommission the jail in 1965. The location itself has a sordid history, with a notable incident called "Bloody Christmas." In 1951, over 50 officers of the jail attacked seven of those imprisoned, leaving them barely alive. Further, in the 50s and 60s, the police chief at the time cracked down on members of the LGBTQ+ community by relegating a large number of those targeted for arrest to the Lincoln Heights Jail - making it infamous for anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment.

Up until 2014, the space was used to house city departments, as well as the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts. Currently, there is a LA Department of Transportation Yard on the property that is expected to vacate the premises during the summer of 2023. As it stands now, the property is an environmental hazard, with immediate remediation efforts being required. It currently has lead in the ground, two tanks 30 feet below the ground level that contain petroleum products, and the interior contains asbestos.

In September 2016, Council directed the Chief Legislative Analyst to issue a Request for Proposals to look into and propose an adaptive reuse project for the site (CF 16-0968). Following this, in November of 2016, Council directed the General Services Department to review options for the relocation of the DOT yard (CF 16-0968-S1), but no report was ever provided to the Council. An RFP was issued in March 2017 with responses due 3 months later. Nearly a year later in May 2018, an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (ENA) was entered into between the CLA and the Lincoln Property Company and Fifteen Group (Developer).

Despite the dedicated work of the CLA to manage this project, the Developer backed out of the ENA in late 2022, leaving the Lincoln Heights Jail at the stage it started in 2014 with some notable exceptions. With the information from the environmental assessments and the work done over the last 5 years to both remediate and assess the land, the City is in a unique position to start this process over with more robust community engagement and an eye towards healing the environmental and social harm this building has brought the Lincoln Heights community. The site is nearly 147,000 square feet, creating a critical opportunity to create housing and a mixed use development that serves the Lincoln Heights community and surrounding neighbors.

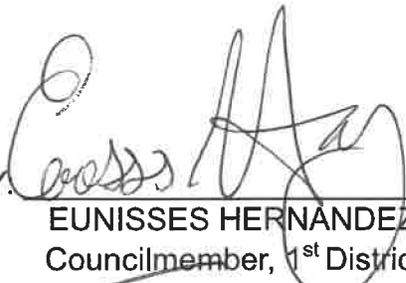
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Economic and Workforce Development Department, with support from the Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Office, General Services Department, Bureau of Engineering, LA Sanitation, and City Attorney to report back within 120 Days providing a high level order of operations for the site to move forward and assessing possibilities of future use of the site, including necessary departmental funding required to move forward with plans. This includes LA SAN reporting on continued remediation of the site and coordination with the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board.

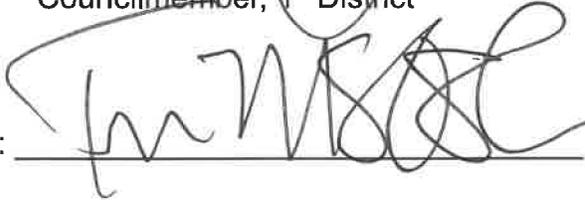
MAY 10 2023



I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Economic and Workforce Development Department, with support from Council District 1, to develop a community engagement plan within 150 days, including recommendations for outside support necessary to move a community engagement plan forward.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Economic and Workforce Development Department review and apply for grants opportunities that are eligible to pay for the cost of possible demolition and remediation of the Lincoln Heights Jail property, located at 401 N. Avenue 19 (Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 5447-005-900).

PRESENTED BY: 
EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL