

## Communication from Public

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**Council File No:** 19-0126-S3

**Comments for Public Posting:** "Destiny Whispers - Determination Whistles". Council Members we are at a key point of convergence (inflection point) between (A) Policy; (B) Principle; and (C) Practicality. All must align for there to be good governance. In this case, none align unless one is to assume from the errors, omissions, and negligence of the shelter operator (PATH), and General Services (the Permittee under the Rec. & Park Permit) that (1) the Policy is to allow for the "warehousing" of the homeless residents, (2) the Principle is that the "warehousing" of human beings is good, compassionate policy; and (3) No practical alternatives exist except to "warehouse" people. This is supposed to be an "interim" shelter - where people are to stay a maximum of 6 months. Some have been at the shelter for two years. According to the CAO's two written reports to the Rec. & Parks Commission, the shelter has completely failed at placing residents into either temporary or permanent housing. The question is Why? PATH, General Services, and the CAO need to testify before the Committee and Council to explain why the shelter has failed (between July 1, 2024, and December 1, 2024, only 8% of the residents were placed into temporary or permanent housing. The number is 25% over the last four years). This is below LAHSA's standards. Ms. Raman knows it is a complete failure because if the Shelter was a success, Ms. Raman would tout the successes; as would the Bureau of Engineering. Neither have done so. Other facts supporting the Shelter's failure are (i) the abandonment by PATH of its responsibilities to operate the shelter on June 30, 2025 (the lease ran to July 10, 2025). There was a murder which occurred on July 5, 2025, outside the (near) confines of the shelter. The victim was a former resident who left (homeless) in March, 2025. The perpetrator was a shelter resident. The Victim's family will sue General Services and Rec. & Parks for millions of dollars. What security lapse(s) caused this to occur? General Services needs to explain. Drug use is rampant within and just outside the shelter. Public safety has been imperiled. General Services needs to explain itself; and most particularly explain how and why it has allowed people to operate the shelter who lack a lease with the City or an agreement with LAHSA to do so. LAHSA has to explain why it has been so lax in enforcing its own standards. The CAO needs to testify as to the details of his two written reports to

Rec. & Parks. In the absence of such testimony, there are no facts in support of the CEQA exemption. Going forward, the Weingart Foundation (the proposed new operator (who has over \$800 Million in assets and who can afford to pay rent to Rec. & Parks for the use of its land) must testify as its intentions on how to cure the problems at the shelter and make it a success. In the absence of such testimony, no facts exist to support the proposed CEQA Exemption. Shelter residents must also be allowed to testify without fear of retribution if they tell the truth. Community members should be given the opportunity to testify. Finally, the City Attorney must testify and explain why it is necessary for the Council and for Recreation & Parks to either (1) retain independent legal counsel, or (2) waive the ethical conflict of interest that exists in her dual representation of both the General Services and Rec. & Parks. General Services and Rec. & Parks have conflicting interests because (i) the Shelter is on Park Land, (ii) the Lease (which should be made available to the public) fails to adequately protect the interests of Rec. & Parks because there is no indemnity protection for Rec. & Parks, and Rec. & Parks needs to be an express third-party beneficiary of the lease. The lease is unlawful because the scope of the permit issued by Rec. & Parks is just to General Services - meaning that what is contemplated is that General Services would operate the shelter. There is no authorization given to General Services to sub-lease park property to a third-party to operate the Shelter without the express written consent of Rec. & Parks; and no such consent to the shelter's operation by the Weingart Foundation has been given. Because the proposed sub-lease is unlawful, it will be challenged in Court. This time, however, that effort will include a motion to disqualify the City Attorney from representing both Rec. & Parks and General Services unless both waive the ethical conflict of interest. Consideration of this new lease with the Weingart Foundation must be thoroughly vetted in Committee or before the full Council. . . with testimony from PATH, Weingart Foundation, LAHSA, General Services, the CAO, the City Attorney and the General Public. The facts will show that the Shelter should be closed. because it is a failure.