

Communication from Public

Name: My Friend's Place, Heather Carmichael

Date Submitted: 09/25/2020 12:58 PM

Council File No: 20-1179

Comments for Public Posting: September 25, 2020 Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: Council File 20-1179 Dear Councilmembers, I am writing to you on behalf of the 100 plus adults and young adults that have come to rely upon My Friend's Place daily in the face of COVID19. Life is more stressful than ever for most of us as we are confronted by health, economic and social uncertainty. In addition to these stressors, our unhoused community members are confronted by dwindling resources and growing community fear and animosity of the swelling number of people experiencing homelessness. As an effort to address two crises – homelessness and COVID-19, My Friend's Place supports Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's motion introduced into council asking the city's parks/recreation department to assess the feasibility of re-opening the Cole Recreation Shelter as a temporary shelter. Given the likely ongoing constraints for our community to gather and enjoy the Cole Recreation Center during the pandemic, using this space to shelter Hollywood's unhoused and vulnerable community members is in alignment with the City's commitment to end homelessness as well as addressing the current health crisis, COVID-19. Thank you in advance for considering humanitarian repurposing of the Cole Recreation Center. With gratitude, Heather Carmichael, LCSW



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September 25, 2020

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 20-1179

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Given the likely ongoing constraints for our community to gather and enjoy the Cole Recreation Center during the pandemic, using this space to shelter Hollywood's unhoused and vulnerable community members is in alignment with the City's commitment to end homelessness as well as addressing the current health crisis, COVID-19.

Thank you in advance for considering humanitarian repurposing of the Cole Recreation Center.

With gratitude,

Heather Carmichael, LCSW

Communication from Public

Name: Paige Shannon

Date Submitted: 09/25/2020 02:00 PM

Council File No: 20-1179

Comments for Public Posting: I whole-heartedly support the motion to re-activate the Cole Recreation Center as a shelter for our most vulnerable fellow human beings. The closing of the shelter at 1122 Cole Ave., in the middle of a pandemic, was not only premature, but a showing of a lack of value or care for the lives of our most vulnerable community members. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for individuals experiencing homelessness to access safe spaces due to the forced closures of many public resources like libraries, parks, and government buildings due to Covid. Additionally, access to resources has shifted dramatically with the closure of DPSS buildings, SSI buildings, and other government funded programs. Even as these spaces slowly re-open or offer drop-boxes for paperwork, the individuals on the street do not have access to cell phones, emails, computers or internet to navigate these new procedures. To not respond with a safety net, for the individuals who have been left with nowhere to turn, is unethical and inhumane. We need the Cole Recreation Center to re-open to provide a space for our most vulnerable community members to have their most basic needs met during such an unforeseen and unprecedented crisis. I work in Hollywood (90028) and live in CD13 and I have watched the deterioration and suffering of so many unhoused individuals since this pandemic began. This decision is not to be taken lightly, as it is one that has the potential to save lives.