

Communication from Public

Name: Lizeth Hernandez
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Council File No: 26-0292
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached document for The People Concern's comment on CF 26-0292 (Jurado-McOsker).



Chair Nithya Raman
Councilmember Heather Hutt
Councilmember Tim McOsker
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember Ysabel Jurado

Re: Bill: CF 26-0292 (Jurado-McOsker)

Dear Members of the Housing and Homelessness Committee,

We thank Councilmember Jurado and Councilmember McOsker for their Access Center motion (CF 26-092). Services offered in Access Centers are a critical connection point to people experiencing homelessness. For many, this is where trust begins: a consistent, welcoming space that opens the door to housing, healthcare, and safety.

Operation Healthy Streets, The People Concern’s hygiene program providing public toilets, showers, and laundry services, is a critical frontline resource for individuals experiencing homelessness in Skid Row. While not formally designated as an Access Center, our public hygiene program mirrors the purpose of Access Centers by creating low-barrier entry points into care.

This program addresses basic human needs while serving as a gateway to additional services, including pathways to interim and permanent housing. Through the provision of hygiene services, staff can build trust, foster relationships, and connect individuals in Skid Row to a broader network of care and support. Each year, Operation Healthy Streets facilitates over 120,000 bathroom utilizations and serves more than 1,400 unduplicated clients, including 1,448 individuals in FY 2025–2026 (July–February) and 1,491 individuals in FY 2024–2025 in our showers. These services not only promote dignity and self-esteem among residents, but also help maintain sanitation in the surrounding community, reduce the risk of disease across Los Angeles County, and encourage participants to enroll in services that create pathways to interim and permanent housing.

Public hygiene services like those offered by The People Concern are more than just access to a shower or laundry—they are a vital point of connection to the community. For some individuals, these services offer a brief moment of respite from unsafe or abusive situations, creating an opportunity for outreach teams to connect survivors to safety and supportive resources. For parents, they provide an opportunity to give their children a sense of normalcy, ensuring basic hygiene needs are met before work or school.

As the Council considers Access Centers, we encourage recognition and continued investment in Operation Healthy Streets, which serves as an equally important entry point into care and housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Maceri', written over a large, loopy circular flourish.

John Maceri
Chief Executive Officer
The People Concern