



September 28, 2020

Honorable Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File: 20-1179, Hollywood Recreation Center Facility Temporary Homeless Shelter - Support

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell,

On behalf of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and our more than 800 members we represent, **we strongly support the evaluation of using the Hollywood Recreation Center facility at 1122 Cole Avenue as interim housing for persons experiencing homelessness in Council District 13.** The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce is concerned with the increase in individuals experiencing homelessness pre and post coronavirus pandemic. We applaud your motion in directing the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and Bureau of Engineering, with assistance from the Department of Recreation and Parks to engage in discussion and evaluation of a motion that could save lives during an extremely difficult time for our community.

The 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Point-in-Time Count showed that the City experienced a 16 percent increase in its homeless population from 2019, to a new total of more than 41,000 individuals. This increase in homelessness requires the utmost attention from our local leaders and community in order to keep these vulnerable individuals safe from infection. Due to the increase in tents and encampments throughout the Los Angeles and Hollywood area, many business organizations are also affected; some restaurants are not able to participate in the Al Fresco dining program as their property is impacted by unsheltered individuals seeking refuge. A temporary homeless shelter at the Hollywood Recreation Center would not only provide protection and sense of community for those experiencing homelessness, but would also allow businesses to fully participate in programs the City has designed to help businesses survive during the pandemic.

It is imperative that the increased homeless community in Hollywood have shelter options during these unprecedented times. For these reasons, we support the discussion on the feasibility of opening the Hollywood Recreation Center as a temporary homeless shelter. If you have any questions please contact Carli Olson, Director of Public Policy and Economic Development, at carli@hollywoodchamber.net or (323)785-1761 ext. 115.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rana Ghadban".

Rana Ghadban
President & CEO