

SUBJECT: **EXPLORATION OF ALTERNATIVE AND ADDITIONAL PUBLIC RESTROOMS**

PREPARED BY: **HUMAN SERVICES & RENT STABILIZATION DEPARTMENT**
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STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness will give direction to staff to explore increased access to public restrooms through additional and alternative facilities and submit an item for consideration to the full City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Based on additional feedback from the Council Subcommittee, direct staff to draft an item on behalf of the Subcommittee to the full City Council to explore increased access to public restrooms through additional and alternative facilities in a multi-departmental manner.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

In follow up to previous discussions, and issues raised at various City meetings and forums, the City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness is seeking options to increase access to public restrooms within the City. The goal of increased access through additional and alternative facilities is to reduce the amount of public urination and defecation in the City, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all those who live, work and visit the City and enhancing public health.

Publicly accessible restrooms have traditionally been available at City Hall, in the City parks and at the West Hollywood Library. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, those facilities were closed and public access has remained limited. Additionally, those facilities are not open 24 hours per day, with access limited to the varied operating hours of each facility.

When these public facilities closed abruptly, many community members experiencing homelessness were left with no access to restrooms. As the COVID pandemic has clearly illuminated, access to hygiene services (including handwashing) is vital to the greater public health.

However, the issues of public urination and defecation are not limited to the community members who are unhoused in West Hollywood. The areas of the city around nightlife and entertainment venues have also been impacted by these issues and the quality of life and health concerns they raise.

With the subcommittee's direction, staff will bring forward an item to the full Council on behalf of the Subcommittee, to direct staff to lead a multi-departmental effort to explore

options to safely increase access to public restrooms throughout the City. The recommendations to the City Council could include seeking input from the City's Public Facilities Commission, the Human Services Commission, the Public Safety Commission, as well as the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Once that process is complete, staff would return to Council with a set of recommendations, including anticipated fiscal impact.

CONFORMANCE WITH VISION 2020 AND THE GOALS OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD GENERAL PLAN:

This item is consistent with the Primary Strategic Goal(s) (PSG) and/or Ongoing Strategic Program(s) (OSP) of:

- OSP-9: Upgrade Existing Buildings & Infrastructure.
- OSP-12: Actively Participate in Regional Issues.

In addition, this item is compliant with the following goal(s) of the West Hollywood General Plan:

- ED-3: Provide for continued economic growth through development and public improvements.
- IRC-1: Provide functional, safe and well maintained circulation and public infrastructure throughout the City.

EVALUATION PROCESSES:

To be determined.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH:

Increasing accessibility of public restrooms should reduce the amount of public urination and defecation, thereby enhancing public health.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Upon direction from Council, staff will explore options and solicit feedback from the Public Facilities Commission, the Human Services Commission, the Public Safety Commission and the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

To be determined

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.