

**SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP ON EXPLORATION OF ALTERNATIVE AND ADDITIONAL
PUBLIC RESTROOMS**

PREPARED BY: FACILITIES AND FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

(Helen Collins, Manager)

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness will receive an overview on the City Council's directive for staff to explore increased access to public restrooms through additional and alternative facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an overview and provide feedback.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

On November 15, 2021, the City Council received a request from the Council Subcommittee on Homelessness to direct staff to explore increased access to public restrooms through additional and alternative facilities (Attachment A). On August 25, 2022, staff returned to the Committee to discuss and receive input. At that time, the Committee directed staff to investigate options and return to the Committee before beginning outreach to the different Boards and Commissions. The intent of this overview is to provide examples of what other jurisdictions have implemented and an update on the current situation as it relates to access to public restrooms in the City.

**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:

- PSG-1: Maintain the City's Unique Urban Balance with Emphasis on Residential Neighborhood Livability.
- OSP-12: Actively Participate in Regional Issues.

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

- G-1: Ensure that the community is active and engaged in the decision-making process.
- HS-1: Maintain and pursue humane social policies and social services that address the needs of the community.

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:

Staff will explore options and solicit feedback from the Public Facilities Commission, the Human Services Commission, the Public Safety Commission, the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and West Hollywood community members currently experiencing homelessness.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

Facilities and Field Services Division in cooperation with the Strategic Initiatives Division.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – Council Staff Report from November 15, 2021

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

INITIATED BY: **MAYOR LAUREN MEISTER
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE SEPI SHYNE**

PREPARED BY: **HUMAN SERVICES & RENT STABILIZATION DEPARTMENT**
(Christof Schroeder, Director)
(Corri Planck, Strategic Initiatives Manager)

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The City Council will receive a request from the Council Subcommittee on Homelessness to direct staff to explore increased access to public restrooms through additional and alternative facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Direct staff to conduct a multi-departmental effort to explore options to safely increase access to public restrooms throughout the City through additional and alternative facilities.
- 2) Direct staff to seek input from the City's Public Facilities Commission, the Human Services Commission, the Public Safety Commission, the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, West Hollywood community members currently experiencing homelessness and other stakeholders as appropriate.
- 3) Direct staff to explore state and county funding opportunities for the implementation and ongoing operations.
- 4) Return to Council with analysis and recommendations, including potential sites, opportunities and challenges, and fiscal impacts.

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 as well as 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.

While the Council Subcommittee on Homelessness is bringing forward this item for consideration by the full City Council, it is important to note that issues of public urination and defecation are not solely impacts related to homelessness. 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, and those areas should also be included in siting and implementation discussions.

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:

- PSG-1: Maintain the City's Unique Urban Balance with Emphasis on Residential Neighborhood Livability.
- OSP-12: Actively Participate in Regional Issues.

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

- G-1: Ensure that the community is active and engaged in the decision-making process.
- HS-1: Maintain and pursue humane social policies and social services that address the needs of the community.

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:

Staff will explore options and solicit feedback from the Public Facilities Commission, the Human Services Commission, the Public Safety Commission, the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and West Hollywood community members currently experiencing homelessness.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

PUBLIC FACILITIES, WITH SUPPORT FROM PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN
SERVICES AND RENT STABILIZATION DEPARTMENTS

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.