

Communication from Public

Name: Caitlin Goldberg

Date Submitted: 11/06/2023 04:51 PM

Council File No: 15-1207-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I represent the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest science fair for high school students. Of the 2,000 competing finalists in this week-long event about one third have a patent or patent-pending on their original scientific research. These students are literally changing our world. Los Angeles has hosted ISEF 3 times in the past 15 years and will again in May 2024 with 8,000 people expected to visit the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) across the week and 12,500 room nights picked-up. This will put us back to almost pre-pandemic levels. We are in the process of signing future cities through 2029 and hope to name Los Angeles for 2027 by year's end. Los Angeles is ideally suited for our event due to the breadth and depth of the scientific community from which we draw local judging support, the overall lift at LAX and of course, Los Angeles' appeal as a top international destination. Our attendance numbers in Los Angeles are the highest of any city in which this event is held. The LACC is long overdue for renovation and expansion. As you may know, Austin and Dallas are set to build brand new, expanded convention centers. Seattle and San Francisco have just opened their newly renovated and enlarged buildings. Once those buildings are all on line it will be increasingly difficult for Los Angeles to compete. While the size of the current LACC works for our group, it is not efficient as we need to spread across both buildings. With a new, larger building and new hotel tower, ISEF could share the center with another group yielding much more revenue for the center and the city especially over our load-in dates. Of course, the larger groups that have had to pass on Los Angeles over the past few years would be wooed back. Anecdotally, I know many colleagues who want a west coast option that is not San Francisco and are eager to sign once there is a firm commitment that a new LACC will be built. Moreover, the existing building is at least 10 years overdue for renovation and is lacking standard features in other buildings from reader boards to sophisticated security systems that are now commonplace in other facilities. Aesthetically the LACC does not reflect the image that Los Angeles otherwise projects as a cutting-edge future forward city. The time is now. I hope you agree.



November 7, 2023

Councilmember Traci Park, Chair
Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Agenda Item #2 LA Convention Center Expansion Project Council File 15-1207-S1

Dear Councilmember Park:

I represent the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest science fair for high school students. Of the 2,000 competing finalists in this week-long event about one third have a patent or patent-pending on their original scientific research. These students are literally changing our world.

Los Angeles has hosted ISEF 3 times in the past 15 years and will again in May 2024 with 8,000 people expected to visit the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) across the week and 12,500 room nights picked-up. This will put us back to almost pre-pandemic levels. We are in the process of signing future cities through 2029 and hope to name Los Angeles for 2027 by year's end. Los Angeles is ideally suited for our event due to the breadth and depth of the scientific community from which we draw local judging support, the overall lift at LAX and of course, Los Angeles' appeal as a top international destination. Our attendance numbers in Los Angeles are the highest of any city in which this event is held.

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Sincerely,

Caitlin Goldberg
Chief of Event Planning and Operations

CC: Councilmember Tim McOsker, Vice Chair of Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee
Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, Member of Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee

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