

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/27/2023 01:28 PM

Council File No: 23-1105

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Children's Institute, I am writing in support of Council File (CF) 23-1105 Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway presented by Councilmember Tim McOsker. Approved by Los Angeles County voters in 2018, the intention of Measure W is to fund public infrastructure projects for safe and clean water access. Specifically in Council District 15, the Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway was imagined as a historic investment in new green space and a safe pedestrian path for community members.



October 24, 2023

The Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky
Chair, Energy and Environment Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 23-1105 Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway- SUPPORT

Dear Councilmember Yaroslavsky,

On behalf of Children's Institute, I am writing in support of Council File (CF) 23-1105 Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway presented by Councilmember Tim McOsker. Approved by Los Angeles County voters in 2018, the intention of Measure W is to fund public infrastructure projects for safe and clean water access. Specifically in Council District 15, the Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway was imagined as a historic investment in new green space and a safe pedestrian path for community members.

Children's Institute (CII) is one of the largest and oldest human service agencies serving 28,000 Los Angeles County children and their families. We support children and families in achieving emotional well-being and educational success, which build pathways to economic mobility and lifelong health. In Council District 15, our network of early childhood education centers and Watts Campus serve as hubs for community collaboration, behavioral health services, legal and employment supports, and family strengthening programs. The Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway would be adjacent to CII's Watts Campus and we are committed to meeting the needs of our community and finding solutions in this project.

We celebrate this project's vision to enhance the quality of life for Los Angeles County and Council District 15 residents through safe pedestrian pathways and enhanced green spaces. To successfully develop this project, it is critical there is a city agency process for collaborative leadership and decision-making with community stakeholders for meaningful feedback and input. It is for these reasons that Children's Institute supports CF 23-1105.

We look forward to partnering with Council District 15, city agencies, and community leaders on the Watts Civic Center Serenity Greenway. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Kim at tkim@childrensinstitute.org or 323-327-6187.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Kim'.

Terry Kim
Director of Government Relations & Advocacy

Communication from Public

Name: Maria Aguirre
Date Submitted: 10/27/2023 10:05 PM
Council File No: 23-1105
Comments for Public Posting: Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling and Learning Center supports the Serenity Greenway Project and proposed benefits to the greater Watts community. (See attached)

October 27, 2023

John Jones III
President and Chief Executive Officer
East Side Riders
1513 E 103rd Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90002

Re: Energy and Environment Committee review of Watts Serenity Greenway Project

I am writing to express the support of Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling and Learning Center for the Serenity Greenway project.

The Serenity Greenway project is both a visionary and overdue initiative. It has long aimed to transform a concrete alleyway into a safe connection point to facilitate community resources and gathering spaces such as local schools, parks, the Watts Civic Center, medical and social services, and the Alma Reaves Woods Branch Library.

Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling and Learning Center supports the project because it is aligned with our mission of improving the health of the communities we serve. For 56 years, Kaiser Permanente has operated the Watts Counseling and Learning Center, currently housed at the Historic Fire Station #65. We are scheduled to open an expanded Watts Counseling and Learning Center alongside a new Medical Office Building in late 2023. Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling and Learning Center provides low and/no cost counseling services, educational therapy, educational services, outreach services, and operates a nationally accredited preschool for community. These services reflect our mission to improve the health of the communities we serve not only by providing high quality affordable health care services, but also by working with others to enhance the social, economic, and environmental conditions in communities that so profoundly impact health and wellbeing. We believe our collective actions can be mutually supportive of a healthier Watts.

This project will contribute significantly to the betterment of the Watts community, creating a greener, safer, and healthier environment for Watts. Therefore, we strongly support this project and the focus on improving the health of residents in the Watts community by providing additional safe spaces for building and strengthening community connection while protecting our natural resources. I am confident ESR will continue to solicit community input to further catalyze health equity initiatives in the greater Watts area such as the Serenity Greenway Project. In short, we offer our fullest support to the project and look forward to an ongoing partnership to aid in its implementation.

Kindest regards,
Maria T. Aguirre
Director
Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling and Learning Center