

MOTION

Extreme heat poses a significant and increasing health risk in Los Angeles. In the past two decades, heat-related hospitalizations and emergency room visits across the City have risen significantly.

During heat waves and throughout the year, Angelenos may find cooling at several publicly available cooling centers, including one of the City’s public libraries, recreation centers and facilities, and senior and adult centers. These facilities provide critical and lifesaving services, especially during the hot summer months of June to September, but they all face obstacles in their efforts to protect the public from excess heat. During the summer, many recreation centers reach near-capacity as they offer heat relief for many Angelenos while also hosting important youth summer programming. Several senior and adult centers need infrastructure improvements, and many Angelenos simply do not think of their local library as a place to receive cooling services. The City departments that offer cooling services should not be asked to address these challenges independently of each other.

By preparing a cohesive cooling strategy across City facilities, the City also makes itself more competitive for state and federal grants that help fund municipal heat responses. The Climate Emergency Management Office (CEMO) has already applied for the statewide Community Resilience Centers Grant, which may provide up to \$10 million dollars for the City to perform additional heat risk research and retrofit three local libraries into heat resilience centers. A united heat response would make the City a stronger applicant for statewide and federal funds that may flow to the City’s recreation centers and facilities, senior and adult centers, and other libraries.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CEMO, with the assistance of the Recreation and Parks Department, the Library Department, the Department of Aging, the Department on Disability, the Emergency Management Department, the Chief Legislative Analyst, and the Chief Administrative Officer, be directed to report back with recommendations, including associated costs, for more effectively deploying and coordinating cooling facilities in the City, including the City’s cooling centers at public libraries, recreation centers and facilities, and senior and adult centers, to operate as cooling and resilience centers. The report should include:

- Recommendations for coordinating facilities in the City to provide heat relief, especially in the areas of the City with the greatest heat risk.
- Recommendations for creating or improving partnerships with non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and private businesses, including developing Memorandums of Understanding.
- Recommendations for additional amenities and spaces that should be offered at facilities in areas of greatest heat risk.
- Recommendations for increasing public use of available facilities, including outreach strategies and greater maintenance and infrastructure support.
- Potential grants that may be pursued to support the development and maintenance of the City’s cooling and resilience centers.

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