

MOTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has identified 150 food deserts in Los Angeles County. The Watts community in Los Angeles is identified by the USDA as an “urban food desert” because at least 100 households are more than a half mile away from the nearest supermarket and do not have vehicle access. Without access to fresh produce and fruits, those who reside in food deserts have higher risk of diet-related conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

The City owns a property located at 2254 E. 103rd Street (90002) in the Watts community that had previously been used as a community garden and referred to as the “I Heart Watts Garden.” The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) has received grant funds to manage a community garden at this site in partnership with residents of the Jordan Downs housing development and students from nearby Jordan High School. This garden would be an asset to the community and provides space for people of all ages and backgrounds to grow healthy food in their neighborhoods.

In order to ensure that this valuable property is re-established as a community asset, the Council should instruct the Department of General Services to negotiate a no-cost license agreement for this site with the HACLA to utilize and maintain the property as a community garden.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of General Services, with the assistance of the City Attorney, be instructed to negotiate a no-cost License Agreement with HACLA, for the use of the City-owned Property located at 2254 E. 103rd Street Watts, 90002 (APN 6066-015-900, Lots 479 and 480) for the management and operation of the “I Heart Watts Garden.”

PRESENTED BY:



TIM McOSKER

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



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