

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles has a tremendous opportunity to create a vibrant community center on the Westside, utilizing former Fire Station 62, which currently sits empty at the corner of South Centinela Avenue and West Windward Avenue in Mar Vista.

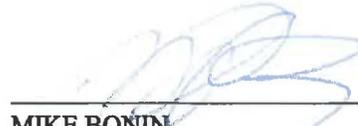
Instead of enhancing and serving the neighborhood, this building has sat vacant for over a decade and has the potential to become a public safety hazard. Over the years, the site has fallen prey to theft, vagrancy, graffiti and illegal dumping. Before his retirement due to illness, former Councilmember Bill Rosendahl promised Mar Vista that he would help turn the site into a community center, for use by the Mar Vista Community Council, other local groups, and as a site for city officials and agencies to hold public meetings and office hours. Councilmember Rosendahl sought to partner with the Mar Vista-based Friends of Historic Fire Station 62, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. This organization was created by the local community and Mar Vista Community Council to engage in a full spectrum of neighborhood-focused services including, but not limited to: Community Emergency Response and Training (CERT); art, culture and educational classes; grassroots democracy and government education sessions; green technology and sustainability efforts; and community history lessons.

Council District 11 seeks to repurpose former Fire Station 62 as the Bill Rosendahl Community Center. In 2014, Council District 11 worked with General Services to address and resolve public safety nuisance abatement issues on the property. Given the existing public safety concerns with this vacant parcel, however, it is vital that the City act quickly to facilitate rehabilitation of the property to serve the people of Mar Vista and the 11th District. The City has a unique opportunity to honor Councilmember Rosendahl's legacy to the community through partnership with Mar Vista-based Friends of Historic Fire Station 62.

On June 27, 2017, Council authorized the City to enter into a three-year Option to Lease (Agreement) with Friends of Historic Fire Station 62 (FHFS) for the decommissioned Fire Station No. 62 (FS 62), located at 3631-3635 South Centinela Avenue in Council District 11 (C.F. 16-0492). The terms of the Agreement (C-131624) provided FHFS, a non-profit, 501(c)3 corporation, exclusive and irrevocable rights to lease the property at a future date, provided that it obtains sufficient capital funding within the original three-year term to fully fund the repair and rehabilitation of the building. On June 24, 2020, Council approved an extension. Since FHFS fundraising was stymied by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the group lost nine months of the original three-year term while the original agreement was being formalized, it would be prudent for the City to renew the original option to lease, on the same terms and conditions as the original Agreement. Such a renewed agreement would allow the organization greater opportunity to raise funds or partner with other organizations to do so, as well as provide time that may be needed for the City to coordinate with the State on compliance with the newly-revised Surplus Land Act, to the extent applicable.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of General Services, in consultation with the City Administrative Officer and the City Attorney, be directed to grant a renewed option to lease to Friends of Historic Fire Station 62 based on the terms of original Agreement (C-131624), for use of the City-owned former Fire Station 62, located at 3631-35 South Centinela Avenue in the community of Mar Vista, subject to compliance with applicable requirements of the Surplus Land Act, on the same terms and conditions as the original Agreement, and authorize City staff to make any technical changes, including dates, to effectuate the intent of this motion.

PRESENTED BY:


 MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District


 SECONDED BY:

AUG 10 2021

ORIGINAL