

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Charles Porter

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:30 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0979

**Comments for Public Posting:** Date: November 23, 2021 Attention: Public Works Committee  
Re: November 24, 2021 Public Works meeting. Item (1) 21?0979  
(Bureau of Street Services report relative to the Coordinated Street Furniture Program public toilet transition plan.) Dear Committee Members, The Transit Justice Working Group a committee of the Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition (the group that envisioned the Skid Row ReFresh Spot) submitted comments and recommendations for the hearing on motion 21-0979, September 15, 2021. We know that the 14 existing automated public toilets, 5 of which are in Skid Row, are a far cry from what is actually needed to provide support and dignity for our unhoused neighbors. To reiterate some of our concerns and priorities, we seek an equitable system that is responsive to community need. Ongoing community input/feedback, opportunities for employment, 24 hour access, and creative partnerships to deliver wellness enhancing amenities are major priorities. We state emphatically that we want ADA accessible toilet trailers with supporting hygiene resources and not portable chemical toilets (porta potties) installed as a temporary resource at the 5 locations in Skid Row. Local Hiring Utilize this program to increase local hiring opportunities (input on the development, roll out, and sustainment as well as subcontracts related to the operation, upkeep and access to the amenities). Remove any barriers to hiring community members and create a process to assist individuals in securing needed documentation or training. We understand that Urban Alchemy will be staffing these locations and want to make sure employment opportunities are available to Skid Row community members. Additionally, staffing must be expanded and modified to provide 24 hour access (as human beings do not suspend the need to relieve themselves after hours of operation). Hygiene Center approach In light of the desire and need for more Refresh Spots in Skid Row and beyond Skid Row, these temporary toilets should be seen as an opportunity to begin designing the permanent toilet plan with provisions such as: 24 hour access, community safety provisions (lighting at night as well as staffing), drinking water access, hand washing stations, trash cans, and technology justice (i.e. Wi-Fi access and charging stations). Public amenity kiosks (and other relevant current and future STAP resources) should be included in

a Skid Row plan. Additionally, the recent roll out and success of pilot “cooling stations” in Skid Row (staffed by Urban Alchemy) and community consideration for warming elements could be creatively incorporated into this program to enhance guest comfort and solace from harsh weather. Public Toilet Program In anticipation of a City-wide Public Toilet Program, a Skid Row map should be developed to map the 5 existing toilets in your program, accessible public toilets in and adjacent to Skid Row, as well as the clustering and colocation of supportive amenities. Priority for display/ad space must be given to local artists and PSA’s supporting community health, wellness, advocacy, and safety. Alcohol and cannabis advertisements should be prohibited. Additionally, an annual program report and review should be included in the contract to measure performance and responsiveness (including operation changes to address concerns). Additional considerations As we have seen an uptake in overdose deaths in the past few years, all of the sites in your program must be supplied with Narcan (accessible to guests and staff) and staff trained in the administration of Narcan to reverse overdoses. We thank you for your consideration of the above mentioned input and will continue to advocate for a just Public Toilet Program. Respectfully, Louise Mbella "Sinai", Tom Grode, Eric Dean, “Coach” Ron Crockett, Charles Porter (on behalf of the Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition)

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Attention: Public Works Committee

Re: November 24, 2021 Public Works meeting. Item (1)

21-0979 (Bureau of Street Services report relative to the Coordinated Street Furniture Program public toilet transition plan.)

Dear Committee Members,

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#### Local Hiring

Utilize this program to increase local hiring opportunities (input on the development, roll out, and sustainment as well as subcontracts related to the operation, upkeep and access to the amenities). Remove any barriers to hiring community members and create a process to assist individuals in securing needed documentation or training. We understand that Urban Alchemy will be staffing these locations and want to make sure employment opportunities are available to Skid Row community members. Additionally, staffing must be expanded and modified to provide 24 hour access (as human beings do not suspend the need to relieve themselves after hours of operation).

#### Hygiene Center approach

In light of the desire and need for more Refresh Spots in Skid Row and beyond Skid Row, these temporary toilets should be seen as an opportunity to begin designing the permanent toilet plan with provisions such as: 24 hour access, community safety provisions (lighting at night as well as staffing), drinking water access, hand washing stations, trash cans, and technology justice (i.e. Wi-Fi access and charging stations). Public amenity kiosks (and other relevant current and future STAP resources) should be included in a Skid Row plan. Additionally, the recent roll out and success of pilot “cooling stations” in Skid Row (staffed by Urban Alchemy) and community consideration for *warming elements* could be creatively incorporated into this program to enhance guest comfort and solace from harsh weather.

#### Public Toilet Program

In anticipation of a City-wide Public Toilet Program, a Skid Row map should be developed to map the 5 existing toilets in your program, accessible public toilets in and adjacent to Skid Row, as well as the clustering and colocation of supportive amenities. Priority for display/ad space must be given to local artists and PSA’s supporting community health, wellness, advocacy, and safety. Alcohol and cannabis advertisements should be prohibited. Additionally, an annual program report and review should be

included in the contract to measure performance and responsiveness (including operation changes to address concerns).

Additional considerations

As we have seen an uptake in overdose deaths in the past few years, all of the sites in your program must be supplied with Narcan (accessible to guests and staff) and staff trained in the administration of Narcan to reverse overdoses.

We thank you for your consideration of the above mentioned input and will continue to advocate for a just Public Toilet Program.

Respectfully,

Louise Mbella "Sinai", Tom Grode, Eric Dean, "Coach" Ron Crockett, Charles Porter

(on behalf of the Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition)