



# Memorandum

TO: MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Donald Rocha

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CENTER REUSE

DATE: December 2, 2013

Approved

*Don Rocha*

Date

*12/3/13*

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept the Community Center Reuse Update Report; and
2. Direct staff to report to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee with a plan to evaluate sites on an annual basis for reactivation of any kind, and include that information in the annual budget process; and
3. Do not enter into Reuse agreements for any time after June 31, 2016; and
4. Return to Council with the results of the community process in FY 2015-2016, for a discussion about the future of the Reuse program

## ANALYSIS

There is no question that this City has endured very difficult budget realities over the last ten years, and the reuse program was necessary and a great alternative to shuttered facilities and some of our non-profits closing their doors. I appreciate the thoughtful process that staff has proposed for determining the occupancy of our neighborhood facilities, but I am concerned at the extended timeline presented here today. While I don't pretend that we are currently in a financial position to reactivate these facilities with City staff, we need to begin gathering data and looking for opportunities to re-open our neighborhood facilities in a responsible and sustainable way.

There is an unmatched value to comprehensive, integrated and responsive services provided by a public agency in public facilities. Now is the time to be forward thinking - to have a vision and a plan that discusses how and when to re-open our facilities for our community, not to concede that the struggles of the past should become our new normal. I'm not sure that the community outreach process that has been developed will provide that information for us. Staff should return to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee with a plan to evaluate a portion of our sites on an annual basis for full re-activation or a hybrid approach in addition to their proposed community outreach and service gap analysis, and report on the costs of opening centers through the budget process, perhaps through a Manager's Budget Addendum.

I am thankful to the service providers who have stepped into our facilities and helped us achieve our shared goals of service. However, I believe that the Council should have a full discussion at the end of the proposed community process about our path forward. To ensure that discussion is effective, no leases should be created or extended beyond June 30, 2016 to provide for that Council discussion. At that time, if the City is still in need of some function of the Reuse program, the Council can direct staff accordingly.