



Memorandum

TO: Honorable May and City Council

FROM: Councilmember Jimenez
Councilmember Peralez

SUBJECT: Audit of Community Reuse

DATE: October 19, 2018

Approved

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RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept the Audit of Community Center Reuse
2. Direct PRNS staff to bring a report back to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee by February of 2019 on the following:
 - a. The status of near-term recommendations as agreed upon by PRNS;
 - b. A list of centers that could potentially move from Reuse to Hybrid using PRNS determined criteria;
 - c. Cost estimates for converting said centers from Reuse to Hybrid centers
3. Direct PRNS to begin discussions with school district partners to evaluate whether current agreements meet student and community needs.

ANALYSIS

Community centers are vital assets to our City. They serve as a space for residents to socialize, recreate, exercise, receive tutoring, and participate in general enrichment activities that benefit their lives and the City as a whole.

The unfortunate downturn of the economy over a decade ago forced us to change our service models. We risked closing community centers if we did not arrive at a new strategy to maintain some level of public service. At the time, the reuse strategy was an effective model in preventing many centers from closing and brought new services into community recreation spaces. However, it has become apparent through this audit that there are significant challenges that must be addressed.

Lack of resources and staffing reductions have left the reuse program struggling. Now is the time to think about reclaiming our spaces in a thoughtful, budget conscious manner, with the ultimate goal of meeting our community's needs. There is too much at stake here and addressing the issues outlined in this audit need to be prioritized. Therefore, we are asking our PRNS

Department to focus on addressing critical issues that impact the safety, security, accessibility, and health of our centers. An update to NSE in February of next year will allow us to closely monitor this situation and continue on a path forward.

Furthermore, our recommendation seeks information about moving some satellite centers from reuse to hybrid models. As was stated in the staff memo, there is a huge cost in bringing all the centers back in house, therefore an alternate approach is necessary. Evaluating the cost of converting centers to a hybrid model is one way for the City to regain control of properties and thus offer more meaningful services to residents. To decide if this path is appropriate, we must analyze the cost and PRNS must develop criteria for deciding which centers would move from reuse to hybrid.

Lastly, there are many centers that are also tied to school sites. For example, Edenvale Satellite Community Center is on Oak Grove School District land and for years, the agreement between the City and school district has been inadequate. Schools and community centers are essential to our neighborhoods and they should be working in tandem to create mutually beneficial programs for our students and residents.