

CITY COUNCIL  
NEW BUSINESS

DECEMBER 17, 2012

SUBJECT: AIDS MONUMENT AND PLATFORM FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

INITIATED BY: COUNCILMEMBER JOHN DURAN (Ian Owens, Interim Council Deputy) 

COUCNILMEMBER JOHN D'AMICO (Michelle Rex, Council Deputy) 

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STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The City Council will consider directing staff to identify a site for the Foundation for the National AIDS Monument to construct and operate a platform for memory, education and community action. This monument would be located within the City limits of West Hollywood and the City will work with the Foundation to establish parameters for available space as well as parameters for potential design, operation and content.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Direct staff to prepare a report on possible locations on public property for an AIDS Monument in the City of West Hollywood including, but not limited to, locations in or adjacent to West Hollywood Park.
- 2) Form a Council subcommittee consisting of Councilmembers Duran and D'Amico to meet with representatives of the Foundation for a National AIDS Monument to determine physical space as well as design and content parameters for City involvement in hosting an AIDS monument.
- 3) Direct Staff and subcommittee to report back to City Council by April of 2013 with update on potential locations and status of design and content parameters.
- 4) Authorize the Director of Finance to allocate \$15,000 from unallocated General Fund Reserves to account number 100-3-05-05-533009, Studies and Specific Plans, for expenditures related land and feasibility studies.

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS:

The City of West Hollywood has been a focal point for the HIV/AIDS epidemic from its very beginnings nearly thirty years ago. As we approach the end of the

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epidemic and begin to explore ways to end AIDS in West Hollywood, it is incumbent upon the City to establish a memorial to simultaneously commemorate the lives that were lost to the disease, acknowledge those that survived, honor the allies that fought alongside affected community members, acknowledge the organizations of change that were born out of the epidemic and educate future generations.

According to the 2011 *Annual HIV Surveillance Report* for LA County, 77,886 cases of HIV and AIDS have been reported in LA County since 1981, of which 33,950 (43.6%) have died and 43,936 are living. It has been estimated that upwards of 10,000 people have been lost to AIDS in West Hollywood and surrounding neighborhoods since 1981. In all, the report estimates that there are roughly 59,500 persons currently living with HIV in LA County.

The City of West Hollywood has been a "hot spot" within Los Angeles County since the on-set of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. When broken down to cities and smaller areas, the 2011 *Annual HIV Surveillance Report* for LA County asserts that the City of West Hollywood had the second highest rate of HIV diagnosis (269 per 100,000, respectively) when compared with the rates from other cities and areas.

Nearly 200,000 Californians have contracted HIV/AIDS and nearly 90,000 have died since the epidemic began in the early 1980s. California ranks second in the nation in cumulative AIDS cases at 157,719, surpassed only by New York. Annual AIDS deaths in California increased rapidly throughout the 1980s and peaked in 1994, fell dramatically with widespread HIV testing and effective antiretroviral treatment through 1998, and have slightly trended down in the past ten years. AIDS deaths dropped from 7,966 in 1994 to less than 1,710 each year since 2002.

The Foundation for the National AIDS Monument intends to establish a long-awaited, physical structure of global significance that is both reflective and contemporary and incorporates evocative architectural design and state of the art interactive technology. The monument would potentially be a joint physical and interactive structure, which could include:

- Names, photos and stories of those who were lost to the disease
- Educational platforms to inform visitors about the state of HIV/AIDS today, prevention methods, and current treatments
- A secure, National database containing individual and AIDS Service Organization (ASO) profiles, as well as educational videos, facts, figures, and current news stories
- Included will be a location for the community to gather for future demonstrations, celebrations and ceremonies that will embody the spirit of community action and protest that is associated with the AIDS movement and the successes that West Hollywood public demonstrations have brought

The City of West Hollywood was incorporated at the height of the AIDS epidemic. The catastrophic loss of community members is a significant part of the City's history. The establishment of a National AIDS Monument within the City of West Hollywood will serve to educate future generations of the City's history within the epidemic, re-affirm the City's commitment to ending AIDS in West Hollywood, commemorate the community members that were lost to the disease, acknowledge those that survived, honor the allies that fought alongside affected community members, acknowledge the organizations of change that were born out of the epidemic, encourage new visitors to the City, and raise National awareness of West Hollywood as a leader in LGBT issues.

As a result, Council should direct staff to prepare a report on possible locations on public property for the National AIDS Monument in the City of West Hollywood including, but not limited to, locations in or adjacent to West Hollywood Park. A Council subcommittee should be formed to meet with representatives of the Foundation for a National AIDS Monument to determine physical space as well as design and content parameters for City involvement. Staff and subcommittee should report back to City Council by April of 2013 with an update on potential locations and parameters for design, content and size of the potential monument.

EVALUATION:

Staff and subcommittee will report back to City Council by April of 2013 with update on potential locations and parameters for design, content and size of the potential monument.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH:

N/A

CONFORMANCE WITH VISION 2020 AND THE GOALS OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD GENERAL PLAN:

*This item is consistent with the City of West Hollywood's Primary Strategic Goal of moving forward on City Parks and expanding and enhancing the City's public spaces and the ongoing strategic goals of supporting people through social services, value and encourage our broad diversity of cultures, enhance the cultural and creative life of the community, community education, and actively participating in regional issues.*

Additionally, this item is consistent with our General Plan goals of: allow for public and private institutional uses throughout the City that are compatible with and complement adjacent land uses (LU-3), create a network of pedestrian-oriented, human-scale and well-landscaped streets and civic spaces (LU-6), and support and encouragement of arts and culture in West Hollywood (HS-2).

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

Offices of Councilmember John Duran & Councilmember John D'Amico, Human Services Department, and Economic Development Division.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of this item authorizes the allocation \$15,000 from unallocated General Fund Reserves to account number 100-3-05-05-533009, Studies and Specific Plans. The City Council has approved the following General Fund Supplemental Appropriations this fiscal year.

*General Fund Supplemental Appropriations  
07/01/2012 - 12/03/2012*

<i>Revenues</i>		
10/01/2012	2N -JANET WITKIN CENTER	90,000
<i>Appropriated Revenues</i>		<u>\$ 90,000</u>
<i>Expenditures</i>		
08/06/2012	2S-SPONSOR JOINT WEST HOLLYWOOD	10,000
08/06/2012	2T-GO GO DANCER DAY	5,000
09/04/2012	2DD (5D)-HUMAN RIGHTS SPEAKER SERIES	10,000
10/01/2012	2N -JANET WITKIN CENTER	90,000
10/01/2012	2GG -MEXICAN-AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE/EDUCATION	800
10/15/2012	5C (2Q)-WEHO V-DAY 2013	5,000
11/05/2012	5A END OF THE WORLD 2012	7,500
11/05/2012	5D GRANT FOR REPAIRS TO VAN NESS RECOVERY HOUSE	10,000
11/19/2012	2S (5B)-WERLE BUILDING 2ND FLOOR IMPROVEMENTS	10,000
12/03/2012	2M-CO-SPONSOR LAMBDA LITERARY FOUNDATION 25TH	5,000
<i>Appropriated Expenditures</i>		<u>\$ 163,300</u>
<i>Appropriations Surplus/(Deficit) Approved Through 12/03/2012*</i>		<u>\$ (63,300)</u>

\*Note: Excludes Funds Reserved for Prop A Purchases and Code for America Grant Program