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Re: Skid Row Cooling Stations

Dear Councilmember De León:

At our regularly held public meeting on July 12, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to provide the following comments below:

The rising temperatures in Downtown Los Angeles in the Summer are especially detrimental for constituents living in low-income housing without accessibility to air conditioning. In previous years, the City of Los Angeles and The Skid Row Cooling Resources Coalition have overseen the operations of four outdoor cooling stations in Skid Row to protect vulnerable residents from the impacts of extreme heat. The heat is felt exponentially in urban areas like DTLA, where the built environment holds and magnifies heat that continues to radiate from concrete, even at night, reinforcing the necessity for 24-hour heat escape hubs. These misting canopies are a place constituents can cool off and serve as a location for the distribution of drinking water, hydrating beverages, ice, and sunscreen, with a staff component offering safety and referrals for the community.

This year, the number of cooling stations has been reduced to two while the low-income population and heat have increased.

Therefore, Downtown Los Neighborhood Council asks for the City of Los Angeles to consider reverting to the original number of cooling stations and to possibly explore expanding the program to more sites within the boundaries of Skid Row.

Respectfully,

Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC