

MEETING DATE: March 9, 2009

AGENDA ITEM : Consideration of Fee Waiver/Reduction Requests from the Westside Regional Center.

ATTACHMENTS

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Dear Mr. Cole,

First of all, thank you so much for your time and advice on the phone last week. I am writing on behalf of Kecia Weller, Linda Butler, and the self-advocates here at Westside Regional Center. As you know, the group has been to the past couple of Culver City Council meetings and Kecia and Linda have made passionate requests for a fee waiver or reduction of rental costs for the Vets Memorial Building to be used for the Westside Jam on March 27th. The event is a celebration that acknowledges the achievements of our adult clients and also serves as a venue for clients to share information, promote self-advocacy, and encourage one another to lead independent lives.

We realize that at the moment the City Council is receiving more requests than it can possibly grant. I am hoping that you can assist me in getting our request on the agenda for consideration. Or, is there another possible way to petition the Council members for the waiver/reduction? Should we put a request in writing or possibly e-mail or the Council Members? I was very interested in the discussion and stayed for quite a while this past Monday to hear the consideration of the Exchange Club's request. Unfortunately, I had to leave before I heard any resolution. Our request is much more minimal compared to the Exchange Club; the rental charges are \$2504.00, but account for nearly 50% of the event's budget. A fee waiver would be wonderful, but any reduction in the charges would certainly help us to mount a successful event. During this time of budget cuts and reductions to Regional Center services, your consideration is greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you have any recommendations as to how we should proceed.

I have attached a copy of the Self-Advocacy newsletter compiled by our Client Advisory Committee, which contains info on the Westside Jam and the self-advocacy groups. Please let me know if you would like other information. Again, thanks so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Carmine Manicone

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