

From: Dolores Tejada
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2015 4:15 PM
To: List-Mayor-Council
Subject: Fwd: EYFC Agenda Item for Tuesday, July 7th

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From: Dolores Tejada
Date: Mon, Jul 6, 2015 at 3:37 PM
Subject: EYFC Agenda Item for Tuesday, July 7th
To: fran.david@hayward-ca.gov
Cc: Francisco.Zermeño@hayward-ca.gov, Al.Mendall@hayward-ca.gov, Sara.Lamnin@hayward-ca.gov, ginni.demartini@acgov.org, Barbara.Halliday@hayward-ca.gov, Elisa.Marquez@hayward-ca.gov

Dear Fran David,

I am Dolores Tejada, a resident of Hayward who also works in Hayward, plays in Hayward, and votes in Hayward. I am contacting you as a Hayward resident, and as a concerned stakeholder in Hayward community.

I am contacting you about the planned agenda item for Tuesday:

8. Update and Discussion of Recent Efforts to Develop and Construct a New Multi-Service Youth and Family Center on the City-Owned Property at 680 West Tennyson Road .

I am very excited to hear about the County and City's enthusiasm in serving Hayward youth and families. As someone who graduated from a Hayward high school, and has invested my life's work to this community, especially now working with Hayward youth, as well as having multiple family members in the HUSD and living in Hayward, I recognize the importance of ensuring the needs are met of Hayward youngsters and families.

I have visited the Eden Youth and Family Center on Tennyson Road on multiple occasions, and have found a vibrant center with many people utilizing it's services. I have seen youth on site taking classes, parents dropping off and picking up their kids at the day care, a family bringing in their child for child care, and day laborers building community over their shared experience at the Day Laborer Center.

However, upon reading the report in it's entirety, I am very concerned with certain language, proposed concerns, and the process of this evaluation.

In the report, there was no mention of reaching out to any of the service agencies that currently are housed on the site. This would be something essential to a proper evaluation, as it would be able to gauge people's real life experience with the services provided. I believe that speaking with the agencies, clients, consumers, and community members prior to moving forward with any thing, is essential to establishing what kind of benefit, or harm, a proposed new site would have.

When displacement of a community that currently exists happens, to build a new building that will not provide all the same benefits to the community, and that is mostly motivated by funds/money, that is called gentrification. Gentrification affects poor people and people of color the most. It is my hope that the City will thoughtfully consider it's potential displacement of agencies and communities, therefore, it needs to be addressed in the report for City consideration now, not at a later date.

I am extremely concerned that there was mention of two particular communities, youth (who are on probation and attending the continuation school) and day laborers. The report states "whether or not the Community Day School continuation high school or youth probation reporting programs are the 334 Discussion of City-Owned Property at 680 W. Tennyson Road Page 10 of 12 July 7, 2015 right "fit" with the other family-centric programs; or how and which elements of the Day Labor Center's operation align with the overall family- and youth-focused core services of the center."

This kind of discussion is best left up to the people of the community. As a person of color, with immigrant parents, I can speak for myself when I say that youth on probation, and day laborers are people within my family. I am wondering if there was any discussion with folks in the community who may be able to tell you about their experiences. It may be useful to obtain information from Alameda County Office of Education about the racial makeup of the school, as I am sure they are serving many Latino students. The Day Laborer Center, to the best of my knowledge and experience, has in fact been a labor of love of the South Hayward community.

From establishing the Center many years ago, to making it as sustainable as possible, this has always been a source of pride, not just for the people who work there. I have always held a special respect for Hayward's Day Labor Center as it is a model that I wish more cities would follow. The fact that Hayward does not criminalize day laborers, but instead gives them a refuge, is something that has made me a proud member of the Hayward Community. Any discussion about their center and where they stand, should involve them directly. You may also like to ask the Day Labor Center for public data that may be able to provide you insight into how many of the centers workers are heads-of-households, have children, or are the sole bread winners of their families, which I would directly correlate with being "family-centric".

I would ask, that instead of question how these two communities fit into your definition of "family-centric" you instead challenge yourself as to what "family-centric" really means. The mention of how well these two groups "fit" into the overall services of the EYFC or of family-centric services overall takes no account of the many ways that

people experience intersectional oppression and have multiple types of needs for them or their families. Instead, it looks like the report is insinuating that two already significantly marginalized communities (immigrants and youth on probation) are going to be further displaced in one of the few places where they can be seen as equal and given an opportunity to thrive in the Hayward community.

Last, there were concerns raised about the overall operation of the Eden Youth and Family Center, but there was no mention of speaking with any staff, or the new Executive Direct, Traci Cross. This is very concerning, as I am sure speaking with people on site would provide you with insight that can not be obtained by superficial appearances. I have been working with Traci in her role at EYFC for nearly a year now, and have been impressed by her vision for the commitment EYFC has for the community.

So here are my questions:

- 1) Was there an intent to speak with any of the organization staff or leadership that are **currently** housed at the site?
- 2) Has there been an **assessment** of community need for the removal or addition of any services that are currently not provided by the EYFC or other agencies housed at the site?
- 3) Is there plans to ask for specific data from any agencies on who the EYFC and other agencies on the site serve?
- 4) Why was community input excluded from the evaluation of the site?
- 5) Will the city be responsible for any agencies or communities that could be potentially displaced? What is the plan for assisting agencies should they have to move? What is the plan for the potential displacement of families who would no longer be served by the EYFC?

With these questions in mind, I believe it is best not to move this discussion forward until a more equitable evaluation process can be completed.

Thank you,
Dolores Tejada