

Talking Points for Measure J Oversight Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2024
5:30 PM at Palm Springs City Hall, Large Auditorium

Good evening, Chair Simpkins, Commissioners, City officials and staff, and members of the public.

My name is Jonathan Lorenzo Yorba. I'm the Senior Manager of Grants at The Center. I'm here with James Lindquist, The Center's Director of Development. We are here on behalf of Mike Thompson, our CEO, who is away but asked us to thank you for the outstanding work you are doing to improve the quality of life in our community. Palm Springs looks great because of what you do!

The Center is going to submit a Measure J Community-Initiated Project application for a grant that is in alignment with Measure J funding, with the City of Palm Springs Strategic Plan, and that will positively impact tens of thousands of residents and visitors who use the Center's services and programs.

Our sustainability and transportation project will do four things:

1. Provide solar-covered shelter from sweltering heat for currently uncovered parking spots in front of the Center. Two of these spots are designed for disabled drivers.
2. Provide shelter over the long, 90-foot walkway from the parking spots to the elevator.
3. Provide a solar-covered rideshare shelter with seating for people who use Uber, Lyft, taxis, and other modes of transportation; and
4. Provide nine new rainbow-colored bike racks that will be shaded from sun, wind, and rain.

Our project will improve the business community, Downtown enhancement, health services, emergency services, sustainability/conservation, and the economy.

The benefits to our project are many. First, visitors to The Center will now have themselves and their cars protected from the summer's scorching heat; the bike racks will encourage bicycling, which will have an effect of helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and the dollar savings the Center will realize by having a renewable source of solar energy will enable the Center to re-designate cost-prohibitive electric bill payments to essential services and programs for all Palm Springs residents, visitors and tourists – as *everyone* is welcome at The Center.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our Measure J Community-Initiated Project.