

October 24, 2022

Mr. James Conforti  
Interim President and CEO  
Sutter Health  
2200 River Plaza Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool

Dear Mr. Conforti,

On September 13, 2022 the Belmont City Council adopted resolution 2022-081 in support of the reopening of the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for community use. The City Councilmembers sympathize with those community members who relied upon the pool before its closing in March 2020. Lack of access has led previous users to suffer diminished physical, emotional, and mental health. Closing the Mickelson pool removed an essential healthcare resource for San Mateo County residents.

The Mickelson Therapy Pool is the only facility of its kind in San Mateo County. Residents who suffer from health issues including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments, among others, used the Mickelson pool to rehabilitate those health issues and mitigate their physical decline. Sadly, there are no comparable warm water, ADA-accessible, therapy pools on the Peninsula able to adequately accommodate these residents.

The pool was entirely financed by community donations more than 25 years ago. Ongoing community support for reopening the pool is evidenced by the more than 4,800 patients, caregivers, and community members signing a petition to reopen the pool. City and County governments across the Peninsula, along with local civic leaders, state legislators and various organizations, also support its reopening and encourage Sutter Health to reverse its decision to permanently close this important facility.

The Belmont Council encourages Sutter Health to reverse its decision to close the Mickelson Therapy Pool and to engage with the Peninsula Health Care District, the Sequoia Healthcare District, and the County of San Mateo who have expressed willingness to assist with the cost of restoring and operating the Mickelson Pool for the benefit of their residents.

Sincerely,



City Manager

Enclosure

cc: Belmont Council  
Sutter Health Board of Directors  
Grace Davis, Vice President and Chief Public Affairs Officer/Chief of Staff, Sutter Health  
Janet Wagner, CEO, Sutter Health Mills-Peninsula Medical Center  
Melissa White, Director, Government Affairs, Sutter Health Bay Area  
Rob Bonta, Esq., California Attorney General  
Peninsula Health Care District Board of Directors  
Joseph W. Cotchett, Esq.  
Lindsay Raike, CEO, Warm Water Wellness

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022 – 2022-081**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT IN SUPPORT OF SUTTER HEALTH TO REOPEN THE MACK E. MICKELSON ARTHRITIS AND REHABILITATION CENTER THERAPY POOL FOR COMMUNITY USE AT THE MILLS HEALTH CENTER IN SAN MATEO, WITH THE SAME OPEN ACCESS HOURS THAT WERE IN PLACE PRIOR TO JANUARY 2020**

WHEREAS, the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool is an Americans With Disabilities Act-accessible warm water therapy pool operated by Sutter Health and located at the Mills Health Center, in San Mateo, California; and; and,

WHEREAS, the Mickelson Therapy Pool was constructed over 25 year ago using charitable contributions from residents of San Mateo County to serve as a centerpiece of an arthritis center created by Mills Peninsula; and,

WHEREAS, the Mickelson Therapy Pool has been used for over 25 years by thousands of residents of San Mateo County who suffer from a broad range of health issues, including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments, to rehabilitate those health issues and mitigate physical decline; and,

WHEREAS, Mickelson Therapy Pool has historically provided both preventative and interventionist therapies to residents of San Mateo County suffering from health issues; and,

WHEREAS, there is also an apparent and growing need for the services provided by the Mickelson Therapy Pool, due to San Mateo County's rapidly increasing number of elderly residents who are highly likely to suffer from health issues requiring a warm water therapy pool; and,

WHEREAS, Mickelson Therapy Pool is the only pool of its kind in San Mateo County, and there are no comparable warm water therapy pools that can adequately accommodate the residents of San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson Therapy Pool and who are now suffering from acute and chronic physical pain and mental anguish without it; and,

WHEREAS, in spite of the critical need for the facility, in June 2021, Sutter Health announced that it would permanently close the Mickelson Therapy Pool to independent use by patrons and closing Mickelson removes a valuable healthcare resource for people to assist them in daily activities; and,

WHEREAS, over 4,300 patients, caregivers, and community members have signed a petition to reopen the Mickelson Therapy Pool in order to increase the health, independence, and dignity of residents who rely upon it; and

WHEREAS, the Belmont City Council value and celebrate a strong commitment to diversity, inclusion, safety, equality and dignity for all individuals in Belmont; and

WHEREAS, the therapy pool is an invaluable resource for chronic pain management and rehabilitation for seniors, disabled individuals, patients recovering from surgeries, children

with special needs, and pregnant women.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Belmont resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. that promptly reopening the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for community use with the same open access hours that it had prior to January of 2020 would preserve and improve the health of residents in San Mateo County who have historically relied upon it or who could benefit from warm water therapy to maintain their health, independence, and dignity and the City Council calls upon Sutter Health to reopen the Mickelson Therapy Pool and to maintain the same open access hours that were in place prior to January 2020.

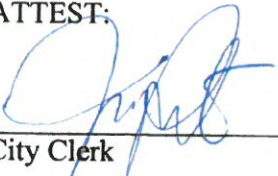
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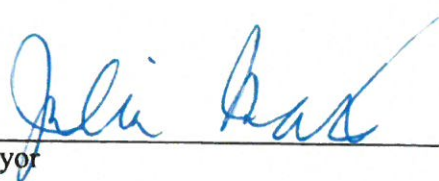
ADOPTED September 13, 2022 by the City of Belmont City Council by the following vote:

Ayes: Lieberman, Stone, Hurt, Mates

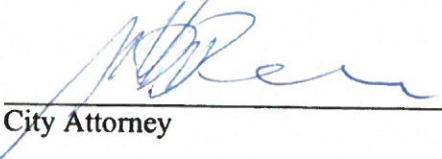
Absent: McCune

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney