



The City of Burlingame

OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

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June 15, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Conforti:

I am writing at the request of the Burlingame City Council to share with you the resolution they adopted last week in support of the reopening of the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for community use. This wheelchair-accessible, warm water pool is the only fully accessible facility on the Peninsula.

The City Councilmembers have heard from many of their constituents about the benefits of the pool, which serves as an invaluable resource for chronic pain management and rehabilitation for seniors, disabled individuals, patients recovering from surgeries, children with special needs, and pregnant women. Lack of access to the pool since it was closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic has led former pool users to suffer from diminished physical, emotional, and mental health.

We understand that the pool was entirely financed by \$4 million in community donations (equivalent to over \$7 million in today's dollars) more than 25 years ago. Ongoing community support for reopening the pool is evidenced by the City Councils in Millbrae and San Mateo, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and the Sequoia Healthcare District Board all passing resolutions of support. State Senator Josh Becker, Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, various San Mateo County Commissions, and local physicians have also sent letters encouraging Sutter Health to reverse its decision to permanently close this important facility.

The Peninsula Health Care District has offered to pay for any necessary upgrades and operating costs to reopen the Mickelson pool until a new therapy pool becomes available, but this offer has been declined. The Burlingame City Council strongly encourages you to reverse this decision and reopen the pool as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa K. Goldman
City Manager

Enclosure

c: Sutter Health Board of Directors
Lindsay Raike, Chief Executive Officer, Warm Water Wellness

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RESOLUTION NO. 059-2022

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURLINGAME IN SUPPORT OF REOPENING THE MACK E. MICKELSON ARTHRITIS AND REHABILITATION CENTER THERAPY POOL FOR COMMUNITY USE AT THE MILLS HEALTH CENTER IN SAN MATEO

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

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

WHEREAS, for the past 25 years, the Mickelson Therapy Pool has been used by thousands of children and adults of San Mateo County who suffer from a broad range of health issues, including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, and autoimmune disorders as well as those requiring rehabilitation from surgeries, strokes, and other mobility impairments, such as arthritis; and

WHEREAS, the Mickelson Therapy Pool is the only pool of its kind in San Mateo County, providing full access for the disabled and maintaining a water temperature that can adequately support the needs of those suffering from acute and chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlingame has been designated an Age Friendly City by AARP and the World Health Organization and strives to provide the resources and services necessary to allow older adults to remain vibrant and independent in the community; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the critical need for the facility, Sutter Health announced in June 2021 that it was permanently closing the Mickelson Therapy Pool to independent use, removing a valuable healthcare facility for people needing this resource; and

WHEREAS, the community has shared with Sutter Health its overwhelming support to re-open the Mickelson Therapy Pool and restore the services this facility provides to those suffering from a broad range of health issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Burlingame calls upon Sutter Health to promptly reopen the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for those community members who have historically relied upon and benefited from the warm water therapy it provided so that they may continue to live healthy, vibrant, and independent lives.



Ricardo Ortiz, Mayor

I, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, City Clerk of the City of Burlingame, certify that the foregoing Resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 6th day of June, 2022, and was adopted thereafter by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers: BEACH, BROWNRIGG, COLSON, O'BRIEN KEIGHRAN, ORTIZ
NOES: Councilmembers: NONE
ABSENT: Councilmembers: NONE



Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, City Clerk