

City Councilmember Carl DeMaio

News Release

DeMaio Compromise Proposal to Locate Temporary Homeless Shelter in City Concourse Approved

Site Will Provide Daily Reminder To City Leaders as Efforts Are Made to Find Permanent Shelter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, October 21, 2010 CONTACT: Jeff Powell, 619-236-6655

SAN DIEGO – A deadlocked City Council today approved a compromise deal offered by City Councilmember Carl DeMaio's to locate the temporary winter shelter for the homeless at "Golden Hall."

DeMaio originally offered the idea last year – as a cost saving measure and to serve as a daily reminder to city officials that a comprehensive homeless solution is badly needed in San Diego and must start with the creation of a permanent homeless shelter.

"City officials are close to a deal for a permanent homeless shelter, but they have not yet approved a final location and plan. By locating the temporary winter shelter at the Civic Center, it will serve as a daily reminder to city officials that we must finish the job of creating a comprehensive and lasting solution to managing our homeless population," commented DeMaio.

DeMaio's proposal will require a handful of meetings already scheduled at Golden Hall be relocated to other facilities. As part of his motion, DeMaio instructed city staff to structure the program to ensure the General Fund is not adversely impacted. Based on current operating losses incurred by the City for operating the Civic Center, DeMaio's office is also exploring ways to create a net benefit to the City's General Fund from the transaction.

"Each site we looked at came with significant opposition from neighbors. City leaders are leading by example by inviting the homeless shelter into the Civic Center," added DeMaio.

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