From: <u>Eileen O"Meara</u>

To: Debbie Gonzalez; Erin Hamant; eileenomeara

Subject: Public Comment for Commission Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 8:43:49 AM

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Note: This is our fourth letter regarding this matter since the issue has not been resolved.

## To The Commission:

We are writing to bring your attention to a pressing issue regarding the current swimming lane allocation policy at the WeHo competition pool. This policy disproportionately favors a private, primarily male swim team, significantly limiting access to the pool for working people, women, and residents of West Hollywood during early morning hours before work.

The pool, a public facility funded by taxpayer dollars, currently allocates only 2 out of 10 lanes for public lap swimming on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings.

Further restrictions on Tuesdays and Thursdays have been imposed to accommodate the private team as well.

This situation leaves many residents without a viable option for morning exercise and goes against the principle of public first access.

Pools in other areas such as Burbank and Echo Park strike a balance by renting out some lanes to private teams while ensuring sufficient availability for the general public. For instance, they rent out 5 of their 20 lanes, leaving 15 available for public use. We believe a similar approach can be adopted at WeHo to better serve the needs of all community members.

Given these circumstances, we urgently request a reassessment of the current policy. We propose that all 10 lanes be returned to public lap swimming on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and that the number of lanes available to the public be increased from 2 to 5 (half the pool) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings.

We hope the commission will take immediate action to address this imbalance and prioritize fair access to the WeHo competition pool for all residents, reflecting true community values of equity and inclusivity.

Thank you for considering our concerns. We look forward to your prompt response and to a resolution that supports the health and well-being of all West Hollywood residents.

Sincerely,

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