

ARTS, PARKS,
HEALTH & AGING
MOTION

When Romeo Tamondong, an Eagle Rock resident, suffered a heart attack and collapsed during a basketball game at the Yosemite Recreation Center, he was surrounded by the center's staff. A supervisor called 911, but while the crowd waited helplessly for paramedics to arrive, no one was able to revive his unresponsive body. Mr. Tamondong—a 55-year-old father of four—died on the scene.

When Romeo's wife, Yolanda Tamondong, heard the news, she was shocked. As a registered nurse, she knew that survival after a heart attack depends on restoring a normal heart rhythm within minutes of the cardiac arrest. She also knew that, for every minute beyond the initial attack, there is a 10 percent increase in mortality. After 10 minutes, death by cardiac arrest is virtually certain.

But what shocked Ms. Tamondong most was the fact that a city-run recreation center, one serving a large number of senior citizens, did not have a defibrillator on-site.

According to the American Heart Association, use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in community settings nearly doubles the survival rate of cardiac arrest victims when measured against CPR alone. With voice and light prompts, AEDs are accurate and easy to use. As a result, the AHA recommends placing them in targeted public areas where cardiac arrest is likely to occur.

In recent years, the City of Los Angeles heeded this advice by installing over 600 AEDs in public facilities. The City has no clear policy, however, regarding the distribution of AEDs, particularly in high-risk areas like recreation centers.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst, in cooperation with the Department of Parks and Recreation, report back to Council on citywide distribution of, access to, and training in the use of, automated external defibrillators within City-owned facilities;

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst provide recommendations regarding a citywide policy for mandatory installation of automated external defibrillators within city-owned recreation and community centers, and for staff training in the use of defibrillators when they are installed in publicly owned facilities.

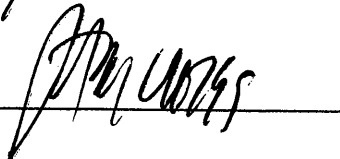
PRESENTED BY


JOSE HUIZAR

Councilmember, 14TH District

AUG 16 2006

SECONDED BY



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