



## AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** June 8, 2015  
**Item Number:** E-8  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Steve Zoet, Director of Community Services  
**Subject:** WAIVER OF FEES AND JOINT SPONSORSHIP OF A  
RECEPTION ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**Attachments:** 1. Biography of Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilken

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### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the waiver of fees and to work with the Jamaica Cultural Alliance to coordinate the use of Greystone estate to host a reception for a dignitary involved with the Special Olympics at no cost or financial obligation to the City. An agreement will be effected between the City and the requesting party assuring that all required insurance and indemnifications have been posted, along with security deposits, restitution for Park Ranger and related staff costs at the event and all other obligations as required.

### INTRODUCTION

City Council, through past actions of becoming a Host Town for the 2015 World Special Olympics, has joined numerous other communities and organizations throughout the greater Los Angeles area that will be supporting the Special Olympics and all those who will be participating in and being a part of the festivities this coming summer. In the spirit of this celebration, the Jamaica Cultural Alliance (JCA), a Los Angeles based organization, has approached the City requesting that it join and co-host a reception for the Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 from 1 to 5pm at Greystone mansion. Rev. Hudson-Wilkin, who serves as Chaplain to the Queen of England, is originally from Jamaica and will be in Los Angeles to participate in various functions associated with the games, including helping to officiate the closing ceremonies.

### DISCUSSION

The JCA is seeking to co-sponsor an event to recognize and celebrate Reverend Hudson-Wilkin's visit to Los Angeles and her participation in the 2015 World Special Olympic games. Events that are jointly sponsored by the City must be not-for-profit and typically have a public benefit associated with them. By being a Special Olympics Host Town, Beverly Hills pledged and committed to supporting positive international relations associated with the games. In keeping with that intent, staff feels that this event meets those objectives and unless otherwise directed will work with the JCA to host the Reverend at Greystone estate.

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Jointly sponsoring an event does not obligate the City to assume any direct, out-of-pocket expenses. Our co-hosting involvement would consist of waiving approximately \$6,000 in rental fees that would otherwise be assessed and collected for use of the premises being requested. All other hard costs associated with the event, including catering expenses, equipment rentals, security deposits, cleaning fees and Park Ranger security costs will all be borne by the applicant. Representatives from the JCA anticipate approximately 150 to 200 attendees, inclusive of City Council and a guest if the request is approved and you are able to attend and represent the City. It is anticipated that other dignitaries will be in attendance though no special arrangements for security will be required. Use of the estate will be limited to the central court yard, a pass-through of the house and the front terrace.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

No direct expenses would be borne by the City were City Council to approve the request. The City would forego the estimated \$6,000 associated with the valuation of rental fees for use of the requested areas. It should be noted that Sunday afternoons is not a peak rental time and thus it is not likely that the City would realize these funds through any type of rental opportunities were City Council to approve the use.

Steve Zoet  
Approved By



# **Attachment 1**

## **Biography of Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin**

Parliament in London is an old-fashioned place. When members gather in the House of Commons, the sea of faces is generally wrinkled, white and male.

The chaplain who leads them each day in prayer is emphatically not.

The Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin is the first black woman to serve as chaplain to the speaker in the House of Commons. She broke the same barrier when she was appointed chaplain to Queen Elizabeth II. She was also the first woman, and the first person of color, to run her parish in Northeast London.

She currently juggles all three of those roles, shuttling back and forth between the poor, diverse communities of her churches and the magnificent, rarefied worlds of Westminster and Buckingham Palace. It has been a long journey for the girl who was raised in poverty by her aunt on the shores of Montego Bay, Jamaica.

"I didn't grow up feeling sorry for myself and thinking, 'Oh, gosh, I'm poor,' " Hudson-Wilkin, 53, said in an interview. "Because that was the life of everyone around you. When a dice has been thrown and that is your life, you learn to live with your life. You grow from it."

Now she tries to impart that message to her parishioners.

### **Preaching In A Poor Neighborhood**

Her church in the neighborhood of Dalston is surrounded by housing projects. There is violence in this community, and there are gangs. There is also passionate worship. On a recent Sunday morning, the congregation sang out in call and response, a Peruvian melody for a traditional Christian prayer.

Gwen Gutzmore remembers interviewing "Reverend Rose," as she's known, for the job in 1998. It was just a few years after the Church of England began to allow female priests.

"There were members within this same congregation who didn't want a woman priest," says Gutzmore. "It took some time, but they came around."

Eileen Skarrett, a church warden, arrived in Dalston in 2001.

"When I got invited to the church, it was a black minister," Skarrett says with a laugh. "I was much surprised." She has been a regular ever since.

Many of the voices in these pews have the lilting cadence of the Caribbean. The Rev. Hudson-Wilkin said a prayer in front of a very different-looking congregation last year, at the funeral for former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. At St. Paul's Cathedral, she led some of Britain's most powerful men and women in solemn prayer.