



of water or snack. During the warm center activation period from December 2023 to March 2024, each library averaged 25 participants per month. During the cool center activation period from June to October 2024, the libraries saw a significant increase in usage, as expected. Most libraries averaged 115 participants in the warmest months, with Arlington, Main, and Marcy Libraries seeing double the participation numbers compared to the other locations. Orange Terrace Library had the fewest with a monthly average of 45. The cooling centers have increased in usage over the past year with participants thanking staff “for helping people in need”. During one of the more extreme summer heatwaves, some of the neighborhoods near the La Sierra Library lost power and Joseph Garcia, the La Sierra Library Supervisor, commented that community members appreciated being able to bring their elderly family members to the library to cool off.

Recognizing the need to accommodate pets as well as people, in October 2024 the SSgt. Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca Library became the first known pet-friendly government cooling center in Riverside County. The library provided access to the outdoor garden as well as a designated area indoors with access to water and emergency supplies, including disposable water dishes, gloves, disposable bags, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes, as available. The pet-friendly cooling center opened just in time for the October heatwave and was able to provide relief to four people and their animal companions. Melina Velazquez, the Casa Blanca Library Supervisor, commented that there was a great deal of excitement generated in the community regarding the pet-friendly cooling center and while they were only activated for a short period of time this year, they’re ready for next Summer.....

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This item contributes to ***Strategic Priority No. 1 Arts, Culture & Recreation and Goal 1.1:*** Provide diverse community experiences and personal enrichment opportunities for people of all ages and Strengthen Riverside’s portfolio of arts, culture, recreation, senior and lifelong learning programs and amenities through expanded community partnerships, shared use opportunities and fund development.

This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads based on the definitions in the ***Envision Riverside 2025*** as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – This report is transparent in providing the informational report on cooling and warming centers for inclusive community engagement, involvement of City Boards and Commissions, and timely reliable information. This activity and action by the City serve the public interest, benefit the City’s diverse populations, and result in greater public good.
2. **Equity** – The informational report on cool and warm centers provides members of the community equal access to share the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The informational report on cool and warm centers has no fiscal impact to public funds and ensures responsible management of the City’s financial resources while providing quality public services to all.
4. **Innovation** – The informational report on cool and warm centers is timely in meeting the community’s changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes.

5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The informational report on cool and warm centers relates to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City’s capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during good and difficult times alike.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the meeting schedule.

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Attachments: City of Riverside news release, *Riverside Residents Can Ride Out the Last (Hopefully) Heatwave of the Year with Their Animal Companions at First Pet-Friendly Cooling Center*