

From: [Erika Castellano](#)
To: [Niamh Ortega](#)
Subject: FW: Sears Building
Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 9:25:44 AM
Attachments: [emailsignature2024_50d41331-3e8d-4bf3-8f3e-be06df544be4.png](#)



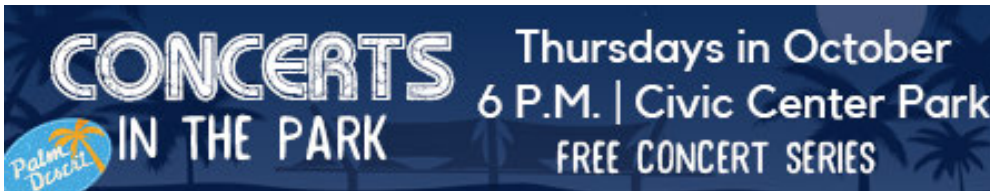
Erika Castellano

Management Specialist

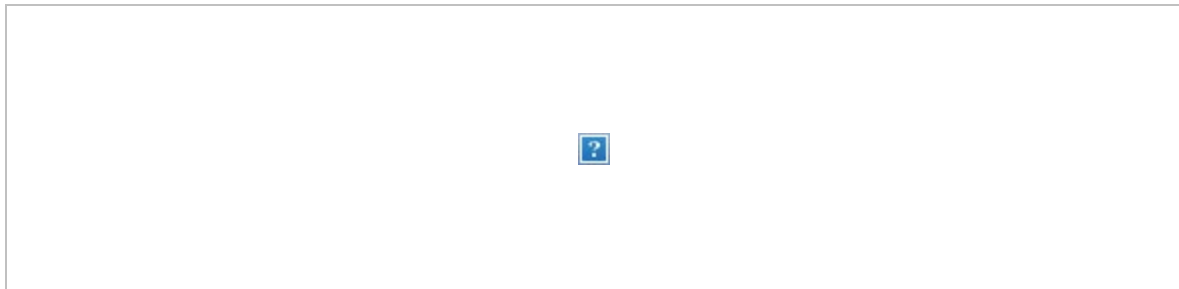
City of Palm Desert

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From: TERRY WOOD [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 1:52 PM
To: City Hall Mail <cityhall@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Sears Building



September 17, 2024

[Karina Quintanilla, Mayor](#) of Palm Desert and City Council Members,

Dear Mayor Quintanilla and Council , very few residents of the community of Palm Desert are aware that the city purchased the Sears Store at the Westfield Mall a few years ago. Most people I have spoke with conclude that the purchase of **15 million dollars would give the city a seat at the table if the mall decided to do a facelift . The City of Palm Desert even published a 50 page proposed plan that included townhouses and commercial pads added to the parking lot to include a market

etc. I was just curious why residents don't vote on these kinds of purchases or are informed before a purchase for I never saw any communication on it except when it was in the Desert Sun announcing the purchase. I think that the public would like to know what the real costs of holding this property are and have it published not just on your end of year operating statement. Costs would include property taxes, maintenance , electrical (lights/air conditioning) etc.

What is the monthly amount of taxpayer money being spent holding the Sears property? I feel that this money could be better spent on law enforcement and other general needs in our city. What I have seen at the mall presently is a constant turnover of stores and then filling it up with sub-par stores and Kiosks just to have less stores vacant and up keep is minimal. The current owners don't seem to be inclined to do anything at the moment or maybe they will sell it off next year. It may take years for any kind of redevelopment to happen at the mall. What is the City of Palm Desert's plan now on this ?

I would hope this communication will be input into the minutes and read aloud at your next council meeting for general public to know about this situation.

Terry Wood
Resident