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# **CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FULL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, August 18, 2020  
Zoom Meeting  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Call to Order at 5:05 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: Irene Riley, Clint Loftman, Emma Kelsey, Azalea Renfield, and Aileen Hernandez.

City Staff Attendance: Brian Cheu (MOHCD), Mike King (MOHCD), and Glenn Eagleson (OEWD).

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. **Meeting minutes from March 2, 2020 were motioned, with a correction requested, by Irene Riley, seconded by Aileen Hernandez, and approved unanimously by the Committee.**

### **3. Director's Report (*Discussion Item*)**

- a. Brian Cheu shared that MOHCD has a new permanent Director, Eric D. Shaw. Eric has a wealth of experience in planning and disaster preparedness, and has been very engaged with staff throughout the department since coming onboard in April, especially around racial equity. We hope that at one of our future meetings Committee members will have an opportunity to meet and talk with Eric.
- b. Brian Cheu shared that MOHCD was fortunate that it was not asked to lay-off or furlough any current staff as a result of the City's budget shortfall. Recently, MOHCD was even given permission to fill its 10 current vacant positions. However, all new positions are on hold from hiring and the department cannot move forward with its space renovation plan. Overall, these budget impacts are much kinder than what other public institutions have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **4. Committee Members' Report (*Discussion Item*)**

- a. Aileen Hernandez shared that her work team is now under the BART Budget Department. BART has had to move a lot of money from capital to operating expenses, so a lot of construction projects are delayed. She explained that the pandemic has had a significant impact on her work.

- b. Clint Loftman shared that he is working on a senior housing rehab project in downtown Oakland. The tenant relocation budget has been dramatically increased due to the pandemic and the need to relocate the entire building.
- c. Irene Riley shared that she has been joining a lot of Zoom meetings. She misses the face-to-face interactions with colleagues, but she likes the Zoom meetings.
- d. Glenn Eagleson shared that the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) recently received \$21 million for workforce development. These funds were diverted from the City's police and public safety budget to address racial equity issues in the city. OEWD is actively working with the Mayor's Office to understand its priorities for those dollars.
- e. Azalea Renfield shared that East Palo Alto has not laid off any workers and is not facing a budget deficit. The city is facing uncertainty around school re-openings.
- f. Emma Kelsey shared that her work has transitioned easily from in-person to remote. She has been volunteering with the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank to help feed seniors. The demand at the food bank has increased substantially.

## 5. **Updates** (*Discussion Item*)

Brian Cheu provided the following updates:

- a. MOHCD has been asked to send a number of staff members on a rotating basis to the City's Emergency Operations Center. Most are there for a few weeks, but Helen Hale was there for sixteen straight weeks, advising on congregate living precautions.
- b. The City created an Economic Recovery Task Force, comprised of approximately 100 people representing the business and nonprofit sectors. MOHCD has some staff who are participating in some of the working groups. The Task Force will issue a final proposal in October with recommendations for how to get the City's economy back-on-track. Some of their work may have already been incorporated into the City's current budget process.
- c. MOHCD staff member Alex Banh has been going out to RAD and public housing sites to help set up routers and make sure tenants have access to the internet. The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) has launched distance learning centers. The Housing Authority may have some direct federal funding for laptops. MOHCD is working to see if we can further distribute laptops to tenants of RAD housing.
- d. The City set up the Give2SF COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund with the San Francisco Foundation to help provide additional relief for economic development, food and rental subsidies. MOHCD has received \$6.2 million so far for rental subsidies. MOHCD is using 5 primary providers for rental subsidies: Catholic Charities; Eviction Defense Collaborative; La Raza Community Resource Center; Q Foundation; and Young Community Developers. We are collecting information from residents to be able to prioritize those clients with the highest needs. Once the rent moratorium ends, tenants still owe their back rent right away. Some of the City Supervisors are writing legislation to

address that issue, and some are looking to set up a landlord assistance fund, which they have discussed with MOHCD to help manage.

- e. Through the CDBG CARES Act allocation, MOHCD is also receiving an additional \$3 million for rental subsidies. The majority of the CDBG allocation (roughly \$9 million) went to the Department on Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to fund the COVID-19 hotel program. The same is true of the ESG allocation (roughly \$43 million).
- f. The City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020-2021 Action Plan were approved by HUD. MOHCD has been working with our new HUD representative to get this year's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) application approved. Our new HUD representative maintains that the intent of the NRSA was not for ongoing assistance. If the City had to cut back on its funding to NRSA, it would be in a very challenging situation.
- g. Finalizing MOHCD's grants budget was a long and complicated process. We received significant feedback, especially from Black-led nonprofits, during our RFP public comment period. The Mayor's Budget Office asked us to cut our budget by \$4.2 million. After additional planning and negotiation, the Budget Office restored \$2.3 million of the original \$4.2 million cut. We were able to restore grants to immigrant legal services, tenant right to counsel, and other critical services.

MOHCD did not have a final budget in place by June 30, 2020. To continue services, we extended the majority of FY 2019-20 grants for three months, through September 30, 2020. Federal grantees got a 12-month grant starting July 1, 2020. It was confusing for our community partners and grantees. We were only able to announce our 9-month awards, starting October 1, 2020, last Wednesday, August 12.

The \$2.3 million Budget Office restoration is only a one-time fix, and we may have to find another way to procure services for FY 2021-22. We are in discussions with our Director and the Budget Office to see what that procurement process will look like.

The Board of Supervisors will vote on the full budget just before September 1, 2020. That is their opportunity to restore funds that the Mayor did not restore. October and November will be very busy at MOHCD; we will be setting up new contracts, as well as designing and implementing a new procurement process.

In addition to our Community Development RFP, MOHCD identified an additional \$2 million for African American community stabilization. We received 17 eligible services proposals for an initial \$1 million investment. We will communicate final awards in September. The remaining \$1 million will go to capacity building support.

- h. MOHCD's new Director is aware that the CCCD has a number of vacancies. Because of COVID-19, the Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has put their appointments on hold. Brian said that it is important that we configure the CCCD to support the City's racial equity agenda. CCCD members offered their support in talking with the Mayor's Office or other stakeholders to implement a better vision for racial equity. We need to put together a comprehensive racial equity training program for the CCCD, as well as for reviewers of future RFPs.

We need to make some meaningful changes to the way we procure community services and measure program impact. It would be great to have the CCCD to provide recommendations in these areas.

Members discussed.

Members agreed to schedule regular meetings on the third Thursday of every month, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We will have meetings in September, October and November, and will take December off for the holidays.

**6. Public Comment**

a. None.

**7. Adjournment at 6:47 p.m.**