



CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, February 4, 2020
San Francisco Main Public Library, Koret Auditorium
30 Grove Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 5:50 p.m.

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

City Staff Attendance: Brian Cheu (MOHCD), Pierre Stroud (MOHCD), Helen Hale (MOHCD), Mike King (MOHCD), Alex Banh (MOHCD), Barry Roeder (MOHCD), Michael Solomon (MOHCD), Manuel Vasquez (MOHCD), Malik Looper (MOHCD), Hugo Ramirez (MOHCD), David Taylor (OEWD), Glenn Eagleson (OEWD), Tina Rose Novero (OEWD), Angel Cardoz (OEWD), and Dedria Black (HSH).

2. Public Comment on the Preliminary Funding Recommendations for FY 2020-21

Clinton Loftman provided an introduction, including an overview of the CCCD and its role in the funding process. Michael Solomon read three speaker names at a time, in the order their cards were received. Individual speakers were allowed 3 minutes for comment, while groups were allowed 5 minutes.

Speaker #1. Jackie Flinn et. al, A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI)

"I am the Executive Director of APRI. I have asked community members to come and speak...

I was one of the very first participants at APRI. People in my family have called me a problem child. I have been taught many things by my family. They taught me whatever we go through we should always maintain hope. I have learned how to be a mom and how to utilize resources for housing. Without APRI's help, I do not know where I would be. I would like to see them expand throughout San Francisco, not just in the Bayview. This organization serves not only the Bayview, they are seen as a resource to many in the community. I have worked on my resume with the staff. They have given me access to so many resources.

I have been with APRI for 6 years. I have learned so much, improved my networking skills. I have gained more connections in my community. I have stepped up as a leader. Jackie and Kurt taught me how to use my voice to make action. They are my second family.

Everyone here has a connection to APRI and how they have helped them. I am concerned with the current funding award for APRI. If our city is moving forward with racial equity, then why is there only 2% of the funding for Black-led organizations? We need to back up our words with funds.”

Speaker #2. Jennifer DaSilva, Start Small Think Big

“Our mission is to help lower income people start for-profit businesses. We help businesses in underserved areas so their owners can build personal financial security and economic activity in their area. Our participants come primarily from very low income and underserved areas. We are based in New York City, but we opened up an office here in San Francisco four years ago. We have been providing primarily legal services for the last four years, and we know this is a priority for the department. We were awarded some of the money we requested and for that we are grateful.

The grant is to expand services, including marketing. We are only providing legal services here now. The grant would allow us to provide marketing support. We have done that in New York City but have not been able to do that in San Francisco. We want to hire a full-time person to provide marketing support, which would require another \$25,000. The full range of services for entrepreneurs is financial services, legal, and marketing. People who receive all of these services have seen their revenues increase by at least 60% in one year, and their personal income increase by 25%. So, getting this support will make a big difference for the communities we serve. By providing that, you will help us expand our services in San Francisco.”

Speaker #3. Genny Price, Success Centers

“Success Centers was founded 30 years ago. We serve youth and adults through workforce programming. Several years ago, we were able to expand our executive leadership staff through funding awards which helped us grow to serve more people. Success Centers is here because we are concerned about Black-led organizations that do not have all the resources they need to successfully sustain. They are underfunded. Because of years of underfunding, this has caused stress to staff. We ask for capacity building opportunities to strengthen services. We find the rising rent and increased disparities make it hard to operate as a community-based organization in San Francisco.”

Speaker #4. Adrian Williams, The Village Project

“I am the Executive Director at The Village Project. I work with youth, families and seniors in the Western Addition. I have been a one-woman show for a long time. I am concerned that less than 2% of funding (out of \$42 million) is going to Black-led organizations. I have been told to delegate yet there is no money to add more staff.

I was recently confronted with a challenge. For years this organization was rent free, but now, because of the local and national attitude, I have been asked to pay rent now. I was unfairly over-charged \$800 for rent, where some other community-based organizations are only charged \$1 for rent. I was told I was not qualified for many funding sources in the city. I have had to make a lot of calls I have not made in 14 years. How can we build capacity if we are not able to become a subcontractor with appropriate funding? I see so many people have to move from the city with a subsidy certificate. There is a systemic problem. We are not getting funding and are being pushed out. I do not get it. The math does not make sense.”

Speaker #5. Michael Blecker, Swords to Plowshares

“Our particular proposal was for securing Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits for homeless veterans and disabled vets. We are a homeless veteran-serving organization. We have received MOHCD funds for legal services for about 27 years. We now have been recommended for another \$81,000. We appreciate it, but it just falls so far short for getting veterans legal services for their VA claims.

In this city, there are 8,100 unsheltered veterans. We have some of the best attorneys in the world doing this work. Swords is very unique in this country and nationally-recognized. We have more than a 90% success rate. We have won millions of dollars in lifetime benefits. Not just income but eligibility for health services, which is life-saving. Our attorneys are nationally-recognized, and we started pro bono services with more law firms. So, we try to leverage these funds as much as we can. And we have made huge in-roads, leading to policy changes at the VA. But the low amount of funding is a huge stressor for a nonprofit like us to make changes and implement these changes.

Consider our proposal at a higher level than \$81,000. We are grateful but we just need a much higher level of funding to provide these legal services.”

Speaker #6. Mahogany Roland, Rebuilding Together San Francisco

“Our organization is over 30 years old. We provide affordable housing for San Franciscans. These include low-income households in the Bayview and Hunters Point. They include seniors, disabled folks, and single household families. We get our funding through MOHCD. The funding has been critical for repairs that bring hot water and heat to families. This makes a big difference in the quality of life of the people we serve. Our main emphasis is to serve communities of color in San Francisco. We need to continue to receive funding to keep up the good work.”

Speaker #7. Karina Galvan-Torres et. al, BALANCE

“It is such an honor to share this space tonight. We share one common goal: a commitment to serve the residents of San Francisco. At BALANCE, we believe in building strong, thriving communities. When you ask how we should change this process, we recommend bonus weight given to organizations whose practices reflect our values, such as hiring from the communities they serve. And with their business practices, like using vendors who are sourcing from local businesses. Maybe someday this will not be a bonus, but just the norm.”

Speaker #8. Lyslynn Lacoste, BMAGIC

“I am here to speak in solidarity with other Black-led community-based organizations. Whether through systemic failures, etc., government action is undermining Black-led organizations. Black-led organizations are essential to respond to the needs of Black-led communities. Black-led organizations serve, with the least amount of resources, communities that need it most. Black-led organizations are expected to provide more with less. Black-led organizations have fewer cash reserves and are more dependent on grants.

Of the 16 Black-led organizations that submitted proposals, only 6 received a funding recommendation, totaling less than 2% of the \$42 million over the next five years. You can and we should all do better.”

Speaker #9. Joi Jackson-Morgan, 3rd Street Youth Center and Clinic

“This morning you should have received a letter on behalf of the Black-led organizations. My organization is actually recommended for funding, but this is not a push for my organization. This is a push for my community. It is a shame that combined we have over 200 years of experience serving our community and we have to beg for more than 2%. It is a disrespect to our expertise. What you are talking about is not equity, it is equality. Black and people of color are not the same thing. The pie chart you have is misleading. It says 18%, when it is only 2% (of the funding) for Black-led organizations.

To fix this, we need your help. As you heard before, some Black-led organizations might lack the infrastructure to manage the grant. Sometimes managing the grant is way more than doing the work. People are being pushed out at alarming rates, so we cannot wait to fix this. We need to do this today. Please put your money where your mouth is when you talk about equity and start giving to Black-led organizations.”

Speaker #10. Erris Edgerly, Brothers For Change

“We serve the Western Addition and black families. I have helped grow big agencies while my agency has stayed small. I have seen Adrian Williams walk up and down the streets with kids. It is the Black migration that has helped grow and build San Francisco and the Western Addition. Then we were kicked out and told we could come back with a Certificate of Preference, 50 years later. The Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) is not supporting us. We are moving backwards. Please give us the funding and we will give to others.

Our families are in crisis. We have high rates of school dropout. If we cannot come to you all and ask for funding, we should have the benefit. All of our positions/jobs need appropriate funding. The City is well-staffed. We do so much with very little. Please hear our recommendations/asks. We can work magic. We know how to do a lot with a little. We are collaborating. When you call on one of us, you call on all of us.”

Speaker #11. Roderick Magbual et. al, Pin@y Educational Partnerships (PEP)

"I stand in solidarity with all the organizations in this room. It is an honor to be in this room with everyone who serves our communities.

Please reconsider the proposed \$27,000 funding cut to our organization. This cut will impact all of our teacher and education services. We serve the underserved and under resourced Filipino community. We have provided ethnic studies for 14,500 students. Out of 310 PEP teachers, 2/3 are San Francisco residents. Over 60% of PEP teachers have gone on to graduate programs, becoming doctors and professors across the nation. We started a course so high school students can receive college course credit. PEP students can get college-level courses and community organizing experience. Many PEP teachers are now recognized SFUSD teachers. We have published ethnic studies books, and are influential in schools. My son and many others are reaping the benefits of this. I am also an elected official in a local town and we are booming in economic development. Booming economic development can serve these programs. I am not blind to the economic opportunity that is happening here.

Additional speakers on behalf of PEP...

I am a professor in ethnic studies at San Francisco State University. Thanks for the support you have given us for the past two decades. Because of the support, we have been successful. But, at some point, I think people did not realize how that success happens. You can see it in the impact we have had in this room, all the people in this room, and this is just a small fraction. We started in 2001. When we first started PEP, it was about addressing the challenges our Filipino community was facing. No one was doing this at the time. The youth did not understand their identity. This led to a high dropout rate, self-harm, and growing tensions. Our solution was an adult teaching force, to address the needs of youth. We created the answer in our own hands. This is our own equity.

This is only a little bit of us here tonight. The reputation of someone that came from PEP is highly regarded. I receive daily requests for folks to hire from PEP. Daily. We are proof that it works. Funding is very, very important. We have the evidence what we are doing is successful, and we need the funding to keep it going. We provide a social justice workforce. This is part of your mission. We want to continue and see that funding is restored.

Being Filipino is not even on this paper. If you are crippling our community, you are crippling the city.

I am a doctor at San Francisco State University. Thank you for the funding over the years. Because of your support we have been successful. Some do not understand our success, but look around the room. One phone call made this happen. In 2001, when we first started, we addressed the growing challenges of Filipino families. Our curriculum taught unity within the Filipino community. We developed an adult teaching workforce. We went from being a youth organization to being such a diverse community within PEP. I get daily requests for jobs.

We are proof that the funding MOHCD provides makes a difference. If it goes away, we will see less people become successful. We provide a social justice workforce."

Speaker #12. Sacha Steinberger, Legal Link

“I am here in support of the legal services award to Homeless Prenatal Program, of which Legal Link is a subgrantee. Low-income households face 6 or more legal issues each year. Many issues can be addressed with timely legal help, but many do not know how to access the system. Only 14% of the time do they receive the help they need.”

Speaker #13. Marcus Tartt et. al, Renaissance Bayview

“We provide comprehensive services to small businesses in the Bayview. I want to highlight the theory of change you show here. It says that ensuring economic growth offers benefits to the communities. We see a lot of economic growth potential in the Bayview. The challenge is, will we be here to see it? Will we be here long enough to see it? So many Black leaders are having to leave San Francisco. We believe small businesses support neighborhoods and communities. By supporting Little Leagues, supporting the communities and neighborhoods nearby, small businesses help Black communities thrive. I brought someone from the community that can speak to the struggles of a business...”

My husband and I were born and raised here. Without Renaissance we would not be here. Bayview is now a Cultural District but there are no small Black businesses in the Bayview because they say we are not qualified. How do I not qualify? This does not make sense? I say to other Black-led organizations, stay in the city. But the funding is not adequate. Just being a business owner in the Bayview is important. The limitations to get access are just too much and too far. I think we should structure things to work better for low-income households.”

Speaker #14. Thu Banh, BRIDGE Housing

“We were recommended to receive funding for housing and community development projects. Thanks for your continued support. We are working on a project in Potrero. This funding gives a lot of reassurance to our organization and to the residents of Potrero that we can continue to provide quality programming. We are reshaping the community. Across 80 events so far, thousands of people have come out to discuss the development plans and shape their community. In addition, we have community services and classes, Zumba, and gardening. Thousands have come out. Each of these interactions help residents break the social isolation that they are feeling now in Potrero Hill.

In the next three years, we will be adding another 140 housing units, that Potrero families can call their new homes. And bringing on a new child care center to add much needed child care for the neighborhood. We are also creating public open space for communities to gather. Housing redevelopment means not only economic opportunities through construction, That is just the beginning. BRIDGE wants to work with nonprofits and businesses, beyond construction. Health care for example. We want to ensure residents are in well-paying jobs that have the opportunity for economic advancement. Another area we want to support is entrepreneurship.

In closing, we express our gratitude. I look forward to coming back and sharing more stories. I also stand in solidarity with many of the Black-led organizations in this room. I have worked with many of them and consulted with many of them over the years.”

Speaker #15. Desi Danganan, Kultivate Labs

“We were fortunate to be funded. Our main mission is to help build neighborhoods to thrive with local businesses. We were very fortunate to develop UNDISCOVERED SF, a Filipino initiative, through SoMa funds. Every year we have grown Filipino businesses which has added to the economic growth in the SoMa. 6th and Mission is the most challenging area of San Francisco – in terms of quality of life, crime and drugs – yet Filipino business owners want to do business in this area. We ask that you increase our funding to do more work in the 6th and Mission area. To help more entrepreneurs in the 6th and Mission area thrive. We need community support to be successful. We are up for the job. We out-perform metrics on all of our grants. People of color do this for the love and betterment of the community.”

Speaker #16. Lavert James, Independent Bayview Resident

“We have to come here to beg. My great grandmother was the first Black woman in San Francisco to buy her own home. My other grandmother just passed away last week. You can see the balloons on Cesar Chavez that they dedicated in her honor. Her name is Bessie Webb. This pisses me off. Organizations like APRI have helped me and my family get jobs and pay dues. They have helped all these people get off the streets to do something, to be better. My community has been on drugs since I was little, but we are not stopping. We are going to do something. We need our young people to be something. \$42 million is really nothing. It is not enough. But to get 2% of that, for our community, for our organizations, we need to do better. As a people, as a city, as a united front, we have to do better. I do not know what to say but I pray that you all can do something. I do not like to beg, but we need something more than this.”

Speaker #17. Dina Mendoza et. al, Tenderloin Housing Clinic’s La Voz Latina

“Since 2005, La Voz Latina has served as a resource center for Latinas in danger of eviction. In the past two years we have expanded the neighborhoods served, because our staff is culturally competent. We provide back rent. We accompany tenants with an attorney if they need representation. We help advocate for tenants with landlords. We work hard to ensure livable conditions for our clients. Our budget has been reduced by a third. This will affect our operating hours, key community leader positions, and limit services. We will not be able to provide supplemental funding that helps us expand our reach. We will have to eliminate our community leader programs.

Recently four tenants were served with eviction notices. These tenants need services. One tenant is being evicted through new ownership, but thanks to our organization, she was able to find a new home. We are committed to keeping households stably housed. Please reconsider our funding recommendation so that we can continue to bring great services to the community. Thank you for our community and staff present today.

Additional speakers on behalf of La Voz Latina...

A lot of great organizations are being cut. Why are we doing this to organizations that are doing great work on the ground. I really hope that you would reconsider how you make your funding decisions. Pull funding from other services in the city to fund these great organizations that are really helping the community. Funders at MOHCD need to come to our communities and see the struggles and disparities and social injustices. We need to have funding increased to help support these traumatized citizens. This is a great city, but do not cut services.

Single room occupancy hotels (SROs) have become a battleground for funding. When a building is sold, people are displaced. La Voz Latina has helped us come to the table with landowners. This past year we had a Lower Nob Hill resident of 20 years that was facing eviction for hoarding. The organizers helped coordinate a negotiation for the tenant to move and have her unit treated for bedbugs. She kept her housing. These services are essential. We need good organizers now more than ever. Please prioritize these organizations for funding.”

Speaker #18. Tracy Brown and Aleks Zavaleta, Mission Language and Vocational School (MLVS)

“I am a graduate of MLVS. I graduated in 1985. The first job I got when I could not afford college. I was born and raised in the Mission. We did not have opportunities that others have. Many became citizens as a result of MLVS. My daughter now has a job at Kaiser Permanente because of MLVS. This is what MLVS does. We have been funded many years by MOHCD. We are an anchor institution, for the community at-large. We serve students who are failing, because the schools are failing them. We serve people with limited English proficiency and immigrants.

Do everything you can to support leaders of color. This lack of support needs to be addressed. You need to deliberate and really talk about everything you are hearing. We have been around for many years. We are one of three state-accredited vocational programs in San Francisco. Without the MOHCD funding, we will not be able to offer any of these services. People are not able to get jobs. They do not have the schooling. We provide the services for them, including job training and computer literacy.

I am a product of San Francisco. My daughter is a product of San Francisco. Do not leave people behind.

Additional speakers on behalf of MLVS...

I am a current student. This program is very important. It gives us the skills so we can have a better future in this life and to provide for our community.

I am outraged that the African American community is only getting 2%. It makes me want to cry. It feels weird having to fight for funding. The reason why this is so important is because a lot of members of our community start off in really bad situations. The moment they enter elementary school they are trapped. They do not get the services that other communities get. Whether it is because they are people of color, speak other languages, have behavioral issues, or whatever other reason. This school allows for students who did not get good grades, who did not make it in high school, to be really amazing students. Now they come into the office and say I want to see a transcript because they got a 4.0. With the right equipment, the right people, they can be amazing. Nineteen students we placed at Kaiser Permanente, Veterans Affairs and other hospitals. They will be able to climb the

ladder at the hospitals, buy a house, and take their families out of really bad situations. We have students who are starting their own catering businesses, being sous chefs. All they need is a little help. 316 organizations, \$42 million. Everyone could have gotten some.”

Speaker #19. Sarah Wan, Community Youth Center of San Francisco (CYC)

“We provide transitional-age youth services. We opened in the Bayview 10 years ago. The purpose of our cultural center was to embrace different ethnic groups in the Bayview. With the current funding cut to our organization, I will need to cut staff and cut daily services that are essential for the populations we serve. We cannot continue to be a bridge, or hold cultural programs with these funding cuts. Please reconsider our funding recommendation as this will greatly affect the community we serve and our organization.”

Speaker #20: Monique LeSarre, Rafiki Coalition

“I am representing Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness. I am also representing The Coalition for Black/African American Prosperity in San Francisco. It includes groups such as the SF NAACP, Success Centers, New Community Leadership Foundation, SF Bayview Newspaper, 100 Black Organizations, Black police officers, Fillmore Rising, Liberation House, Inc., A. Philip Randolph Institute, 100% College Prep, Young Community Developers, SisterWeb, Urban Ed Academy, SFHDC, Greater Life Church, Tabernacle CDC, 3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic, and Booker T. Washington Community Service Center. I represent all of these organizations.

Rafiki was recommended for a small amount of funding. The gossip was Rafiki got funding. We got \$50,000, which we got before. Then we got \$200,000, most of which is going to subcontracts to folks on this list. And we also served as a fiscal agent for a Native American organization. When I heard someone say \$81 million, I lost my mind. I think it was Swords to Plowshares. If the Black community got that kind of money, we would be in a very different situation. You can say “we checked the box, we serve black communities.” Guess what, Black-led organizations are different. We are the community we serve. We are the places people go to. We have the relationships with the people. These larger organizations with all the back-office shops are gobbling up all the funding. It is not impacting smaller organizations.

We are requesting increased funding, and increased funding to help support the infrastructure for Black-led organizations. You need to do this because of the harm that has been done to the Black community in this city. This can only be fixed and achieved when Black-led organizations and Black leadership are prioritized. This is not acceptable, MOHCD. Not acceptable. Do better.”

Speaker #21. Kim Johnson, 100 Black Organizations

“The proposed recommendations MOHCD put out were shocking to see. I know you have seen the documentary of what happened to the Fillmore. It used to be a thriving Black community. Now the Fillmore Cultural Center needs funding so that it can help sustain the community. MOHCD needs to go to the Fillmore and look around. How do you design your grant applications? They are ridiculous to complete. You need to go and look at the Fillmore. We are penalized if we do not complete grant applications. Black communities have been here the longest and have had the

worst conditions. A black man founded San Francisco and the school system in San Francisco. MOHCD is not being fair. We ask that you treat us fairly. We need more black businesses. You are keeping your foot on our neck. We ask for a fair chance.”

Speaker #22. Jameel Rasheed Paterson, New Community Leadership Foundation (NCLF)

“We specialize in civic engagement. We work on the good, old fashioned values we got away from. Local people, local businesses, local organizations, local politicians. I love this diverse city. I think we have the opportunity to be a beacon for the rest of the country, especially this month, which really symbolizes what San Francisco is about. Chinese New Year and Black history month. We have the opportunity for diversity or division. We can pit it against each other, but that is not what San Francisco is about. It is about celebrating variety.

The Black community is always brought up regarding social experiences. We are number one in high school dropouts and number one in incarceration. But when it comes to investment, we are the lowest. Everyone needs to be invested in equity, but the African American community has a huge influence on this city. You have people who are not Black calling themselves the N word. And there is Telly Mac, the hip hop legend. When you invest in the African American community, you invest in influencing the whole city. Our communities, and the Mission, are the most inclusive. If you do not invest in us, you are not investing in the whole city. Investing in the African American community would impact Chinese kids, Latino kids. Look at Rudy Corpuz at United Playaz. A huge organization, a huge influence, but that is coming from the African American influence.

With that I want to say ‘Unite the City.’”

Speaker #23. Majeid Crawford, New Community Leadership Foundation (NCLF)

“The disparities you see in the Black community are not by accident. Our own city, our own Board of Supervisors, instituted programs that impacted the Black community. We have always had a presence in the city. And in the 1940s and 1950s, when we came to work in the shipyards, we were forced to live in the Fillmore and the Bayview. The most polluted areas. We were redlined.

But we did not let that stop us. We built our own businesses, created our own resources. We had the highest rate of homeownership in the Bayview. We had our own businesses. But then they saw that, so they started urban renewal. Forty blocks in the Fillmore were bulldozed, then left vacant for years. People got put in the high rises but left the land vacant. Same as Bayview. We already had the power plant, but when it was time to build the sewage plant, they did not put it in the Sunset, which did not have any of this yet. They put it in Bayview. Do you want Black people to stay in the city? Because for the past 40 years, you have been pushing us out. If you want Black people to stay in the city, please fund all Black-led organizations in full.”

Speaker #24. Darlene Roberts, Fillmore Jazz Ambassadors

“I wish I could speak to the audience. MOHCD does not want you here. They will give you less and less. If you pay your taxes, you have a reason to demand from your Supervisor to speak up for you. MOHCD is sick and tired of hearing from you. Our kids are ill and dying. In the 1950s,

Harry Truman came up with model cities. They did not include Black people. They are not including you for a reason. Do not humble yourself for these people. She does not have pity for you. You show them your records. This is sweeping across the nation from Boston to Philly, all places with jazz and Black culture. I founded the Fillmore Jazz Ambassadors because I was excited. Black people in the 1950s did not have the right to vote. We will not get anything. These proposed funding choices are your funding. I will shut up. I am mad at every last one of you.”

Speaker #25. Hays Berry, Sequoia Living

“Our proposal to expand experience corps from Marin to San Francisco was wholeheartedly denied in its entirety. What this is, is it takes elderly volunteers and pairs them with younger individuals from poor communities. It feeds two birds with one worm. Everyone needs more of this money to go around. This intergenerational approach can increase the effectiveness for the children served *and* for the volunteers. A study called Double Jeopardy says a 3rd grader is four times less likely to graduate from high school if they cannot read at grade level by third grade. And the rate is even worse in low-income families. The neighborhoods we wanted to serve were in the Western Addition, Haight, many of the neighborhoods represented in this room. And the studies done on the impact of social isolation for seniors, this impacts all the seniors in San Francisco. I ask that you reconsider the Sequoia approach for funding and the intergenerational approach as a whole.”

Speaker #26. Saara Ahmed, Asian Women’s Shelter

“As a grant manager, I want to recognize the amount of work this takes. I am coming off a lot of application submissions. While we are here talking about big topics, I want to acknowledge all the marginalized folks here. Our programs help women overcome domestic violence trauma. Many of our clients have experienced legacies of trauma. Our clients are survivors and face displacement and economic disparity. Most are non-English speakers who have migrated and are fearful of accessing public services. We serve all survivors of violence. We provide English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and support service connection. We look forward to future collaboration.”

Speaker #27. Drew Jenkins, J & J Community Resource Center

“In the past weeks, I have seen so much disappointment from the African American community that is putting in the work. Before you make the recommendations, please go to the ground level and go to the communities that these bigger organizations claim they are serving. They are skimming the money. The money is not getting down to the communities. You are shortchanging the community-based organizations that are actually putting in the work. My organization has been putting in the work, and the one time that we asked you for something, we did not get anything. Go to the communities and ask them what they need. Get away from the paper because you are taking away the money from the kids that are dying. Come down to Sunnydale. I am there every day. See the cause and effect of pulling money away from the small organizations.

These are fake numbers. I have been in the room with organizations with over 200 years of history. 2% of the money is going to African American communities. Most of the people who are

dying by gun violence are in the African American community. And if we are shortchanging them and the kids, it does not make sense. Please get from behind the desk and rethink this. I am sorry to cut this off but I do not even want to listen to this anymore.”

Speaker #28. Val et. al, Purple House Project and San Francisco Community Land Trust

“We are LGBTQI members, expats. Every single cause that MOHCD claims to support. This is a Black woman-led organization. I am the Executive Director. It is just as important to evaluate fiscal health and support it. Those that struggle are the ones that need the funding the most. We need to look at this history of people served through organizations like Purple House Project. Working with community partners like San Francisco Community Land Trust, we have helped programs thrive and support local residents. We need to renew the spirit of volunteers.

Additional speaker on behalf of San Francisco Community Land Trust...

One thing I have learned to say is I agree when Val speaks. I came to San Francisco in 2009. The San Francisco Community Land Trust is extremely underfunded. Our proposal was disqualified. I want to explain what the San Francisco Community Land Trust is. When a house goes up for sale, the Land Trust comes in, buys it, and freezes the rent for tenants to pay under the fair market rate. This is a way to preserve housing for those that need it and cannot afford the high prices being charged on the private market.”

Speaker #29. Deven Richardson, African American Arts & Cultural District and San Francisco Housing Development Corporation (SFHDC)

“I am the Director of Community Equity for SFHDC and proud co-chair of the African American Arts & Cultural District. I join the Black-led organizations that you heard from earlier. You cannot change what you do not acknowledge. I believe the City has acknowledged the fact that African Americans have been disenfranchised. A lot of history of harm has been done to our people, through eminent domain, redevelopment, and on and on. You, exerting your power and influence, need to make a drastic paradigm shift to what is on that piece of paper. The Black community is in a state of crisis. I was born here. And the decline has not stopped. SFHDC was started by Black professionals 30 years ago to thwart the exodus. 30 years ago. And we are still doing that work today.

We are interested in making drastic change to the declining African American population. This will require drastic and bold changes. We need to go back and look at all the recommendations, all the funding that Black-led organizations have asked for, and restore it to full funding. You say you have this new focus on equity, but you are trying to be equitable and be fair at the same time, which you just cannot do. This typical way you do RFPs and scoring, you are going to get the same results. We need to make the changes today. They need to be bold and drastic. We are on the start of a new Census, and we say everyone needs to be counted. Why? Because of the funding. This funding. Folks like you all need to be bold and say these numbers do not mean anything. You need to be bold. You need to change things. What do you have to lose?”

Speaker #30. Terrence Valen et. al, Filipino Community Center

“We have been around for 15 years. In the beginning, we had the highest rate of homicide. We hope to strengthen our services. We focus on women and families, and the traumas facing San Francisco, such as trafficking and domestic violence. We want to see certain programs restored. Neighborhood-based community organizations need to be funded. Our communities are being pushed out. They are going to Contra Costa and want to come back, but we need to stop displacement. Many services in the city are not language accessible for the Filipino community. We help support these people and stop the continued trauma.”

Speaker #31. Raquel Redondiez, SOMA Pilipinas

“This is the anniversary of the start of the Filipino-American War. This is important because for the first time MOHCD has acknowledged historical trauma. This is the reason why Filipinos are here in San Francisco. We have been here for 120 years. Last year the City established Cultural Districts to stop the displacement of Filipinos and communities of color. We recognize that we are losing these communities fast. One of our main missions is to preserve community-based organizations that serve these communities.

A concern for us is the recommendations cut half a million dollars to Filipino organizations. On one hand we are establishing the CHHESS Report – the cultural heritage economic strategy - for all of our communities. And a big part of that is cultural competency. And this at a time that the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) released a report completed by SOMCAN about the failure of City departments to provide language access to Filipinos. This is an official City language, and the community-based organizations are the only ones providing these services. And half a million dollars of these services are being cut.

We ask you to consider that and reconcile. We are working with MOHCD to provide these services. The way to provide language access and cultural competency is to fund these organizations. And here we are, cutting it to the tune of half a million dollars. And work with City departments like OCEIA who are trying to provide language access.”

Mike King thanked the remaining audience members for attending.

3. Adjournment at 8:03 p.m.