



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT PRIORITIES

DATE: January 10, 2012

APPROVED:

Sam Liccardo

1/10/12

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Adopt the recommendation of Paragraph 1(a) and (b) (regarding senior services funding) from the January 6, 2012 memorandum of Councilmembers Kalra and Chu, to provide senior-specific services funding at a level of \$400,000.
2. Adopt the recommendation from the January 6, 2012 memo from Mayor Reed and Councilmembers Herrera, Pyle, and Rocha to “defer approval of the decision on the payment source for the HUD § 108 loans,” but direct staff to specifically assess the feasibility of having the Parking Fund accept some amount of the obligation for the debt financing for the Convention Center (and its garage) to backfill any General Fund absorption of HUD §108 debt obligations.
3. Reduce the minimum grant size from \$100,000 to the amount (and to the number of grants) which can be competently administered by the currently-anticipated \$1.3 million cost for administrative staff.
4. Adopt the recommendation in Paragraph 2(a) of the Councilmember Chu/ Kalra memorandum, but supplant the recommendation in Paragraph 2(b) with broader language, to be provided by Councilmember Kalra at today’s hearing, which does not identify any specific organization as the “sole-source” provider of those services.

BACKGROUND

We can all agree on the importance of ensuring that we provide as much funding as possible to address the needs of our fast-growing senior population, particularly at a time when so many of our elders struggle to weather this very difficult economic period.

I appreciate the intent and direction of the January 6, 2012 memorandum from Councilmembers Kalra and Chu, particularly in its implicit recognition that we should do everything possible to avoid pitting deserving groups against one another. The needs of our homeless and our families facing foreclosures appear no less urgent than those of our seniors, or any other group. As blue memos emerge in the days before a decision, the burden of funding reductions shift from one group to another, without sufficient time for the “losing side” to learn of the decision, or to enable them to be heard by Council. Indeed, members of the very same organizations that have advocated for increased senior funding—including PACT and the Health Trust—have previously played major roles in

advocating for greater funding of homeless services. If their boards or executive directors were aware of the direction suggested by some to support senior services at the expense of homeless they might disagree.

Accordingly, I propose that we follow the direction generally set by Councilmembers Kalra and Chu, with minor modification, as set forth above. I seek to avoid having any increased administrative costs, however, that might result from increasing the number of grants (with smaller grant allocations), because any increase in administrative costs will ultimately reduce the funding available for nonprofit services. I hope that the language above will provide a suitable compromise.