



November 3, 2020

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SUBJECT: Adopt the Resolution to address the disproportionate impacts the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our most marginalized communities, local businesses and property owners

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution.

SUMMARY:

At the request of Supervisor Rodoni, we recommend the adoption of the attached resolution. On August 14, 2020, a coalition of organizations representing community, health, education, and business sectors sent a letter to the elected officials of the City of San Rafael and the County of Marin that highlighted the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the low-income Latino community in San Rafael and across the County, and urged officials to take swift action to address this crisis. The letter emphasized that, from the state to national level, studies have identified the inequitable impacts of COVID-19 and its effect on critical issues such as housing, employment, debt, economic stability and food security.

The coalition stressed that many of those who have been most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 are essential workers and that the recovery and long-term resilience of these communities are inextricably connected to the recovery and resilience of the local business sector, the non-profit sector and the public sector. Only by also emphasizing local business recovery can we viably stabilize our region.

The coalition invited the City and County to work collaboratively with staff and leaders to address these urgent challenges and to work swiftly towards recovery that puts equity front and center. The Canal Policy Working Group was established comprised of: Angela Nicholson, Lorenzo Cordova, and Dennis Rodoni, County of Marin; Catherine Quffa, Kate Colin, and Cristine Alilovich, City of San Rafael; Omar Carrera and Ricardo G. Huerta Niño, Canal Alliance; Chandra Alexander, Community Action Marin; and Steffanie Haffner, Legal Aid of Marin.

On September 18, the Canal Policy Working Group met for the first time. Since then, the Working Group has met on a weekly basis to further explore health, housing and local business recommendations and to develop a process to prioritize and move forward.

As the Working Group has focused in on key policy solutions, there was a recognition that any policy-level changes would take time to properly develop, vet and move through the approval process. Given the urgency of these issues, the

Group recommended that both City and County leadership swiftly and formally articulate support for these efforts. As a result, the Working Group has drafted the attached Resolution for adoption by the San Rafael City Council and the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

The Resolution recognizes that the history and contemporary manifestations of racial injustice have resulted in deeply unequal access to quality housing, employment, healthcare, education, resources, and opportunities, resulting in pockets of communities woefully susceptible to the deepest impacts of this unprecedented pandemic and economic crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on our historically marginalized and under-resourced communities of color, who are least able to overcome the deep challenges. Further, it recognizes that the recovery and resilience of our most impacted communities is closely linked to the recovery and resilience of our local businesses, non-profits, and the public sector.

The Resolution affirms our Board's commitment to support our historically marginalized residents who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and to work collaboratively to build longer-term solutions for recovery and resilience. It also articulates the Board's commitment to protect housing for our essential workers, preserving the ability for many community members to stay in their homes.

By adopting this Resolution, our Board is formally demonstrating a commitment to finding bold, collaborative solutions that address the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our communities, businesses and property owners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew Hymel
County Administrator