

September 26, 2019

To: Honorable President and Members of the Social Service Human Relations Board

From: Eric Fonstein

Re: CDBG Process for Five-Year Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan

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## **Background**

The City of Alameda is an Entitlement recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These funds are used to develop viable communities, primarily for low- and moderate-income persons, through decent housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities. Alameda receives a little over \$1 million in CDBG funds annually. Approximately 15 percent of this funding is allocated, with guidance from the Social Service Human Relations Board (the Board), for “non-housing community development public services.” The Alameda Housing Authority (AHA) administers the CDBG funds and manages the contracts with community-based agencies that provide the public services funded under this grant.

As a condition of receiving CDBG funds, the City is required to prepare a Five-Year Strategic Plan and an Annual Action Plan. The Five-Year Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) sets forth broad policy goals and the City’s plan for addressing the identified priority needs. The priority need categories are defined by HUD. The Annual Action Plan (Action Plan) delineates specific objectives for the coming year and the associated funding amounts for the fiscal year.

The Strategic Plan and Action Plan requirement to identify community needs and priorities is aligned with the Board’s role of facilitating the provision of social services in the community, disseminating information concerning the programs and functions of social service and regulatory agencies, and assessing and reporting to the City Council the social service needs of the community and the methods of meeting those needs. To this end, the Board works collaboratively with AHA to develop strategies to inform the Strategic Plan and Action Plan planning process and make recommendations to the City Council on ways to address community needs and priorities with CDBG funding.

## **Discussion**

The current Five-Year Strategic Plan was approved by the City Council in 2015, and is effective through June 30, 2020. As such, there is one last Action Plan that covers fiscal year 2019-2020 that is encompassed in the current Strategic Plan. A new Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 needs to be presented for City Council’s approval in 2020. The Board will have an active role in gathering input from community stakeholders to inform the planning process for the Five-Year Strategic Plan as well as its subsequent Annual Action Plan

updates. The Board also provides recommendations for awarding contracts under the CDBG Non-Housing Community Development Public Services (“Public Services”), which runs on a two-year funding cycle, to support the goals and priorities of the Strategic Plan. The timing of the next funding cycle for the CDGB Public Services contracts coincides with the development of the next Strategic Plan, which takes effect on July 1, 2020.

During the next several months, AHA and City staff will work with the Board on gathering information from available data sources and engaging with providers and residents to identify the social service needs of the community and inform the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and CDBG Public Service 2020-2022 funding goals and priorities.

Staff will begin the process at the Board’s October meeting.

**Recommendation**

This item is for information only. No action is recommended for or required by the Board.