

**City of Alameda, California**  
**SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD**  
**THURSDAY, May 28, 2020**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Pravda Wright called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Attendance: Vice President Pravda Wright, Boardmembers Moustafa Aly, Kristin Furuichi Fong, Sarah Lewis, and Joanna Paillet-Growl,

City staff: Ana Bagtas, Eric Fonstein, Lois Butler

Absent: President Christine Chilcott (excused)

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of March 26, 2020 was made by Boardmember Lewis and seconded by Boardmember Aly. Ayes: Vice President Wright, Boardmembers Aly, Furuichi Fong, Lewis, and Paillet-Growl. Nays: none. Motion carried 5-0.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft stated her appreciation for SSHRB and expressed the value of the Board's work, especially in service of the community's most vulnerable populations during COVID-19.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS**

**5a. Recommendation to Allocate CARES Act Funding (CDBG-CV) to Public Services**

Lisa Fitts, Management Analyst with the Alameda Housing Authority, presented on recommendations to Allocate CARES Act Funding (CDBG-CV) to Public Services. Fitts provided a summary of the CDBG-CV funding and presented staff's recommendation to allocate funds towards emergency food distribution to be administered by the Alameda Food Bank, emergency rent relief to be administered by Building Futures, and emergency shelter to be administered by the Family Violence Law Center. Together with the funding recommendations approved by SSHRB on March 26, 2020, these recommendations are to be presented to the City Council on June 2 and June 16, 2020.

Public speaker Cindy Houts, Executive Director of the Alameda Food Bank, expressed that the number of families being served has increased 10-fold starting in April, and any funding increases will immediately help with emergency relief.

Fitts welcomed comments from Boardmembers and answered their questions.

Boardmember Furuichi Fong made a motion to approve the funding recommendations to allocate CDBG-CV to Public Services. Boardmember Lewis seconded. Ayes: Vice President Wright, Boardmembers Aly, Furuichi Fong, Lewis, and Paillet-Growl. Nays: none. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **5b. Recommendation that the Domestic Violence Task Force be incorporated into SSHRB's 2020 Work Plan; nominate a SSHRB member to chair and organize the Task Force meetings**

Staff member Bagtas presented a report on the recommendation that the Domestic Violence Task Force be incorporated into SSHRB's 2020 Work Plan, including nominating a SSHRB member to chair and organize the Task Force meetings. Bagtas shared that multiple stressors (COVID-19 and other factors) have resulted in an increase of domestic violence reports in Alameda in 2020.

Bagtas welcomed comments from Boardmembers and answered their questions, including discussion on the possible factors contributing to the increase in domestic violence reports and the description of chair role and responsibilities.

Boardmember Aly made a motion to incorporate the Domestic Violence Task Force into SSHRB's 2020 Work Plan with Boardmember Furuichi Fong as Chair. Boardmember Lewis seconded. Ayes: Vice President Wright, Boardmembers Aly, Furuichi Fong, Lewis, and Paillet-Growl. Nays: none. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **5c. Workgroup Progress Reports**

- Census 2020 – Staff members Bagtas and Fonstein reported that Alameda's response rate on the census is at over 70%. However, some neighborhoods are lagging behind. A more targeted outreach is needed and staff is working with specific communities and groups, including partnering with Alameda Point Collaborative, the Alameda Housing Authority, Alameda Food Bank, and the Coast Guard to implement non-conventional outreach efforts during this time of the shelter-in-place order. Boardmember Lewis suggested a "census chalk" message campaign, soliciting the creative talents of local youth to spread crafted messages about the importance of the census in local neighborhoods.
- Homeless Action Plan - Staff member Bagtas provided updates on services and activities surrounding homeless issues. The four FEMA trailers for medically vulnerable homeless individuals and families are occupied. On-site services are being provided to the residents, including health checks and food delivery. Bagtas reported that 21 homeless individuals are now residing in Safer Ground and Operation Comfort motel rooms administered by the County. While this temporary housing was established as part of the response to COVID-19 to prevent outbreaks in encampments, relieve overcrowding in shelters, and isolate individuals that tested positive for COVID or are symptomatic, fostering longer-term housing solution for these individuals who were identified as the most at-risk among the unhoused population is the goal. Bagtas shared that Dine and Connect has pivoted efforts to serve encampments and that the County has leased a motel in Alameda to provide

housing to homeless women and children, including domestic violence victims. Bagtas shared City Council approved the recommendation to contract with Creative Build Inc. and the Village of Love following a procurement process conducted by the Community Development Department seeking a service provider(s) to operate the Day Center and Safe Parking Program at Alameda Point.

- Youth Mental Health - Staff member Fonstein shared that the next Let's Talk meeting is scheduled for June 4th and acknowledged that this is a difficult time for youth, teens, and the whole family.

## **6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

- Homelessness Updates and Initiatives - Staff member Bagtas shared that the Alameda County Vendor Pool Application was completed, allowing Alameda to apply for any RFPs, like the Homeless Housing Assistance Program.

## **7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

- Boardmember Aly raised the issue of providing more outreach and providing services to the elderly. Staff member Bagtas clarified that meal services are being provided on county level. Mayor Ashcraft responded with outreach ideas for the elderly, and invited SSHRB to participate.

## **8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Boardmember Paillet-Growl made the motion to adjourn. Boardmember Lewis seconded. Vice-President Wright adjourned the meeting at 8:37pm.