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Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay

Continued Funding for Community Basic Needs

Members of the Board,

We received a briefing on the challenges facing County families facing potential evictions at our Health and Human Service Committee meeting on November 24, 2020. Clearly the challenges facing the community continue as the pandemic continues to impact our residents. As the Board is aware, the Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of \$20 million of CARES Coronavirus Relief Funds to augment funds for basic needs assistance included in the annual budget, including the funding pool and other sources. The deadline to expend Coronavirus Relief Funds is currently December 30, 2020, however we know that our community's needs do not expire with that deadline. Ideally, the federal government will come through with another stimulus package to help support our community's most vulnerable residents. Without this assistance, however, the County is committed to continue providing the necessary support through this challenging economic period. The County has prudently set aside funds in the General Fund Pandemic Reserve – funds which can be used to continue to provide additional basic needs assistance and to continue other pandemic response programs.

Therefore, I move, in collaboration with Chairman McKay, to direct staff to continue disseminating county funds for basic assistance after 12/30 when CARES money gets exhausted. Currently budgeted resources for basic needs should be utilized first with additional support from the General Fund Pandemic Reserve expended as needed. In addition, staff should pursue other funding opportunities as available.

Staff should provide updates as appropriate in the monthly CARES memo and at Committee meetings in the coming months.