Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to provide you with another update on the work of the Policy Task Force. We continue to hold our weekly meetings for the Pandemic Policy Task Force Team with Vice Mayor Kate Collins; Assistant City Manager Christine Alilovich; Assistant County Administrator Angela Nicholson; Supervisor Dennis Rodoni; staffers Catherine Quffa & Lorenzo Cordova, consultant Ricardo G. Huerta Niño, and the three of us. Moving forward we will also have staff from Legal Aid of Marin and Community Action Marin, to help expedite the coordination.

As some of you might be aware, at the most recent meeting of the City Council on November 2, and of the Board of Supervisors on November 3, both government entities unanimously approved a version of the resolution that we, the Pandemic Policy Task Force Team, developed. As we mentioned in our previous update, the resolution aimed to express the urgency of the situation, their commitment to work quickly to address this situation with innovations in existing efforts, and declaring a commitment to specific actions; not just a statement of support, but an action-driven resolution. The plan we have developed is to have this as a first step to lay the foundation for action, innovations, collaboration, and having our government and agency partners feel empowered to act and innovate with the backing of the Council and the Mayor. Our focus is on action, expediency, and effectiveness in addressing the various crises we are facing in the pandemic and in the recovery and stability efforts. In particular, the team is researching and collecting best practices from other jurisdictions to learn from their success and avoid their mistakes. Attached you will find the first 5 pages of the 17-page report and resolution (after page 5 are the Spanish translation and copies of our previous letters to the city council).

We also wanted to share with you a couple of other updates on the Task Force. We are working closely with city and county staff on developing a plan for allocating and administering Community Development Block Grants (CBDG) funding in order to have these plans reflect the priorities, concerns, and opportunities that we have identified and continue to use to guide our work and our planning. We are fortunate to be working with a team of city and county leaders and staff who are aligned to our priorities, sensibilities, and to our commitment to our under-resourced communities. As this CDBG work unfolds, we’ll continue to provide you with updates on plans and allocations.

Perhaps the most hopeful update is that the Task Force team has begun to develop a policy research paper to envision, research, document, share, and implement the planning we have been working on, focused on the set of priorities we agreed to for the short-term: property protections and rent help/eviction freezes. This includes, for example, the work “right of first refusal” policies; we are adapting and building on San Francisco’s Community Opportunity to Purchase Act (COPA). A draft should be ready shortly, and we look forward to sharing more details.

If you would like to know more about any of these efforts, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Omar Carrera
CEO Canal Alliance

Stephanie Haffner
ED Legal Aid of Marin

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