

DATE:	March 27, 2020
CATEGORY:	Unfinished Business
DEPT.:	City Manager's Office
TITLE:	<b>#</b> TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the following actions to provide community support to address the impacts of the COVID-19 emergency:

- 1. Appropriate up to \$400,000 from the General Non-Operating Fund to the City Manager's Office to provide assistance to Mountain View small businesses to be disbursed through the Los Altos Community Foundation.
- 2. Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute an agreement with the County of Santa Clara to operate 24/7 safe parking programs at the Evelyn and Terra Bella lots and an agreement with VTA at the Evelyn lot, and appropriate \$100,000 from the General Non-Operating Fund to the City Manager's Office as a City match for County funds to support these extended services through the end of Fiscal Year 2019-20.
- 3. Approve the utility bill relief program as set forth in this report, and appropriate up to \$100,000 from the General Non-Operating Fund to the City Manager's Office to support a utility bill relief program.
- 4. Appropriate \$50,000 for mobile sanitation and hygiene services from the General Non-Operating Fund to the City Manager's Office through the end of Fiscal Year 2019-20.
- 5. Appropriate \$50,000 for food vouchers from the General Non-Operating Fund to the City Manager's Office through the end of Fiscal Year 2019-20.

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 2 of 18

6. Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute an agreement with the County Public Heath - Valley Homeless Healthcare Program regarding placement of a mobile medical unit on City Downtown Parking Lot 7 adjacent to Hopes Corner.

## BACKGROUND

On March 12, 2020, the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, declared a local emergency as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The declaration allows for the City to request and provide mutual aid as well as regulatory flexibility to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from the pandemic. The City Council ratified the existence of a local emergency on March 17, 2020.

At this meeting, Council approved an appropriation of \$500,000 from Below Market Rate (BMR) Housing Funds for rental assistance for low income Mountain View residents impacted by COVID-19 and directed staff to explore options for providing support to Mountain View small businesses and homeowners. Council also asked to receive updates on the implementation and effectiveness of the rent relief program.

City staff has been actively collaborating with nonprofit and County partners, and has received information directly from residents about community needs, including the needs of renters, small businesses and the homeless and unstably housed. Staff are assessing the availability of resources to meet these needs and working closely with regional local government agencies to identify emerging best practices and determine the strategies that would work best in Mountain View.

The purpose of this report is to recommend Council funding and action on key strategies related to small business support and assistance to residents who are homeless or living in vehicles. The report also provides an update on a range of other City efforts, available resources, and relevant legislative action at the Federal and State level to assist Mountain View residents and small businesses.

The report also shares hopeful news about Mountain View individuals and corporations stepping up to help, providing the opportunity for the City to facilitate creation of a community fund, called #TogetherMV, to support Mountain View residents and small businesses.

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 3 of 18

## ANALYSIS

## **#TOGETHERMV**

In response to the expressions of both community need and generosity, the City is working with the Los Altos Community Foundation (LACF) to create the #TogetherMV fund to collect donations from Mountain View companies and residents to address COVID-19 impacts in our community. While larger agencies have established programs serving a broader geography, #TogetherMV provides an opportunity to fund solutions specific to Mountain View. Staff is working to create a #TogetherMV page on the City's website, linking to a donation portal managed by LACF, which would receive and disburse funds according to established parameters to support either resident rent assistance or small business assistance as further described below. We will continue to share information with the public about all available resources once the fund and website is created.

#### PROPOSED COUNCIL ACTION

#### **Small Business Support**

The success of small businesses is important to the economy and contributes to the vitality of the Mountain View community. Small businesses create jobs, foster innovation and provide revenue to fund city services, entrepreneurial opportunities for people including women and minorities, and essential goods and services. The March 17, 2020 County of Santa Clara order to shelter in place greatly reduced businesses' ability to maintain regular operations, thus impacting their revenue and employees. Businesses have had to close or have stayed open with reduced staff and customer access. The cumulative effect of the loss of business revenue and staff has yet to be quantified because of the need for Mountain View businesses to make changes quickly and without planning.

City staff have been working over the past week to develop solutions to support Mountain View small businesses. The goal is to provide immediate, practical support to small businesses, create funding opportunities, and leverage partnerships with local organizations. The federal government, state, county, city, and larger Mountain View community all play an important role in assisting small businesses with the short and long term consequences of the COVID 19 crisis. #TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 4 of 18

As part of #TogetherMV, the City is working with the LACF to establish and administer a Small Business Relief Fund for Mountain View. The City and LACF are developing guidelines to provide Mountain View small businesses with grants and/or loans (whichever is most feasible). The purpose of the assistance is to help Mountain View small businesses temporarily mitigate the financial impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic until State and Federal resources are available and to stem the potential community deterioration that could result from the financial impacts of the pandemic.

# To date, \$400,000 in private donations have been pledged to the fund. Staff recommends that the City appropriate up to \$400,000 in funds from the General Non-Operating Fund to support small business relief efforts.

Using these funds, a maximum grant/loan amount could be set at \$10,000, and a minimum of 80 Mountain View small businesses would receive assistance. Additional donations to the #TogetherMV fund would increase the funding available and the number of businesses that could receive assistance.

In addition, the Federal Government is providing financial support to small businesses through the Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA established a low-interest (3.75%) disaster loan and is accepting applications. Also, as described below, the Federal Stimulus Package is anticipated to be passed by Congress on March 27, and would provide federally guaranteed loans for small businesses that pledge not to lay off their employees. The loans would be available during an emergency period ending June 30, and would be forgiven if the business continued to pay employees for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the financial assistance discussed above, the City is working on several initiatives to support small businesses, including: a small business resource webpage with FAQs launched this week; conversations with major Mountain View corporations to identify potential partnerships with small businesses; and plans for a small business impact survey and conference calls to understand the additional actions and resources needed to support small businesses effectively.

City staff is also working in close partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Central Business Association (CBA) to identify businesses needs and provide businesses with COVID-19 related assistance and information. #TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 5 of 18

#### Support for Homeless and Unstably Housed Residents

The City Council has made the supply and affordability of housing a top priority during its last three biannual goal-setting processes and has developed and funded a variety of programs to help homeless and unstably housed residents. Such residents are particularly at risk to the spread of the COVID-19 virus because they face greater difficulty taking preventative actions and are generally already in poor health.

City staff is working hand-in-hand with the County of Santa Clara and communitybased partners to understand increased or new needs resulting from COVID-19 and develop solutions. A summary of the efforts of the County and the continuum of care network in response to the pandemic is included as Attachment 1. A summary of resources available for homeless and unstably housed residents can be found in Attachment 2.

The City's Police Outreach Teams have disseminated this information in both English and Spanish directly to individuals and have placed flyers on vehicles believed to be used for housing. This information has also been distributed to community based providers. The City's Multilingual Community Outreach program continues its outreach to and engagement with the City's Spanish-, Mandarin-, and Russian-speaking residents to understand concerns and provide frequent information and updates.

For individuals with digital/cellular access, the City has widely communicated the option to get COVID-19 updates by texting 'MVCOVID' to 22828, visiting the City's website at <u>MountainView.gov/COVID</u>, following City Hall on social media through <u>Twitter.MountainView.gov</u>, <u>Facebook.MountainView.gov</u>, <u>MountainView.gov/Instagram</u>, and subscribing to <u>MountainView.gov/YouTube</u>.

Due to the evolving public health crisis, staff recommends that the City focus at this time on expanding access to sanitation and other basic needs, and explore an early expansion of the temporary pilot of 24/7 safe parking that was approved at Shoreline Lot B, and appropriate funds to support these efforts.

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 6 of 18

## Homeless Hygiene and Sanitation

The City and non-profit provider MOVE had already established handwashing stations, fixed or portable restrooms, drinking water and garbage service for all safe parking lots in Mountain View. In addition, as of last week, the City provided the following additional sanitation stations:

- An additional portable restroom and hand wash station at Rengstorff Park (adding to the restroom and hand wash station already there).
- A temporary portable restroom and hand wash station at Eagle Park.
- Four temporary additional hand-wash hygiene stations downtown, including three in various locations at the City civic center and one at the Transit Center.

The Community Services Department will be opening the Rengstorff Park restrooms located adjacent to Rengstorff Pool starting Friday, May 27. City Parks staff and the City's regularly contracted janitorial service (SWA) will provide servicing of these restrooms. These restrooms will be available during park hours as they were prior to closure. The two portable restrooms and hand washing stations at this location will continue to be available and cleaned on a daily basis. Park restrooms throughout the City have been closed in an effort to "flatten the curve" and encourage the public to follow the shelter in place order and will continue to remain locked. Due to the location of these restrooms being close to a large number of unstably housed individuals, these restrooms will be opened to help support their needs.

Free mobile showers, washer and dryer services through *Dignity on Wheels (DOW)* continue to be offered and located at CSA on Tuesday's from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. City staff and CSA have reached out to see if DOW has additional capacity. If this capacity is confirmed, staff proposes City funding to expand these services.

Staff recommends an appropriation of \$50,000 from the General Non-Operating Fund to fund the recently implemented restrooms and hand washing stations and the proposed expansion of mobile shower, washer and dryer services through the end of the fiscal year.

## City and County Safe Parking Lots

As noted in Attachment 2, there are two City-controlled safe parking lots (Shoreline Lot B and the Evelyn Lot) and two faith-based lots currently in operation in Mountain View

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 7 of 18

in accordance with the City's Safe Parking Ordinance. The City has also approved funding of safe parking services at the Palo Alto Housing Corporation (PAHC) site on Terra Bella Avenue and preparation of this lot is underway. The Terra Bella site has not yet met the lighting requirement in the Safe Parking Ordinance but staff is actively looking at alternatives for meeting this requirement in light of the current emergency. These sites provide safe parking spaces for a total of 75-95 vehicles, depending on vehicle size. Outreach to private lot owners by the Human Relations Commission and County Supervisor Joe Simitian is ongoing to expand the number of safe parking locations.

On February 25 and March 17, the City Council and Shoreline Regional Park Community Board respectively approved a pilot program to enter into a short-term lease with the County of Santa Clara and a lease amendment with Live Nation to extend the safe parking hours of operation to 24/7 at the Shoreline Lot to be funded and administered by the County under its State recognized shelter crisis.

Staff has been in contact with the County and with the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), which leases the Evelyn lot to the City, and PAHC about the expansion of safe parking hours to 24/7 at these locations and both parties are supportive. This expansion is timely in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to provide a safer environment for residents living in vehicles and to promote public health by enabling participants to shelter in place, observe social distancing to the extent possible, and minimize the spread of the virus.

The safe parking lots will comply with public health directives regarding social distancing, provide essential hygiene services, and provide case management and wrap around services to meet participants' basic needs and support them in a path to more stable housing. This extension of the existing safe parking program would be funded through a match of City and County funds. The County budget request is expected to go to the Board of Supervisors in April.

Staff recommends that the Council approve an expansion of the City's partnership with the County to operate 24/7 safe parking programs at the Evelyn and Terra Bella lots and authorize the City Manager or designee to execute related contracts with the County and VTA.

Staff recommends the appropriation of \$100,000 from the General Non-Operating Fund as a City match to County funding to support these services through the end of Fiscal Year 2019-20.

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 8 of 18

#### County Mobile Medical Services

Santa Clara County Public Health currently provides mobile health care services in Mountain View to people who are homeless and living in vehicles through a "back pack medicine" program. City staff has been working with the County Public Heath - Valley Homeless Healthcare Program regarding the use of City Downtown Parking - Lot 7 adjacent to Hope's Corner during the COVID-19 crisis one day per week from 7:00 to 11:00 AM. Noticing to the surrounding properties would be required.

Staff recommends Council authority for the City Manager or designee to execute a contract with the County Public Heath - Valley Homeless Healthcare Program for the use of this lot.

#### Grocery/Food Vouchers

To supplement the access to food services noted in Attachment 2, staff proposes creation and funding of a temporary grocery store gift card program to address COVID-19 impacts. This emergency program would be managed by CSA, similar to others run by CSA, and would assist clients in need of food services who meet certain income requirements and are enrolled in CSA client services and/or safe parking. The program would provide gift cards in the amount of \$25 per week (to be used for food only) to assist up to 100 clients.

Staff recommends the appropriation of \$50,000 from the General Non-Operating Fund to support this program through the end of the Fiscal Year, through an agreement with CSA.

#### **Utility Bill Assistance**

For the duration of the emergency, and for a period of time thereafter, the City will not shut off water or garbage service for non-payment of utility bills. The City will also waive penalties and interest on late payments during this time period. While the ultimate length of this emergency is still largely unknown, it is likely that some customers will need additional time to make payments due to lost jobs, reduced income and other economic impacts stemming from the emergency. To meet the immediate needs related to the COVID-19 emergency, staff will continue to work with customers to provide flexibility in making payments.

At the same time, staff is designing a program to provide some relief to those in the community that are hardest hit financially by the COVID-19 impacts. This program

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 9 of 18

would provide additional time to make payments and/or financial assistance for those customers that can demonstrate their inability to pay their utility bill and otherwise meet specified eligibility criteria.

Staff recommends appropriation up to \$100,000 from the General Non-Operating Fund to create a utility bill relief program.

## UPDATES ON PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION AND OTHER CITY EFFORTS

## Rent Relief

On March 17, 2020, the Council approved a \$500,000 emergency rent relief program for residential tenants in Mountain View who are unable to pay their rent due to COVID-19 related impacts. This program would be in addition to the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) that CSA already administers for the City. The key program components for the COVID-19 rent relief program (C-19 RRP) are as follows:

- Must meet one of the COVID-19 related impacts including the loss of employment, reduced employment/wages, increased medical costs, and increased childcare costs.
- Households earning up to 120% of area median income are eligible (approximately \$110,000 for a 1-person household and \$158,000 for a 4-person household).
- Up to 2 months assistance, with flexibility to extend based on need and/or funding availability.
- \$3,000 maximum per month.
- Flexibility to respond to client needs, including intaking and evaluating nontraditional or unique living situations or difficult to document circumstances.

Staff estimates that C-19 RRP could serve between 50-80 households, based on the program parameters above. CSA has confirmed its capacity to implement the program, as it has been in the process of staffing up and training as well as coordinating in advance with a partner agency to provide additional staffing resources if needed.

It is anticipated that there will be high demand for rent relief. As of March 25, 2020, Governor Newsom announced that approximately 1 million unemployment claims had

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 10 of 18

been filed since the beginning of March and estimates regarding COVID-19 induced unemployment range up to thirty percent. The jobs hardest hit are lower-paying positions such as in the service sector, and many potential clients eligible for the C-19 RRP are likely to be or to have been in such jobs.

Given the anticipated demand coupled with CSA's administrative capacity and commitment to process applications in a timely manner, it is expected that the City's funding will be quickly spent. CSA and City staff will meet at least once a week to review caseload, needs, and any issues. This will allow CSA to provide current information to the City on whether additional funding might be needed and how quickly.

Notably, CSA administers several different rental assistance programs for the region and for the City. When CSA intakes a potential client, its staff reviews the need and attempts to make the best match with the various programs. CSA will continue to do so by administering the C-19 RRP in concert with its suite of programs to maximize household stability during this challenging time.

This week, Santa Clara County announced the Silicon Valley Strong initiative, which consists of \$11 million in funding available for financially struggling residents countywide. CSA will be the regional administrator for North County for this initiative. The Silicon Valley Strong rent relief program is for households earning 80% AMI and less, while the Mountain View program is for households earning up to 120% AMI. Mountain View residents can apply for countywide funds through Silicon Valley Strong; however, the funds are for all residents in the County, and County staff have already indicated there has been overwhelming demand and not enough funding to cover the requests.

As mentioned above, the #TogetherMV donation portal is anticipated to facilitate corporate and individual contributions towards COVID-19 support efforts specifically in Mountain View, including the option of contributing to rent relief, with all such rent relief donations going directly to CSA to disperse as part of C-19 RRP.

## **Other Jurisdictions**

Attachment 3 provides a summary of rent relief programs that may be implemented or funded by other jurisdictions. The chart indicates whether the jurisdiction has suspended or is considering suspending tenant evictions due to nonpayment of rent caused by COVID-19 impacts, has a rent stabilization program, or has a rent relief program. Thirty-three (33) jurisdictions (including Mountain View) have adopted or #TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 11 of 18

will consider adoption of eviction suspension, and only seven of the jurisdictions directly fund a rent relief program. Mountain View has both a rental assistance program that has been in operation for several years, as well as rent-stabilization (Community Rent Stabilization and Fair Rent Act) and the recently approved rent relief program to mitigate COVID-19-related impacts. The Council will also be considering an urgency ordinance as part of tonight's agenda to suspend evictions for nonpayment of rent due to COVID-19.

## Affordable Housing Developers

Staff reached out to the non-profit developers who have built 100 percent affordable housing projects in Mountain View to see if they are taking any steps to provide relief for tenants. In general, the non-profit developers are taking various proactive steps to support their residents, including letting residents know how services will continue to be provided, providing information on COVID-19 guidance, actively offering forbearance or repayment plans, suspending evictions, and exploring the use of reserves to cover operating expenses. It has been noted that affordable housing lenders have not indicated to date that they would forgive or modify loan terms with the non-profit developers.

## Federal Actions

As discussed below, Congress is anticipated to pass a \$2 trillion stimulus package by the end of this week to help support the economy. The package includes additional funding for the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, as well as more flexibility for eligible uses of the funds, including the use of CDBG for rent relief. As an entitlement jurisdiction, the City already receives an annual CDBG amount. Staff will continue to monitor when additional CDBG funding will become available, how it will be distributed, and when.

## Mortgage Relief

Similar to renters, COVID-19 could impact the ability of a homeowner or property owner to pay their mortgage, which could lead to foreclosure. Below is a summary of various mortgage relief considerations that staff has evaluated.

• Moratorium on foreclosures: The public sector has little authority to require lenders to suspend mortgage payments or to implement a moratorium on foreclosures. The California Governor's Executive Order suspends judicial foreclosures (foreclosures that must go through the court system) but only to the

extent that such an action could be used to eject a tenant (either residential or commercial) and only if the local jurisdiction has suspended evictions for nonpayment; the Order does not cover non-judicial foreclosures, where the lender can foreclose on a property without going through the court system.

- Destination: Home/County funding: As mentioned above, CSA will administer Destination: Home/County funds to for North County for households earning 80% AMI and less. It is staff's understanding that some of the funding can be used for housing costs including mortgages though it is likely that most of the funds will go to assist renters.
- Federal direction:
  - Federal Housing Administration has enacted an "immediate foreclosure and eviction moratorium for single family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages" for the next 60 days.
  - The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) announced that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will offer mortgage forbearance to multifamily property owners affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with the condition that they suspend evictions for renters who can't pay rent due to the pandemic. The forbearance is available to all multifamily properties with a Fannie- or Freddie-backed mortgage and the eviction suspensions are in place for the duration of the time a property owner remains in forbearance. This could provide relief to landlords who own multifamily rental properties and have tenants who are unable to pay their rent due to COVID-19.
- Lenders: Staff is aware that major lenders such as JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citi, and US Bank are issuing a 90-day waiver on mortgage payments in California. Bank of America is offering a 30-day waiver. Staff will continue to monitor if these lenders take additional measures to provide relief and if any other financial institutions will also take similar measures.
- It is recommended that homeowner or multifamily property owners who are concerned about their ability to pay their mortgage payments due to COVID-19 impacts immediately contact their lender to discuss potential options regarding their upcoming payments.

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 13 of 18

## Child care for essential workers (first responders and medical workers)

The County is compiling requirements and guidelines for any organization that provides childcare during the COVID-19 emergency. The Community Services Department has been working to identify ways to provide childcare opportunities to first-responders and other essential service workers in the City through two tracks: hosting a program through the Recreation Division with permanent and part time City staff, and partnering with other agencies in the area who are actively looking to provide similar services.

Recreation staff has created the framework for an in-house program and is working through a range of challenges to determine if such a program is feasible. These challenges include the ability to meet County child care requirements, conduct participant health screening, have sufficient capacity to staff the program, and address risk management concerns.

The second option of collaborating with other agencies is showing promise. El Camino Hospital has partnered with the YMCA to provide a childcare program for hospital workers. This program launched this past Monday, March 23, 2020, and City staff is in communication with YMCA staff to receive additional information related to the operations and associated challenges.

The Los Altos School District is interested in creating a childcare program for essential service workers and possibly for other working families that are in need, in collaboration with the City of Mountain View, City of Los Altos and Town of Los Altos Hills. Staff will continue to coordinate with these parties and the YMCA and will update City Council regarding our progress.

#### Senior Meals

CSA discontinued its operation of the Senior Nutrition Program at the Senior Center on March 17 as their site coordinator was unable to work on-site when the shelter in place was announced. CSA has spoken with County representatives who have approved CSA to operate without this staff member present. CSA is working to gather needed resources and will begin operation of an updated senior nutrition program over the next week. CSA will change to operating a drive-up distribution model, similar to what other County programs have implemented. Once a new start date has been announced, staff will provide an update to City Council and the community. #TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 14 of 18

## Update on Legislative Measures to Address COVID-19 Impacts on the Community

Action and resources are needed at all levels of government to address the COVID-19 emergency. Staff has maintained contact with Mountain View's state and federal legislative representatives and is carefully monitoring initiatives to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Mountain View community. Some of these initiatives are noted in the sections above. Additional information is summarized below and further detailed in Attachment 4. With new initiatives being announced on a regular basis, this information is subject to change.

The State of California is taking proactive steps to ensure that workers affected by COVID-19 are protected from discrimination and understand all the benefits available to them. The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development has compiled helpful small business resources and information for employers, employees and all Californians as related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak <u>https://business.ca.gov/coronavirus-2019/</u>.

Individuals unable to work due to medical quarantine or illness may qualify for <u>Disability Insurance</u>. Those unable to work because they are caring for an ill or quarantined family member, may qualify for <u>Paid Family Leave</u>. Those who have lost their job or have had their hours reduced, may be able to partially recover their wages by filing an <u>Unemployment Insurance claim</u>. Employees may use accrued paid sick leave when sick, caring for a sick family member or when exercising preventive care when civil authorities recommend quarantine, and may file a <u>Wage claim</u> if use of accrued sick leave is denied. Employees who are unable to do their usual job because they were exposed to and contracted COVID-19 during the regular course of their work may be eligible for <u>Workers' Compensation</u> benefits.

The deadline for filing California and federal tax returns has been extended until July 15. In addition, the California Franchise Tax Board and the Internal Revenue Service will waive interest and any late filing and payment penalties that would otherwise apply. Enrollment in Covered California has been extended through June 30th. All medically necessary screening and testing for COVID-19 are free of charge, and all health plans available through Medi-Cal and Covered California offer telehealth options.

The U.S. Department of Education is temporarily waiving interest on all federally held student loans and has directed federal lenders to suspend student loan payments for 60 days. In addition, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara issued a <u>notice</u> on March 18,

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 15 of 18

2020 requesting that all insurance companies provide their policyholders with at least a 60-day grace period to pay insurance premiums.

On March 25, 2020, Congressional leaders announced agreement on the major points of a \$2 trillion stimulus package. This is the third legislative action taken by Congress this month to address the economic impacts as a result of COVID-19 pandemic. President Trump previously signed into law an \$8.3 billion emergency aid package, and a package providing paid leave, free testing and additional aid for families affected by the pandemic.

The most recent package has passed the Senate and is expected to pass in the House of Representatives on March 27, 2020. The stimulus aims to sustain workers and businesses that are losing income as vast sections of the American economy are shutting down under quarantine orders. A brief summary of the package is included below.

- □ Direct support for small and large companies that have lost all or most of their customers in recent weeks;
- Direct payment to low- and middle-income families;
- □ Measures to encourage companies to keep employees on their payrolls even if their businesses have shuttered temporarily;
- □ Increased aid to workers who are laid off or have had their hours and wages cut back;
- □ An expansion of unemployment benefits that would extend unemployment insurance by 13 weeks and include a four-month enhancement of benefits;
- □ \$130 billion in aid for hospitals, and \$150 billion for state and some local governments.

The City will provide detailed information to the community about the stimulus package components once the bill is passed by Congress and signed by the President.

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 16 of 18

## FISCAL IMPACT

As noted above staff recommends that the City appropriate the following from the General Non-Operating Fund:

- \$400,0000 to support small business relief efforts
- \$100,000 as a City match to County funding to support provision of 24/7 safe parking services at the Evelyn and Terra Bella lots
- \$100,000 for a utility bill relief program
- \$50,000 to fund the recently implemented restrooms and hand washing stations and the proposed expansion of mobile shower, washer and dryer services
- \$50,000 for food card services through the end of Fiscal Year 2019-20

This would result in a total appropriation from the General Nonoperating Fund in the amount of \$700,000. There is sufficient unallocated fund balance to cover this appropriation.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

- 1. Not approve any or all of the proposed appropriations and authorizations
- 2. Provide other direction

#TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 17 of 18

#### PUBLIC NOTICING

The special meeting agenda was posted pursuant to Government Code Section 54956. The agenda was posted at <u>mountainview.legistar.com</u> and on the official notice bulletin board in front of City Hall, and e-mails were sent to City Council meeting agenda subscribers and notification was provided to *The Mountain View Voice*. Notifications were also posted on City of Mountain View social media accounts to include Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor as well as special edition of *The Briefing* newsletter e-mailed to a subscriber list.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Wayne Chen Assistant Community Development Director

Tiffany Chew Business Development Specialist

Kimberly Thomas Assistant to the City Manager

Christina Gilmore Assistant to the City Manager

John Marchant Community Services Director

Jesse Takahashi Finance and Administrative Services Director

Audrey Seymour Ramberg Assistant City Manager/ Chief Operating Officer

WC-TC-KST-CG-JM-JT-ASR/5/CAM/602-03-27-20CR/200189

Kimbra McCarthy City Manager #TogetherMV – Update and Recommendations on Rent Relief Program, Small Business Assistance Program, Safe Parking, Utility Bill Assistance, and Other Community Support Efforts to Address the COVID-19 Emergency March 27, 2020 Page 18 of 18

- Attachments: 1. Summary of Santa Clara County Continuum of Care Efforts in Response to COVID-19
  - 2. Summary of Resources Available to Homeless and Unstably Housed Residents
  - 3. Summary of California Jurisdictions' Actions on Rent Relief Programs
  - 4. Summary of Federal and State Legislative Initiatives