



MEETING DATE: 4/03/06
ITEM NO. 8
DESK ITEM

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: April 3, 2006

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

FROM: DEBRA J. FIGONE, TOWN MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDER THE ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDS FOR FY 2006/07
A. REFER ALLOCATION OF FY 2006/07 GENERAL FUND GRANTS TO THE FY 2006/07 OPERATING BUDGET.
B. ADOPT A RESOLUTION ALLOCATING FY 2006/07 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS.

Attached is a letter from Lee Fagot encouraging support of the Community Services Commission recommendations. Also attached is an email from Richard Lowenthal, Mayor of the City of Cupertino, requesting that the Council consider funding the proposal from Cupertino Community Services.

Attachments:

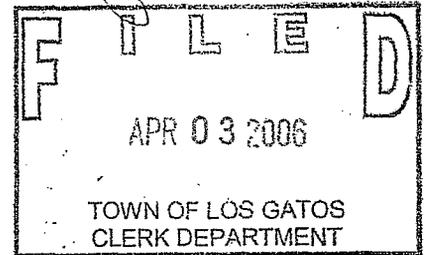
- 1. Letter from Lee Fagot
- 2. Email from Richard Lowenthal

PREPARED BY: REGINA A. FALKNER
Community Services Director

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Reviewed by: RSJ Assistant Town Manager AK Town Attorney _____ Clerk _____ Finance
_____ Community Development Revised: 4/3/06 11:53 am

Lee Fagot
845 Lilac Way
Los Gatos, CA 95032
408 358 8165



April 1, 2006

Los Gatos Town Council
Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95031

Dear Los Gatos Town Council,

I am writing this letter as I am not sure I will be able to attend the meeting April 3 to present in person, and therefore ask you accept this letter for public testimony during the discussion of Community Grant Funding.

As the Council reviews the budget for the upcoming year, and we all recognize the unstable sales tax projections for Los Gatos the next few years, I ask that you consider getting the maximum bang for your spending.

This is the 10th year I have participated, for A PLACE FOR TEENS, in the Community Services Grant process. And, more than ever, having listened to the other agencies present each of their proposals, and report on their accomplishments from last year, I am impressed at the community benefit so many of these agencies provide. Further, because so much of the service they deliver is developed, managed and dispersed by volunteers, there is no better money you can spend. These folks provide time, insight, courage and heart for their fellow citizens. The moneys requested often are for some required professional staff, critical supplies and those items they cannot round-up themselves. Volunteerism stretches these dollars like no government agency, or, most likely, any other spending you are authorizing.

I am NOT asking for additional funding for any agency in particular, but do ask you to work the total town budget to ensure that, at a minimum, the money the Community Services Commission allocated to these agencies is funded. The Community Services Commission takes seriously their charge, and works within your guidelines and budget to investigate and allocate. Please consider providing any additional moneys available as you finalize the budget to the Community Services Commission so they can allocate as they deem appropriate. The Town is a direct beneficiary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.


Lee Fagot

ATTACHMENT 1

Debra Figone - CDBG funding plea

From: "Richard Lowenthal" <richard@lowenthal.com>
To: <dmcnuttt@losgatosca.gov>
Date: 3/31/2006 11:49 PM
Subject: CDBG funding plea
CC: "Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto" <naomin@cupertinocommunityservices.org>, "Dolly Sandoval" <dolly@dollysandoval.com>

Dear Mayor McNutt,

I'm writing to encourage you to consider committing some of the Los Gatos CDBG funding to Cupertino Community Services (CCS). CCS is a poor name for an organization that provides services to needy people in Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, Cupertino, and West San Jose.

CCS is the United Way Emergency Network provider for Los Gatos and that is how we came to provide support to your fine city.

I hope that you're aware that nobody in Los Gatos needs to go hungry. They are welcomed at the CCS food pantry to get the food they need. I hope you are also aware that CCS will provide nutritious meals and a safe and warm place to sleep for homeless men from Los Gatos.

CCS estimates that in the coming year, 10% of the clients of CCS will be from Los Gatos. Last year they provided food to 288 people from your city. They distributed 16,607 pounds of food to Los Gatos residents. They provided over \$12,000 in rental, utility, and cash assistance to people living in Los Gatos that were having a hard time making ends meet.

Cupertino, San Jose, and Saratoga provide funding to CCS now. We hope you will too. If you don't, we will continue to take care of your residents in trouble, but to us it seems only fair that you help too.

At the City of Cupertino, we rely on CCS to take care of our needy because the agency does it well and leverages our funding through the use of other grants and volunteerism.

By the way, CCS would love to have a Los Gatos representative on its board. In that way, someone with the best interests of Los Gatos at heart could ensure that your money is well-spent.

I know that your staff is recommending against providing any funding to CCS. Their reasoning is that you've never funded them before, and with CDBG funding cuts, you shouldn't start funding them now.

But CCS has been serving your residents for many, many years without help from Los Gatos. We hope you see that it's time to finally step up.

Thanks for reading this lengthy mail.

Sincerely,

Richard Lowenthal
Member, CCS board
Mayor, City of Cupertino

ATTACHMENT 2