



COUNCIL AGENDA: 11/10/2020
FILE: 20-1388
ITEM: 8.5

Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: November 10, 2020

Approved

Sylvia Arenas

Date

11/10/2020

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 MEASURE E REAL PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX SPENDING PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

Within the “Homelessness Prevention and Solutions” Measure E spending category:

Approve and allocate up to \$500,000 of the funds dedicated for Homelessness Prevention for rental assistance, homelessness prevention, and/or rapid rehousing partnerships with Community Based Organizations and nonprofits serving survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

BACKGROUND

Measure E dollars, while approved for general City services, were agreed upon by Council to be used to address homelessness prevention and solutions in San José. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, homelessness prevention and solutions continue to be vital as already vulnerable populations become further isolated by the conditions of the pandemic. Rapid rehousing for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and families impacted by violence are critical components to a successful and sustainable safety exit plan. It is a vital solution to preventing homelessness.

According to the World Health Organization, violence against women increases during emergencies including pandemics. Since the pandemic, the continued restrictive public health order increases isolation to contain the spread of infection and the likelihood of women and children being exposed to violence. Already facing the economic challenges of the pandemic, violence leaves our families extremely vulnerable to becoming unhoused. Our San José families that are impacted by violence need immediate solutions to rapid re-housing. Measure E offers greater flexibility in funding to partner with Community Based Organizations and nonprofits than Federal dollars to better assist and meet the growing needs to support our families impacted by violence with cultural and linguistic competency.