

Baumb, Nelly

From: Chris Robell <chris_robell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Small business grant suggestion

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

As you consider who should receive part of the \$500k matching grant, I would put Antonio's Nut House on the list of potential recipients. That place is Palo Alto's LAST dive bar (since Old Pro and Oasis in MP have since closed to much dismay).

The place is loved by many, especially the younger, diverse population we all presumably value. And it's almost always packed on evenings.

I see an ownership change on their window, and a mention that the Mexican food restaurant inside will be open. I hope it stays the same soulful place. I know they are struggling like everyone. This place is a Palo Alto mainstay and highly valued by our community.

I'm sure you've seen the news about Shake Shack getting \$10 million of PPP. Let's not make the same mistake by given grant money to an easily substituted vanilla establishment or chain.

Tough decisions ahead given our fiscal challenges. Your thoughtful decisions are much appreciated.

Chris Robell

Baumb, Nelly

From: Larry Yang <lyang8888@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:58 PM
To: Council, City; City Mgr
Subject: Support for city-led small business relief fund

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I'm happy to see the City moving to establish a small business relief fund.

I agree that the fund should be administered by an organization experienced in collecting donations and disbursing grant money, such as one of our local community foundations.

I also agree that this fund must include contributions from the community, and not just consist of city funds. I am ready to donate thousands of dollars towards small business relief; I just need a vehicle that I have confidence will get the money to the businesses who need it. The City should use its "bully pulpit" to rally others in the community to this cause.

I've lived in Palo Alto for 30 years, and I can remember when University Ave, California Ave, Edgewater Plaza and Town and Country were ghost towns. Through many hard-fought years of city planning, they are now vibrant community gathering places. I shudder to think how quickly those places will revert to the ghost towns of the past.

Thank you.

== Larry Yang
Ramona St

Baumb, Nelly

From: Larry Yang <lyang8888@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Council, City; City Mgr
Subject: Support for city-led small business COVID-19 relief fund

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I am looking forward to learning how the city will establish a small business COVID-19 relief fund.

I agree that the fund should be administered by an organization experienced in collecting donations and disbursing grant money, such as one of our local community foundations.

I also agree with Mayor Fine, Vice Mayor DuBois and Council Member Filseth that this fund must include contributions from the community and not just consist of city funds. I am fortunate enough to be able to donate towards small business relief. I am confident the City can use its "bully pulpit" to rally others in the community to this important cause.

I've lived in Palo Alto for 30 years, and I can remember when University Ave, California Ave, Edgewater Plaza and Town and Country were ghost towns. Through many hard-fought years of city planning, they are now vibrant community gathering places. I shudder to think how quickly those places will revert to the ghost towns of the past.

Thank you.

== Larry Yang
Ramona St

Baumb, Nelly

From: Larry Yang <lyang8888@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Council, City; City Mgr
Subject: Re: Support for city-led small business COVID-19 relief fund

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Some ideas on a mechanism for deciding which businesses should receive a grant:

- collect applications before a deadline and consider them all as a batch (to avoid first come first serve)
- a small committee of people who know the city well should select the top N businesses. A diverse committee (eg, young, old; former/current elected, private/public) can help avoid biases: friends' businesses, favorite/frequented businesses, geographic bias, etc.
- The application could include a simple "what will I do with the money?" question (pay rent, pay employees, pay off debt). It might be hard to design a rubric in advance; this is where having humans aligned on the outcome (eg "preserve the character of our community") comes in handy.

Thanks for doing this!

== Larry

On Sun, May 3, 2020 at 4:46 PM Larry Yang <lyang8888@gmail.com> wrote:

I am looking forward to learning how the city will establish a small business COVID-19 relief fund.

I agree that the fund should be administered by an organization experienced in collecting donations and disbursing grant money, such as one of our local community foundations.

I also agree with Mayor Fine, Vice Mayor DuBois and Council Member Filseth that this fund must include contributions from the community and not just consist of city funds. I am fortunate enough to be able to donate towards small business relief. I am confident the City can use its "bully pulpit" to rally others in the community to this important cause.

I've lived in Palo Alto for 30 years, and I can remember when University Ave, California Ave, Edgewater Plaza and Town and Country were ghost towns. Through many hard-fought years of city planning, they are now vibrant community gathering places. I shudder to think how quickly those places will revert to the ghost towns of the past.

Thank you.

== Larry Yang
Ramona St