

Baumb, Nelly

From: William Ross <wross@lawross.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 9:59 PM
To: Maqbool, Erum; Council, City
Subject: Agenda Item No. 1; City Council Special Meeting December 23, 2020
Attachments: City of Palo Alto Council (Agenda Item 1) 12.22.20.pdf

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

Please see attached communication.

Thank you.

William D. Ross, Esq.

Law Offices of William D. Ross

A Professional Corporation

400 Lambert Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94306

Tel: (650) 843-8080; Fax: (650) 843-8093

E-Mail: wross@lawross.com

William D. Ross
David Schwarz
Kypros G. Hostetter

Law Offices of
William D. Ross
400 Lambert Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94306
Telephone: (650) 843-8080
Facsimile: (650) 843-8093

Los Angeles Office:

11420 Santa Monica Blvd
#25532
Los Angeles, CA 90025

File No: 1/10

December 22, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

city.council@cityofpaloalto.org
erum.maqbool@cityofpaloalto.org

City Council
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301
Attention: Erum Maqbool

Re: Agenda Item No. 1; City Council Special Meeting December 23, 2020; Proposed Amendment to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Action Plan

Mayor and Council:

As a resident, taxpayer and business owner within the City of Palo Alto (“City”), I respectfully maintain there has been inadequate notice for the hearing for amendments to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fiscal Year Annual Action Plan (the “Plan”) and that additional consideration should be given for adequately funding the demonstrated need of increased Emergency Medical Service (“EMS”) Advanced Life Support (“ALS”) transport by the City Fire Department in the proposed Plan amendments.

First, with respect to notice, although the Staff Report contends that there has been adequate notice by publication among other things through *The Daily Post* in late October 2020, it is respectfully noted that critical changes in the County Health Orders have created different obligations with respect to the homeless community and the spread of COVID-19 and needed EMS ALS transport since that time. The State’s December 3, 2020 Required Stay-at-Home Order and the resulting County Health Officer’s Mandatory Directive effective until January 4, 2021, reflect very different circumstances from late October 2020 concerning greater impacts of COVID-19 requiring greater notice to ensure efficient and effective use of available CDBG funds.

For example, there is no indication that notice was given to the Santa Clara County Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (“LEMSA”), an agency responsible for assuring adequate EMS ALS response in designated Exclusive Operating Areas adjacent to the City or to the San Mateo County LEMSAs which has the same function.

On the substantive issue of allocation of CDBG funds, it is noted in several locations in the Staff Report that the amount of “\$43,290”...“*can only be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the spread of COVID-19.*” (Emphasis added)

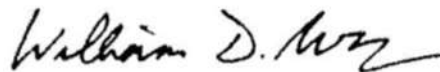
Conversations with existing Fire Department employees indicate an *increase* in EMS ALS response on COVID-19 issues. More specifically, Medic 66, Medic 63 and Medic 61 units run numerous homeless transports in recent reporting cycles. Personal observation has seen such transports being accomplished at the University Avenue Railroad Station.

Further, until the COVID-19 vaccine, whether the Pfizer-BioNTech version or Moderna version is dispensed to *all* members of the understaffed Fire Department, those funds should be allocated *specifically* for that purpose.

These comments are offered in the real world of City Fire Department periodic closure of Station 2 which impacts the Fire Department EMS ALS response time Citywide.

It is respectfully requested that the \$43,290 amount be allocated to the City Fire Department to increase Staffing for EMS ALS Ambulance response and to assure vaccination of all Fire Department First Responder personnel.

Very truly yours,



William D. Ross

WDR/as