



PUBLIC DEFENDER Contra Costa County

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Public Defender

Attachment C

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To: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
From: Robin Lipetzky, Contra Costa County Public Defender
Date: September 13, 2017
Subject: Private Foundations' Funding Commitments to Support *Stand Together CoCo*

Summary: In response to direction provided by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors' Finance Committee at its meeting on August 16, 2017, the Public Defender's Office respectfully presents to the Board of Supervisors the attached letters of commitment totaling pledges of \$575,000 made by philanthropic organizations to support *Stand Together CoCo*.

These letters represent an extraordinary, unified, and unprecedented expression of collective urgency on the part of Contra Costa County's leading funders: The Y&H Soda Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, The California Endowment, The East Bay Community Foundation, and The Firedoll Foundation.

As detailed in the commitment letters, and consistent with direction provided by the Finance Committee, these grant awards are contingent upon the County's agreement to allocate \$500,000 annually to support the project during its 2.5-year pilot phase spanning January 2018-June 2020.

Background: In recent months, the Board's Finance Committee has been considering a community-driven proposal to establish an immigrant rights and deportation defense initiative.

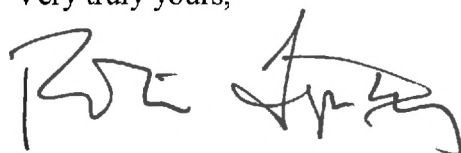
A pilot project to be conducted in partnership with community-based organizations to be selected through a competitive process, *Stand Together CoCo* is designed to provide culturally competent, no-cost rapid response support, deportation defense services and clinics, and immigrant rights education and training to support Contra Costa families impacted by anti-immigrant policies and practices.

The *Stand Together CoCo* proposal was considered at the Finance Committee's August 16, 2017 meeting. After discussion and public comment, the Finance Committee decided to recommend the project to the Board of Supervisors at its September 19, 2017 meeting. As a condition of that recommendation, the Finance Committee required the project to secure a minimum of \$100,000 in grants from private foundations to help underwrite costs of the 18/19 fiscal year, with written commitments to be available to the Board of Supervisors for its September 19th meeting.

Conclusion: Having generated commitments of \$575,000 in private funding for 17/18 and 18/19, the project has fulfilled and substantially exceeded the directive issued by the Finance Committee at its meeting on August 16, 2017.

Furthermore, having successfully generated 100% of the gap funds necessary to support the project in its first two years, *Stand Together CoCo* is poised to begin implementation immediately, pending only the \$500,000 annual allocation recommended by the Finance Committee to the Board of Supervisors.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Lipetzky", written in a cursive style.

Robin Lipetzky
Public Defender