



NORMAN YEE

DATE: 6/21/2018

TO: Supervisor Malia Cohen
Chair, Budget & Finance Committee

FROM: Supervisor Norman Yee

RE: Response to Chair Malia Cohen's Spending Plan Draft dated June 15, 2018

Dear Supervisor Cohen:

Thank you for your leadership as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and for sharing a preliminary spending plan on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. I commend you for your vision and willingness to create a more transparent, collaborative approach to our City's budgeting process.

I believe that the preliminary spending plan highlighted a number of core funding priorities of the Board of Supervisors including more services for youth, expansion of summertime educational opportunities, investment in workforce development, housing subsidies for our most vulnerable populations, support for seniors, and improved response and prevention of sexual assault and child abuse. However, there are a growing number of needs that continue to call for more attention that were not included that I want to ensure receive consideration. The preliminary spending plan was confined due to the unknown amount of funding that will be made available for re-allocation after Department savings and other revenue updates. As we identify the actual amount of funding available for discretionary allocation, I urge the Board of Supervisors to re-evaluate the City's growing needs. I believe that the Board will need to be prudent, but pliable as we try to most effectively and efficiently expend our taxpayers' dollars.

As the spending plan is further refined, I hope you will take into consideration the following recommendations. I also attached an addendum to this memo indicating the budget areas that I believe should be further defined in order to directly serve high-needs populations; and other priorities that I believe will not be sufficiently funded by the draft proposal set forward.

Spending Plan Priorities Requiring Further Expansion

- **Early Care and Education** – Last year, the Board of Supervisors allocated funding of \$4 million to support early care and education, specifically for infant and toddler subsidies. Infant and toddlers has the least amount of resources in the field. This one-time funding supported families, but in order to continue making an impact on the growing needs for this population, additional investment is required. As of May 31st there were 3,334 low income children on the subsidized child care waitlist. More than half of the waitlist 55% are infants and toddlers. The waitlist continues to grow with infants and toddlers from nearly every zip code throughout San Francisco--the highest number of infants and toddlers live in the

following zip codes: 94112 (Outer Mission, Excelsior, Ingleside), 94124 (Bayview/Hunter's Point), and 94134 (Visitation Valley, Sunnydale, Portola). Quality early care and education is essential for these working families and vital for the successful development of these young children.

- **Youth Services and Out of School Time** – There is a vast diversity within the San Francisco youth community that require culturally competent programming and services. We received dozens of requests for more programming and I would like to see a more comprehensive approach so that we can ensure adequate funding that is specified for different needs and populations. One of the areas I see specifically lacking is additional funding for court appointed advocates for youth in the foster care system. With foster youth forced to move out of the city, there is a pressing need for court appointed advocates to receive the resources needed to continue serving their mentees. These adult advocates are often the only lifelines for these foster youth who often get lost in the system.
- **Immigrant Protection and Voting Registration Education Outreach** should be fully and adequately funded to implement voter-mandated Prop N passed in 2016, which was also unanimously supported by the Board of Supervisors through Ordinance No. 128-18. Given the threats from the current Federal administration, it is our duty to ensure that we expeditiously implement the program while providing resources for our immigrant population on their rights and the risks.
- **Food Security Programs** – There are currently 2,000 individuals on the waitlist for home-delivered groceries. We can do more to support these isolated seniors and people with disabilities. I also believe we should invest in home delivered hot meals and congregate lunch meals to continue providing nutritional and social support for this increasing population.
- **Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool for Families and Transitional Aged Youth** is an important preventative investment to ensure that families and at-risk transitional aged youth are provided an added safety net to keep them off the streets and moved into safe, stable, and sustainable living conditions. I also believe there should be more subsidies for seniors and people with disabilities that are often on fixed incomes and at-risk of housing displacement.

Spending Plan Priorities to Include

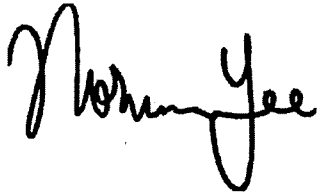
- **Workforce Development and Employment Opportunities for Seniors** – The Department of Aging and Adult Services and Human Services Agency both have indicated the efficacy of senior-based employment training and workforce opportunities. These jobs allow seniors to become financially stable and allow them the ability to age in place.
- **Gap Funding for Seniors in Residential Care Facilities** – The astronomical costs of running residential care facilities is forcing many to shutter or move out of the city entirely. Currently, residential care facility operators are absorbing the costs that are not covered by Social Security payments and patients' out-of-pocket contributions. By offsetting some of

these costs, we will be able to keep more seniors in these facilities allowing them dignified care and the ability to stay within their communities.

- **Ed's Neighborhood – Vision Zero Youth Education Program** – In honor and memory of our honorable Mayor Edwin Lee, Ed's Neighborhood is a life-sized, transportable set replicating city streets that engages school-aged youth on pedestrian and traffic safety. The movable Ed's Neighborhood set is already built and will be visiting schools across the city, but there is currently no funding to provide the educational program support to implement the curriculum and the pedestrian safety exercises.

I hope that this feedback is helpful to you as we enter the next phase of deliberations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I earnestly look forward to working with you on passing a balanced and thoughtful budget for San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Yee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'N' and 'Y'.

Supervisor Norman Yee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
District 7

	Program Description	Policy Area	Sub Category	June 15 Funded?	Suggested Action?
1	Infant Toddler Scholarship Fund - Increasing Investments in early care and education for infants and	Early Care and Education	Other	Yes (Funded)	Expand
2	Home Delivered Meals	Senior Services	Food Security	No (New)	Add New
3	Home Delivered Groceries	Senior Services	Food Security	Yes (Funded)	Expand
4	Congregate Lunch Meals	Senior Services	Food Security	No (New)	Add New
5	SRO Food Security Initiative	Public Health	Food Security	No (New)	Add New
6		Youth Services	Out of School Time	Yes (Funded)	Narrow / Specify
7	Community Engagement Program for Asian Pacific Islander Youth	Youth Services	Out of School Time	Yes (Funded)	Narrow / Specify

8	Childcare Resource & Referral Services for low-income, immigrant families with young children	Early Care and Education	Parent Engagement and Education	No (New)	Add New
9	Legal services for prevention and intervention of elder abuse in the Asian Pacific Islander community	Senior Services	Other	No (New)	Add New
10	Court Appointed Mentorship for Foster Youth	Youth Services	Prevention and Diversion	No (New)	Add New
11	Patch (Gap) Funding for Residential Care Facilities	Senior Services	Aging in Place	No (New)	Add New
12	Senior employment support for job placement, training, and subsidized positions	Senior Services	Workforce Development	No (New)	Add New

13	Mental health services for homeless families	Public Health	Family Homelessness	No (New)	Add New
14	Need-based subsidies for families	Housing	Flexible Subsidies	Yes (Funded)	Expand
15	Flexible housing subsidies for seniors & people with disabilities	Housing	Flexible Subsidies	No (New)	Add New
16	Voting Registry Education Outreach	Community Services	Voting Rights	Yes (Funded)	Expand
17	Navigation Center for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY)	Homelessness	Affordable Housing Access	No (New)	Add New
18	Ed's Neighborhood	Youth Services	Vision Zero	No (New)	Add New

Amount Suggested/Justification
Expand to \$4,000,000 to continue supporting early care and education, especially for families with infants and toddlers. There is a growing unmet need with 3,334 low-income children on the waitlist. The funding will support the Infant Toddler Scholarship Fund providing more child care provider subsidies to increase access to infant & toddler care for low-income families.
\$774,000 to serve the 202 seniors and adults with disabilities on the waitlist providing them with nutritious meals and social support to prevent isolation and health conditions.
Expand to fund the total amount of \$1,000,000 to serve over 1,000 seniors and adults with disabilities. The waitlist currently has 2,000 individuals.
\$500,000 to support congregate lunch meals to provide additional support to existing services. Currently, there are over 1,000 incidences where eligible clients are turned away from a hot meal.
Over 80% of SRO tenants are without a secure source of food. Many who receive SSI are not eligible for CalFresh and have high risk for nutritional deficiencies. Any funding would make a difference in creating pilot programs to provide meals to SRO tenants that have extreme needs to prevent further health risks.
Given the complex diversity of San Francisco's population, we should invest in culturally competent and relevant youth programming to best serve the different needs. Overall, the youth out of school time category should be looked at comprehensively to ensure that there is enough funding and that target populations are served equitably.
\$75,000 to support programming to increase leadership development, civic engagement and empowerment of Asian Pacific Islander high school youth

\$100,000 to provide resource & referral services to low-income immigrant families. Low-income, immigrant families face barriers in receiving high-quality access to affordable, quality early care and education. Culturally competent bilingual support is critical to reach this population.

\$80,000. Due to cultural and language barriers, Asian Pacific Islander seniors are least likely to report financial and physical abuse. Legal services for this population is underfunded and unsupported, which leads to further abuse due to lack of enforcement of protections. This funding will support legal services to better educate this population and represent them in elder abuse cases.

\$100,000 to continue sustaining court appointed advocates that represent and mentor foster youth. Foster youth are being moved away from the City because of the scarcity of resources and court-appointed advocates are often the only lifeline/connection to the communities they grew up in. Foster youth are at high risk due to the lack of institutional and social support. This program is critical in ensuring that these youth are provided the wrap-around services needed to thrive.

\$500,000 to allow more seniors the ability to age in place in residential care facilities. Due to the rising cost of operation, residential care facilities are shuttering or moving out of San Francisco leaving many seniors without care. This gap funding will help offset the cost currently being absorbed by operators because of the discrepancy between social security payments and patients' out of pocket contributions.

Add \$1,000,000 to support programs that focus on workforce development and employment opportunities for seniors. Seniors who are able to work struggle with job placement. By providing job opportunities, seniors are able to serve their communities and earn supplemental income allowing them to age in place.

\$887,375 to restore funding mental health services for families experiencing homelessness. This area is grossly unmet. The level of trauma that homelessness and instability can leave a lasting impact on families, especially those with young children. These services could prove critical in helping to stabilize families and ensuring healthier outcomes for these at-risk youth.

Expand to fund \$450,104.00 specifically for homeless families. This would backfill funding that was previously allocated. Families at risk of homelessness need this safety net to prevent them from losing their homes. We should be investing in preventative measures to combat homelessness.

Add \$3,000,000 to support flexible housing subsidies for seniors and people with disabilities. There is an expiring source of funds that is inadequate to sustain this vulnerable population. The elderly and people with disabilities have fixed incomes making them at risk of losing their homes. To prevent homelessness, we need to invest in ways to keep people housed.

Expand to fully fund the \$375,000 required to properly implement immigrant protection and voting registration outreach. Given that this initiative is fully supported by the voters and the Board of Supervisors, we should provide the adequate funding to ensure that immigrant voters are fully informed about their rights, the risks, and what protections are involved.

Support for transitional aged youth should be considered its own priority area. Transitional aged youth are a significant portion of our homeless population and deserve targeted attention to break the cycle of poverty. A dedicated navigation center would create an access point for these young people to receive housing and social support services.

Ed's Neighborhood, named after the late Mayor Edwin Lee, is a life-size set that is used to teach students pedestrian and traffic safety. The set is already built, but the program to teach the curriculum is currently unfunded. The program requires \$50,000 to bring this educational program to schools across the city. Vision Zero is a City priority and the best way to develop a culture of pedestrian and traffic safety is to start with our school-aged youth who often have to navigate our dangerous city streets.