CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Members Present: Leticia Lopez, Juliet Goff, Julia Juarez, Michael Gavina, David Juarez
Members Absent: Steven Froberg, James Chang

Committee Member Juarez led the flag salute.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

City Clerk Ayala announced that there were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Brenes, Executive Director, Inner Cycle Struggle, provided a brief overview of the services provided to families through the organization.

Alejandra Meza, Kristian Cardenas, and Estephanie Solano, youth alumni of Inner Cycle Struggle, commented on the support and positive impact they received from Inner Cycle Struggle.

MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Regular Vernon CommUNITY Fund Grant Committee held on February 20, 2019
   Recommendation: A. Receive and File.

MOTION

   Member Goff moved and Member Gavina seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Vernon CommUNITY Fund Grant Committee held on February 20, 2019. The motion carried 5 – 0, Members Froberg and Chang absent.

GRANT AWARDING

2. Award of Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Docket IV Vernon CommUNITY Fund Direct Service Grants
   Recommendation: A. Find that the award of the grants proposed in this staff report is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) because it is a government fiscal activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the
environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378. And even if such action were a “project,” it would be exempt from CEQA review in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and

B. Award Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Docket IV direct service grants totaling $150,000 to the four (4) applicants identified below at the amounts recommended:

1) Applicant: Huntington Park Youth Football and Cheer*
   - Original Amount Requested: $20,000
   - Amount Recommended: $20,000
   - Proposed Term: 1 year
   - *Returning Grantee

2) Applicant: Las Fotos Project*
   - Original Amount Requested: $40,000
   - Amount Recommended: $35,000
   - Proposed Term: 1 year
   - *Returning Grantee

3) Applicant: Opportunity Fund*
   - Original Amount Requested: $50,000
   - Amount Recommended: $45,000
   - Proposed Term: 1 year
   - *Returning Grantee

4) Applicant: Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission*
   - Original Amount Requested: $55,350
   - Amount Recommended: $50,000
   - Proposed Term: 1 year
   - *Returning Grantee

Fran Jemmott, Jemmott-Rollins Group, introduced the newest member of their staff, Ms. Brettany Tucker.

The consideration of grant applicants was taken out of order, to allow Ms. Tucker an opportunity to observe the process for presenting the applicants to the Committee.

Ms. Jemmott reported on the grant application from Las Fotos Project.

In response to Vice-Chair Goff, Ms. Jemmott explained the increased grant request and proposed use of funds.

No public comment was provided.

MOTION

Vice Chair Goff moved and Member Juarez seconded a motion to: A. Find that the award of the grant is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act; and B. Award $35,000 to Las Fotos Project. The motion carried 5-0, Members Froberg and Chang absent.
Ms. Tucker reported on the grant application from Huntington Park Youth Football and Cheer.

In response to Vice-Chair Goff, Ms. Tucker explained the additional information inadvertently not printed in the report.

A dialogue ensued between the Committee and staff regarding the longevity of the organization, number of program participants forecasted for the year 2020, scholarships and sponsorships, sports equipment, and staff training and certification.

No public comment was provided.

**MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Member Gavina seconded a motion to: A. Find that award of the grant is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act; and B. Award $20,000 to Huntington Park Youth Football and Cheer. The motion carried 5-0, Members Froberg and Chang absent.

Ms. Jemmott reported on the grant applicant from Opportunity Fund. She advised the Committee that the report provided was conducted by Consultant, Jonathan Macaranas, who was hired to undertake the due diligence of the grant applicant.

A dialogue ensued between the Committee and staff as to the allocation of the requested funds, outreach efforts to neighboring areas to originate general support, average loan amounts, engaging of people and businesses in the Vernon area, licensing, and fundamental business preparation, and the ability to manage and maintain alliance and essentials.

No public comment was provided.

**MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Member Juarez seconded a motion to: A. Find that the award of the grant is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act; and B. Award $45,000 to Opportunity Fund. The motion carried 4–1, Member Juarez abstaining and Members Froberg and Chang absent.

Ms. Jemmott reported on the grant application from Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission.

Committee Member Michael Gavina disclosed that his family had close affiliation with the organization and sought legal counsel’s advice regarding his voting participation. Senior Deputy City Attorney Moussa indicated there was no conflict.

No public comment was provided.
MOTION
Vice Chair Goff moved and Member Juarez seconded a motion to: A. Find that the award of the grant is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act; and B. Award $50,000 to Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission. The motion carried 4–1, Member Juarez abstaining and Members Froberg and Chang absent.

3. Award of Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Vernon CommUNITY Fund Capital Grants
Recommendation: A. Find that the award of the grants proposed in this staff report is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) because it is a government fiscal activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378. And even if such action were a “project,” it would be exempt from CEQA review in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment. As to the proposed capital projects, the City of Vernon is not a “lead agency” for purposes of CEQA, and the grant agreement requires that recipients submit proof of approvals under CEQA for any applicable work to be completed with grant funds; and
B. Award Fiscal Year 2018/2019 capital grants totaling $206,000 to the three (3) applicants identified below at the amounts recommended:
1) Applicant: California Children's Academy
   Original Amount Requested: $50,000
   Amount Recommended: $50,000
   Proposed Term: 1 year

2) Applicant: Clinica Romero
   Original Amount Requested: $150,000
   Amount Recommended: $66,000
   Proposed Term: 1 year

3) Applicant: InnerCity Struggle
   Original Amount Requested: $200,000
   Amount Recommended: $90,000
   Proposed Term: 1 year

Ms. Jemmott reported on grant applicants, California Children's Academy, and Clinica Romero.

Chair Lopez informed the Committee that she refers clients to Clinica Romero and inquired if she should recuse herself from the vote. Senior Deputy City Attorney Moussa indicated there was no conflict.

Ms. Jemmott reported on the grant application from InnerCity Struggle.

Committee Member Julia Juarez, inquired as to the geographical areas served by the organization and the organization’s community outreach efforts. Ms. Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle, responded accordingly.
A discussion ensued between the Committee Members, staff and Ms. Brenes regarding the requested funding, the organization’s budget, and grant award recognition for the Committee.

No public comment provided.

**MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Member Juarez seconded a motion to: A. Find that the award of the grants is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act; and B. Award Fiscal Year 2018/2019 capital grants totaling $206,000 to California Children's Academy, $50,000; Clinica Romero, $66,000; and InnerCity Struggle, $90,000. The motion carried 5-0, Members Froberg and Chang absent.

4. **Award of Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Vernon CommUNITY Fund Scholarship Grants**

Recommendation: A. Find that the award of the grants proposed in this staff report is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) because it is a government fiscal activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378. And even if such action were a “project,” it would be exempt from CEQA review in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and

B. Award Fiscal Year 2018/2019 scholarship grants totaling $20,000 to the seven (7) applicants identified below at the amounts recommended:

1) Applicant: #3 - Yani Martinez
   - Amount: $2,000
   - School: Huntington Park Institute of Applied Medicine (HPIAM) Marquez High School
   - Resident City: Huntington Park

2) Applicant: #8 - Nayeli Jimenez Alvarado
   - Amount: $5,000
   - School: Garfield High School
   - Resident City: East Los Angeles

3) Applicant: #9 - Kimberly Robles
   - Amount: $2,000
   - School: Garfield High School
   - Resident City: East Los Angeles

4) Applicant: #18 - Valeria Valencia
   - Amount: $2,000
   - School: LIBRA Academy Marquez High School
   - Resident City: Huntington Park

5) Applicant: #19 - Arianna Romero
   - Amount: $2,000
   - School: Mendez High School
   - Resident City: East Los Angeles

6) Applicant: #20 - Julie Quintero
Amount:  $5,000  
School:  Garfield High School  
Resident City:  East Los Angeles

7)  Applicant:  #21 - Hector Ruiz  
Amount:  $2,000  
School:  Math, Science, Tech Magnet (MSTM) at Roosevelt High School  
Resident City:  Boyle Heights

Administrative Analyst Figueroa reported on the proposed scholarship grants.

A discussion ensued between Committee Members and staff regarding the number of applications submitted, the outreach used to advertise the scholarship grant program, applicant’s evaluation forms utilized in the scoring of applications.

Committee Member Gavina and Ms. Jemmott commended Ms. Figueroa and staff for a good job in handling and processing of the scholarship applications.

No public comment was provided.

MOTION
Member Gavina moved and Vice Chair Goff seconded a motion to: A. Find that the award of the grants is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act; and B. Award Fiscal Year 2018/2019 scholarship grants totaling $20,000 to Yani Martinez, $2,000; Nayeli Jimenez Alvarado, $5,000; Kimberly Robles, $2,000; Valeria Valencia, $2,000; Arianna Romero, $2,000; Julie Quintero, $5,000; and Hector Ruiz, $2,000. The motion carried 5-0, Members Froberg and Chang absent.

ORAL REPORTS

James Hull, Jemmott-Rollins Group, provided an overview of the geographical service areas of the award grantees, and the grant awarded amounts to date.

CONSENSUS
By consensus, the Committee directed staff to present future grantees in alphabetical order, the total amount awarded to each grantee (to-date and on which docket); a map showing the geographical area that was receiving services and benefits from the grant award recipients; and information and a map overlay on the number of capital improvement grant awards and general grant awards.

CONSENSUS
Committee Members also came to a consensus to direct staff to review and bring forth for discussion at the next meeting, the scholarship grant award application – specifically, the language regarding applicants being related to employees of the City.
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

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LETICIA LOPEZ, Chair

ATTEST:

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LISA POPE, City Clerk