

**MINUTES**  
**VERNON COMMUNITY FUND GRANT COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER, 4305 SANTA FE AVENUE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**FLAG SALUTE**

Administrative Analyst Figueroa led the Flag Salute.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Leticia Lopez, Chair (via remote access)  
Juliet Goff, Vice Chair (via remote access)  
James Chang, Committee Member (via remote access)  
Steven Froberg, Committee Member (via remote access)  
Michael Gaviña, Committee Member (via remote access)  
Mark Gonzalez, Committee Member (via remote access)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Diana Figueroa, Administrative Analyst  
Zaynah Moussa, Senior Deputy City Attorney  
Lisa Pope, City Clerk  
Frances Jemmott, City Consultant  
James Hull, City Consultant

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Committee Member Gonzalez seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Committee Member Froberg seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following item:

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

Recommendation:

Approve the February 19, 2020 Regular Vernon CommUNITY Fund Grant Committee meeting minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2. Vernon CommUNITY Fund Grant Committee Meetings**

Recommendation:

A. Find that adoption of the proposed resolution does not constitute a "project" pursuant to section 15378(b)(2) of the Guidelines to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it constitutes an administrative activity; and even if the adoption of the proposed resolution did constitute a project, it would be exempt from CEQA 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. Adopt a resolution to set the Vernon CommUNITY Fund Grant Committee ("VCF") regular meeting schedule to be on the third Wednesday of May and November (two meetings per year) at 10:00 a.m., repealing all resolutions in conflict herewith.

Administrative Analyst Figueroa presented the staff report.

### **MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Committee Member Gaviña seconded a motion to: A. Find that adoption of the proposed resolution does not constitute a "project" pursuant to section 15378(b)(2) of the Guidelines to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it constitutes an administrative activity; and even if the adoption of the proposed resolution did constitute a project, it would be exempt from CEQA 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. Adopt a resolution to set the Vernon CommUNITY Fund Grant Committee ("VCF") regular meeting schedule to be on the third Wednesday of May and November (two meetings per year) at 10:00 a.m., repealing all resolutions in conflict herewith.

#### **3. Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Docket III Vernon CommUNITY Fund Direct Service Grants**

Recommendation:

A. Find that the award of the grants proposed 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 2019/2020 Docket III direct service grants totaling \$74,725 to the two (2) applicants identified below at the amounts recommended:

- 1) Applicant: Inclusive Action for the City  
Original Amount Requested: \$60,000  
Amount Recommended: \$34,725  
Proposed Term: 1 year
- 2) Applicant: YMCA Metropolitan Los Angeles\*  
Original Amount Requested: \$100,000  
Amount Recommended: \$40,000  
Proposed Term: 1 year  
\*Returning Grantee

Fran Jemmott, Jemmott-Rollins Group, summarized the applicants, requested grant amount and recommendation.

In response to Committee questions, Ms. Jemmott explained other available funds and timing for use.

Committee Member Gonzalez discussed the benefits of the YMCA services and thanked the Committee for recommending the grant. Chair Lopez stated the YMCA was delivery food to Vernon residents and making a difference in supporting families during the pandemic.

#### **MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Committee Member Chang seconded a motion to: A. Find that the award of the grants proposed 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 2019/2020 Docket III direct service grant to Inclusive Action for the City in the amount of \$34,725. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Committee Member Gonzalez seconded a motion to award Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Docket III direct service grant to YMCA Metropolitan Los Angeles in the amount of \$40,000. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. City Administration  
Fiscal Year 2019/2020 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 2019/2020 capital grants totaling \$81,375 to the three (3) applicants identified below at the amounts recommended:

- 1) Applicant: LA Music and Art School  
Original Amount Requested: \$31,600  
Amount Recommended: \$31,600  
Proposed Term: 1 year
- 2) Applicant: Mark Taper Foundation Shelter  
Original Amount Requested: \$35,906  
Amount Recommended: \$24,775  
Proposed Term: 1 year
- 3) Applicant: Southeast Community Foundation  
Original Amount Requested: \$25,000  
Amount Recommended: \$25,000  
Proposed Term: 1 year

Fran Jemmott, Jemmott-Rollins Group, summarized the applicants, requested grant amount and recommendation.

**MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Committee Member Gaviña seconded a motion to: 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 2019/2020 capital grant to LA Music and Art School in the amount of \$31,600. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION**

Vice Chair Goff moved and Committee Member Froberg seconded a motion to: A. Find the action exempt under CEQA; and B. Award Fiscal Year 2019/2020 capital grant to Mark Taper Foundation Shelter in the amount of \$24,775. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION**

Committee Member Gonzalez moved and Committee Member Froberg seconded a motion to: A. Find the action exempt under CEQA; and B. Award Fiscal Year 2019/2020 capital grant to Southeast Community Foundation in the amount of \$25,000. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

**5. City Administration**

**Fiscal Year 2019/2020 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 2019/2020 scholarship grants totaling \$20,000 to the eight (8) applicants identified below at the amounts recommended:

- 1) Applicant: #6 - Mariela Barrales  
Amount: \$2,000  
School: Garfield High School  
Resident City: East Los Angeles
- 2) Applicant: #8 - Angelica Garcia  
Amount: \$2,000  
School: Garfield High School  
Resident City: East Los Angeles
- 3) Applicant: #2 - Daniel Gonzalez  
Amount: \$3,000  
School: Maywood Center for Enriched Studies Magnet School  
Resident City: Bell
- 4) Applicant: #4 - Britney Juarez  
Amount: \$2,000  
School: Garfield High School  
Resident City: East Los Angeles
- 5) Applicant: #3 - Sara Lopez  
Amount: \$3,000  
School: Garfield High School  
Resident City: East Los Angeles
- 6) Applicant: #1 - Arely Ordonez

- Amount: \$3,000  
School: Bell High School  
Resident City: Huntington Park
- 7) Applicant: #7 - Samantha Tomayo  
Amount: \$2,000  
School: Bell High School  
Resident City: Huntington Park
- 8) Applicant: #5 - Citlaly Zazueta  
Amount: \$3,000  
School: Marquez School of Social Justice  
Resident City: Huntington Park

Administrative Analyst Figueroa presented the staff report.

### MOTION

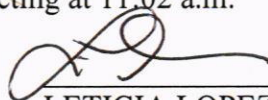
Vice Chair Goff moved and Committee Member Gaviña seconded a motion to: A. Find that the award of the grants proposed in this staff report is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it is a government fiscal activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes 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 2019/2020 scholarship grants totaling \$20,000 to Mariela Barrales, \$2,000; Angelica Garcia, \$2,000; Daniel Gonzalez, \$3,000; Britney Juarez, \$2,000; Sara Lopez, \$3,000; Arely Ordonez, \$3,000; Samantha Tomayo, \$2,000; and Citlaly Zazueta, \$3,000. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

### ORAL REPORTS

Administrative Analyst Figueroa thanked the Committee for approving the grants, all being relevant to the current COVID-19 epidemic situation.


### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.



LETICIA LOPEZ, Chair

ATTEST:



LISA POPE, City Clerk

(seal)