

Deborah Lopez

From: kathleen werner <kemily.werner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 8:53 AM
To: Paula Perotte; Stuart Kasdin; Kyle Richards; Michael Bennett; Roger Aceves
Cc: Deborah Lopez
Subject: CDBG and Goleta City Grant Funding Programs - Comments

February 5, 2018

Re: Discussion of CDBG and Goleta City Grant Funding Programs

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

With so many worthy organizations requesting funding from the City of Goleta and a limited amount of funding I wholeheartedly support the City Council's decision to **develop** a specific set of **criteria** to evaluate the applications.

I urge the city council to evaluate the applicants each year independent of decisions made in the past. Although easier, it does not seem responsible to adopt the attitude of giving money to an organization simply because they were granted X amount of money in past years. Each applicant and request for funding should be evaluated independently each year. Both the needs of the community and the organization can change from year to year. An **annual review** can take into account these changes.

Support for organizations within the City limits should be given priority as is noted in the Application Evaluation Form Part C. Criteria, #1. Especially important if the organization provides a unique service to Goleta's citizens. As more and more applications are received from organizations located within the general Santa Barbara County area this criteria could help the city council prioritize its funding allocations.

It is important that city council members stay vigilant and aware of conflicts of interest that might arise when approving grant funding for organizations with which they are personally involved.

I support staff's recommendation for City Council to look into **combining** the City Grant Funding Program with the City Funding Support to Nonprofit Agencies Program. The process of evaluating all funding requests at one time could result in a more efficient use of staff and city council members time. The two programs already have identical funding categories, e.g., community events, arts, safety and senior services. The funding decision making process would be more transparent, simpler and ensure redundant funding is minimized. Combining the two programs and evaluating all applications at one time using the same application form and evaluation criteria could help ensure that the community funds are distributed to the organizations that most meet the City's needs.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Werner
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