

**From:** Jennifer Smith [<mailto:jsmith@lafsb.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, May 06, 2019 5:43 PM

**To:** Kyle Richards <[krichards@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:krichards@cityofgoleta.org)>; Paula Perotte <[pperotte@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:pperotte@cityofgoleta.org)>; James Kyriaco <[jkyriaco@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:jkyriaco@cityofgoleta.org)>; Stuart Kasdin <[skasdin@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:skasdin@cityofgoleta.org)>; Roger Aceves <[raceves@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:raceves@cityofgoleta.org)>

**Cc:** City Clerk Group <[cityclerkgroup@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:cityclerkgroup@cityofgoleta.org)>

**Subject:** Agenda C.1 for May 7th - grant recommendations

Dear Mayor Perotte and Councilmembers,

My name is Jennifer Smith and I am writing to you in my role as Executive Director of Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County. Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County is a non-profit law firm that provides free legal assistance to Santa Barbara County residents, including Goleta city residents. Our mission is to provide high-quality legal services to low-income people, seniors, and victims of domestic violence in times of crisis. Our work ensures meaningful access to the civil justice system for those with barriers to other sources. This year marks the organization's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Legal Aid is the only provider of free legal services for domestic violence survivors and for families at risk of homelessness due to eviction available to Goleta residents.

I understand that we have not been recommended for funding this fiscal year. While I hope this might be reconsidered, if not, it would be helpful to receive feedback on our application as my understanding is that it has been several years since our organization requested funding from the City of Goleta. Our budget proposal was crafted in a manner similar to other CDBG/grant proposals that we submit to other cities/jurisdictions that we serve and have been approved, so if City of Goleta has different guidance it would be helpful information to know.

In Fiscal Year 17-18, our Legal Aid attorneys advised or represented 973 families and individuals who needed help during a time of crisis. Our courthouse-based Legal Resource Center attorneys helped an additional 6,525 Santa Barbara County residents navigate the legal system with self-help services. A generous group of volunteer attorneys also provided outreach clinics in civil law, immigration, and family law matters and participated in the bankruptcy clinic (some of you may be familiar with our outreach at the Goleta Valley Community Center). Student volunteers assisted with interpretation, paperwork, and other special projects. In total, Legal Aid attorneys and volunteers assisted **7,957** individuals and clients in legal matters.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our work, the current issues and needs we see in the community, and how we might better serve Goleta residents moving forward. Thank you for all you do to support critical non-profit work in our community.

Sincerely,

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