

**From:** [Jennifer Smith](#)  
**To:** [Paula Perotte](#); [Kyle Richards](#); [Stuart Kasdin](#); [James Kyriaco](#); [Roger Aceves](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk Group](#)  
**Subject:** Item C-1, 19-381 - Support to Other Agencies  
**Date:** Monday, August 19, 2019 7:50:56 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to make the grant-making process more transparent, competitive, and open. In reviewing recommendations, I have the following comments:

- It would be helpful for the public to know more about why any particular project or agency was not recommended for funding. I believe this could be done in a respectful and considerate way.
- The city should consider having a minimum grant award for homelessness services. Although there is not much budget for these programs, sometimes granting fewer awards at a larger amount can have more impact. I strongly support all awards seeking to address homelessness and I urge the council to consider increasing these amounts when possible.

I also urge the council to consider important homelessness prevention policies, including supporting tenant protection ordinances, funding for eviction defense, and facilitating the creation of affordable housing. In the current market with skyrocketing rents, staying housed is the best way to avoid falling into homelessness. What many people do not realize is that in a month-to-month tenancy, your landlord may end the relationship at any time for no reason with proper notice (generally speaking). This could fall in the middle of a health crisis, the middle of a school year etc. If you've been living in Goleta for many years, you may not be able to afford current market rents. Too many families, seniors, and individuals are simply being displaced from our wonderful community.

- The award for the Chamber stands out. If the City wishes to have an ongoing relationship with the Chamber for certain services, a contract might make more sense. This is especially true of the Chamber is serving a governmental function. I'm not well-versed in how other cities navigate this type of relationship - staff could share examples on how other cities work with local chambers and come up with options for consideration. At the very least, it would be helpful for the public to understand why the Chamber receives such a large grant in the competitive category relative to other organizations. I think it is important for the city to be as transparent as possible on this, especially knowing that the Chamber has a [political action committee](#) that endorses candidates for elected office.
- Funding for special events could have a separate budget or grant program. I love and enjoy all of these local events, but other projects might have a more transformational impact on economic development, job creation, poverty reduction etc.

Thank you for your ongoing work and for supporting these wonderful organizations to improve the lives of Goleta residents.

Sincerely,

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