



Discussion of \$20,000 Gap Funding Request from Legal Aid of Sonoma County

City Council Meeting
February 28, 2017

David Gouin
Director of Housing & Community Services

Summary

- January 10 - Council agreed to request a future agenda item
 - \$20,000 gap funding request by Legal Aid of Sonoma County
- January 24 – Council voted to discuss request at next available agenda opportunity

Legal Aid of Sonoma County Request

- \$20,000 for:
 - Tenant Education
 - Habitability/Retaliation Advocacy
 - Eviction Defense
 - Legal Education
 - Negotiation with Landlords
 - Legal Documents and Tenant Representation

Tenant Advocacy; Tenant /Landlord Services

- Legal Aid of Sonoma County
- California Rural Legal Assistance
- Petaluma People Services Center
- Recourse
- Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California

New Programs

- Rental Inspection Services
- Rent Stabilization
- Pending Partnerships with Service Providers for Program Education

Options

- Decide to Sponsor Tenant Advocacy Services
- Decide to Sponsor Tenant/Landlord Mediation Services
- Provide funding to Legal Aid of Sonoma County as requested
- Solicit Proposals from Area Organizations
- Other Option as Directed by Council

Third Option - Current Solicitation

- Federal Regulations require Fair Housing Services in order to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding
- Solicitation for Fair Housing currently in process, proposals due to Council in May
- Conduct a Joint or Separate solicitation for Tenant Advocacy and/or Tenant/Landlord Education and Mediation Services

RECOMMENDATION

- Discuss \$20,000 gap funding request from Legal Aid of Sonoma County
- A Resolution is attached should Council opt to provide gap funding