

Maricela Hernandez

From: Bob Burris
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 8:26 AM
To: Maricela Hernandez
Cc: Michael Russo
Subject: Fw: City Council Budget Agenda Items 11 and 12

Bcc'd to Council

From: Paige Kim <paigeakim@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 3:23 PM
To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>
Subject: City Council Budget Agenda Items 11 and 12

Hello,

Education must be our first priority. LVSD is an excellent school system and Calabasas's financial assistance helps maintain that excellence. It is why many of us moved to Calabasas because a good education is important for our children. It also helps property values. We just moved here with our daughter and the main reason is because of the school system.

Please do not take away from the schools funding. The schools bring so much to the community in terms of working families keeping neighborhoods safe and quiet.

Thank you.

Subject: Item 11 - Small Business Grant Program

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this item. In this time of fiscal tightening resulting in large-scale budget cuts I question the wisdom of this expenditure on several levels.

First, if this is money from the Woolsey Fire Settlement Fund is this the right use for the money? There are so many unaddressed needs regarding wildfire readiness and preparedness in Calabasas where this money could be used. This includes addressing communication glitches, evacuation and repopulation messaging, traffic management, freeway and road closures, vegetation clearance, and fire crews being spread thin are just some of the concerns that beg for attention. During the Woolsey Fire ALL residents suffered on many levels. Hundreds of comments were made at several public meetings and Safety Commission meetings, and yet, as we approach another stretch of windy, hot, dry months we are no better prepared than before.

One suggestion that was made and quickly dismissed was a program to reimburse homeowners who retrofitted their homes with smaller gauge metal screens for their eaves and gables to prevent embers from entering their attics. Smoldering embers in the attics of two homes on Adamor Road caused their loss during the Woolsey Fire. A program like this would be a very appropriate use of Woolsey Fire Settlement Funds.

I personally don't see the connection with using the Woolsey Fire Settlement Funds to help small businesses affected by the pandemic. One emergency does not equate to the other. If money cannot be "found" elsewhere through cuts and/or savings this large expenditure should not happen.

And why not have businesses do what they have to to reopen and submit receipts afterwards for reimbursement? Cash outlays with

just “good faith” is like giving someone a blank check. Not very fiscally sound. A question to ask: Would you do this if it were your money?

Additionally, how many business owners actually live in Calabasas? If they don't, how do you justify this use of the Woolsey Fire Settlement?

If this is truly a small business grant program then larger retail, hotels, restaurants or car dealerships with corporate backing should not be included. How many have already received funds from federal or state programs? It's the Mom-and-Pop establishments that are hurting and need help.

Oversight of how the money is distributed and its use are important considerations. Recently there has been a fair amount of press about ethical violations in the city so this grant program must be squeaky clean. Using Woolsey Fire Settlement money for other than its intended purpose could raise concerns.

This program suddenly appeared at the last budget meeting and feels like it is being rushed through the process. Take some time to examine it so it doesn't become a problem.

Thank you.

Joanne Suwara